

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH

Petition No. 46 of 2024
Date of Hearing: 08.01.2025
Date of Order: 21.01.2025

Petition under Regulation 19, 20 and 21 of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Quality) Regulations, 2023 and Regulation 69, 70, 71 & 72 of Chapter XIII of the Conduct of Business Regulations 2005 for allowing time extension to designated consumers without penalty/ compensation for the installation of Power Quality Meters and for allowing time extension to designated consumers for exercising option for installation of PQ meters through PSPCL by paying monthly meter rental.

And

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, The Mall,
Patiala, Punjab.

...Petitioner

Versus

1. Steel Furnace Association – Punjab (Chapter), C/O Vardhman Special Steels Limited, C-58, Phase-III, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab-141010.
2. Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association, (REGD.) Grain Market, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab-147301
3. Apex Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Room No. 204, 2nd Floor, Savitri Complex- I, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141003.

...Respondents

Commission: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

PSPCL: Sh. J.S. Jammu, CE/Metering
Sh. Harjeet Singh, ASE/TR-5
Sh. Vivek Goel, Addl. SE
Sh. Rajesh Kumar
Sh. Pawan Kumar

Apex Chamber of
Commerce and
Industries: None

Mandi Gobindgarh
Induction Furnace
Association: None

Vardhman Textiles
Limited.: None

ORDER

The petition was taken up for hearing. Despite giving repeated opportunities, PSPCL has not submitted explanation in respect of the following:

- (i) The reasons for not charging penalty in case of the rental options received after 15.03.2024, have not been intimated by PSPCL.
- (ii) Out of 316 new connections/ extensions in demand given in case of the PIU consumers, the PQ meters were installed only in case of 132 consumers. The reasons for not installing PQ meters in remaining 188 cases have not been explained.
- (iii) Regulation 13.8 of PQ regulations very clearly gave the option to opt out of PIU tariff for which the A&A form to be submitted by the consumers would be deemed to have been accepted and the consumer would be treated as General Category Consumer from next billing cycle. Even then, the action in respect of the 8 nos. opting-out consumers as intimated by PSPCL, to put them in general tariff category has not been taken.
- (iv) PSPCL did not intimate the names of the officers who violated the Power quality regulations in respect of the above.
- (v) Further, PSPCL was to ensure that the designated consumers opting for General Category tariff as per the first proviso to Regulation 13.8 of Power Quality regulations are immediately allowed to do so irrespective of the date of application. Further, the accounts of the designated consumers who had already opted for General Category tariff as per aforementioned regulation, be overhauled retrospectively by making due refunds along with the interest. But no confirmation/information in respect of the same has been furnished by PSPCL.

The Commission observes that despite giving repeated opportunities to PSPCL, the details sought by the Commission and the explanation for violation of regulations have not been given by PSPCL. In the hearing held on 18.12.2024, PSPCL had submitted that the draft reply is under the approval of the management and would be submitted in 2-3 days. Though

displeased by the delay in submitting the reply, yet the Commission was liberal enough to still grant a week to PSPCL to submit the comprehensive reply with directions that no further extension in time would be granted. Now after a delay of two weeks, vide memo no. 5031 dated 03.01.2025, PSPCL submitted an irrelevant response that the “*reply will be submitted after the same is received with the approval from the concerned Director*”. PSPCL cannot take shelter behind the unwieldiness and delay in their internal processes to justify the delay in responding to the Commission. PSPCL had initially intimated vide memo no.6857 dated 12.11.2024 that the purchase order for procurement of 1000 nos. meters would be placed by the last week of November, 2024. The timeline was then postponed to mid-week of December, 2024 vide memo no.7038 dated 03.12.2024 which was also committed by the Chief Engineer/Metering in the hearing held on 04.12.2024. Now vide memo no.5031 dated 03.01.2025, the timeline has again been inexplicably pushed to the third week of January, 2025. Thus, the timelines intimated by PSPCL regarding potential availability of the PQ meters has scarcely any credibility. The persistent delay and inability of PSPCL to furnish any explanation prima facie proves their violation of the Power Quality regulations. The Commission takes a serious view of the violation of the directions of the Commission and the Power Quality regulations by the PSPCL and directs the Registry to initiate the proceedings against PSPCL under Section 142 of the Electricity Act.

The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 18.02.2025 at 11:30 A.M.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: **21.01.2025**