

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

Petition No. 61 of 2021
(Sou-Motu)
Date of Hearing: 06.04.2022
Date of Order: 06.04.2022

Regarding non-compliance of the Order dated 09.04.2021 passed by the Commission in petition No. 49 of 2020 and non-implementation of the provisions of Regulations 16.4 and 16.5 of Supply Code- 2014 regarding review of security (consumption).

And

In the matter of: The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, the Mall Patiala, through its Chairman-Cum-Managing Director.

Present: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Ms. Anjali Chandra, Member
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

PSPCL: Sh. G.S Banga, CE/ARR &TR
Sh. Mukesh Kumar, ASE/T-5
Sh. Baljinder Pal Singh, AE/TR-5
Sh. Ravi Luthra, SE/TR-2
Sh. Sanjeev Garg, SE/Billing
Sh. H.S Chahal, Sr.Xen/Ludhiana
Sh. Gurpreet Singh ASE/Computerization

Order

The petition was taken up for hearing. The Commission during hearing on 02.03.2022 directed PSPCL to submit detailed procedure along with time frame to ensure review of Security (Consumption) in accordance with the provisions of Supply Code, 2014 along with offices/ officers responsible for ensuring its implementation.

PSPCL vide Chief Engineer/ARR&TR memo No.5673 dated 04.04.2022 submitted that for review of Security (Consumption), the revised Security (Consumption) will be printed as notice to the consumers in the 1st bill issued after revision of tariff. In the subsequent bill the revised Security (Consumption) shall be charged or refunded, as the case may be. The late payment surcharge shall be applicable on the payable amount which is the sum of the current bill and additional Security (Consumption) to be deposited by the consumer.

The Commission pointed out that the procedure proposed by PSPCL is not in accordance with Regulation 16.5.3 to 16.5.6 of the Supply Code, 2014 which inter-alia provides that:

- i) PSPCL shall issue a separate notice-cum-bill indicating the amount payable along with supporting calculations to the consumer.
- ii) Consumer shall pay additional Security (Consumption) within 30 days from the date of service of notice.
- iii) In the event of any delay in payment, the consumer shall pay interest at the rate of SBI base rate + 2% and this will be without prejudice to the right of PSPCL to disconnect electricity supply of the consumer.
- iv) PSPCL shall not be authorized to take any punitive action against the consumer if the demand for Additional Security (Consumption) is included in the current bill instead of issuing a separate notice-cum-bill.

The Commission appreciates the concern of PSPCL that there are over 80 lac LT consumers and it will be difficult to issue separate notices to all these consumers within the stipulated time. The Commission pointed out that in case of LT consumers, as per Regulation 16.4 of the Supply Code, 2014, the adequacy of the amount of Security (Consumption) is required to be reviewed after every three years. Since PSPCL has not carried out the review of most of the LT consumers in the past so for the year 2022-23, PSPCL is permitted to dispense with the review the Security (Consumption) of DS consumers with load not exceeding 7kW. For all other LT/HT/EHT consumers, PSPCL is directed to carry out the review of Security (Consumption) for the year 2022-23 strictly in accordance with the provisions of Regulations 16.5.3 to 16.5.6 and report compliance by 31st may 2022.

The petition shall be taken up for further hearing on 08.06.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh) Member	(Anjuli Chandra) Member	(Viswajeet Khanna) Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: **06.04.2022**