

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

Petition No. 38 of 2021
(Suo Motu)
Date of order: 28.06.2021

Regarding extension of due date for bill payment from 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021 in view of Bank Holiday in reference to Regulation 31.3 of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code & Related Matters) Regulations, 2014

AND

In the matter of: The Commission on its own Motion.

..Petitioner

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

The Chief Engineer /ARR & TR, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), Patiala has addressed memo no. 4234 TR-IV/4/180 dated 11.05.2021 to the Commission, for ratification of the interim approval made by CMD, PSPCL for extension in due date for bill payment from 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021 in view of the Bank Holiday. The said letter is taken on record as petition no. 38 of 2021 (Suo-Motu).

PSPCL referring to Regulation 31.3 of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code & Related Matters) Regulations, 2014 has submitted that if the due date indicated in the bill for payment is a Sunday or a Public Holiday declared by the State

Government or if the distribution licensee's office is closed for any other reason, the succeeding working day shall be treated as the due date. The Punjab Government Holidays are fed in the software wherein the due dates are automatically calculated taking into account the holidays. However, in the absence of such provision in Regulation 31.3 of the Supply Code, the Bank Holidays have not been taken into account. PSPCL has further stated that the due date of bill payment in many cases has been fixed as 01.04.2021 and various consumers have conveyed their difficulty that due to half yearly Bank Holiday on 01.04.2021 they will not be able to remit payment through RTGS/NEFT. The matter was deliberated upon and it was decided to extend the due date for payment of bills where the same has been fixed as 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021 to enable the consumers to make payment through RTGS/NEFT.

The Commission has examined the request of PSPCL for ratification of its interim approval extending the due date from 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021 for bill payment due to Bank Holiday. Regulation 46 of the Supply Code 2014 provides that if any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of these regulations, the Commission may or by a general or Special order, direct the distribution licensee, to take suitable action, not being inconsistent with the Act, which appears to the Commission to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing difficulties. Further, Regulation 47.2 of the Supply Code provides that nothing in these regulations shall be deemed to limit or otherwise restrict the inherent power of the Commission to pass such orders as may be necessary to meet the ends of justice for the consumers at large. PSPCL has extended the due date for bill payment due to Bank Holiday from 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021 to

mitigate the difficulty faced by its consumers, which is for the genuine redressal of the grievances of the consumers at large, in the public interest.

The Commission concurs with the interim approval given by PSPCL to extend the due date of payment of bills from 01.04.2021 to 03.04.2021.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-

(Anjuli Chandra)
Member

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: **28.06.2021**

