

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

Petition No.1875/2020.

In the Matter of:

Petition under Section 50 of the EA, 2003 and Clause 3.3, 9.21, 9.22, 9.23, 9.24 and 9.25 of GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related matters) Regulations, 2015 for approval and necessary direction of the Commission with regard to proposal of GIFT Power Company Limited for modification in the billing and metering arrangement of HTP-I consumers residing in the high-rise buildings in its area of supply.

Petitioner : GIFT Power Company Limited,

Represented By : Shri Rakesh Inala and Shri Prashant Dadheech,
alongwith Shri Surendra Pimparkhedkar and Shri
Satadru Chakraborty

CORAM:

Shri Mehul M. Gandhi, Member

Shri S. R. Pandey, Member

Date: 30/06/2021.

DAILY ORDER

1. The present matter was listed for hearing on 22.06.2021 through virtual hearing by Video Conferencing on account of prevailing COVID 19 pandemic.
2. Heard Shri Rakesh Inala on behalf of the Petitioner GIFT Power Company Limited. The present Petition has been filed under Section 50 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Clause 3.3, 9.21, 9.22, 9.23, 9.24 and 9.25 of GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related matters) Regulations, 2015 for approval and necessary direction of the Commission with regard to proposal of the Petitioner for modification in the billing and metering arrangement of HTP-I consumers residing in the high-rise buildings in its area of supply. The Petitioner being distribution licensee is developing the network of transmission and distribution line up to switching panel room of individual high rise

building whereas, all the power distribution network inside the individual building including incoming HT panel, transformers and LT distribution network is being developed by the building developers as per approved schemes of the Petitioner.

2.1. The consumers in such high-rise buildings are mainly of following nature depending on type of development and purpose of use:

- (a). Individual Institutional building having connected load > 100 KW with single HT connection for the building
- (b). Mix use building consisting of LT and HT consumer depending on contracted demand. Mainly common load and multiple floor unit of single institution are HT consumer as their power demand is more than 100 KW.

2.2. The supply to consumers falling in category (a) above can be given under HTP I category of tariff with 11 kV / 22 kV three phase connection as per the provisions in GERC Supply Code Regulations. However, for consumer residing in mix use high rise building falling in category (b) above, it is not possible to give supply to mix consumers (i.e. consumers having connected load < 100 kW and > 100 KW) as per GERC Supply Code provisions at LT and HT level separately because of the space constraints. Due to limited space available in the high-rise building premises, installation of separate LT and HT network along with the transformer, Kiosk, metering arrangement is technically as well as economically not feasible. At present the Petitioner has 10 existing HTP I consumers with demand between 100 kVA to 425 kVA in existing high-rise buildings who are dealt as per present HTP I customer tariff as given in the tariff schedule as the individual load is more than 100 kW but with LT metering arrangement. However, as the major development in GIFT city area is of vertical load, it is estimated that number of prospective customer, in high-rise buildings, with demand more than 100 kW would be nearly 250.

2.3. He further submitted that as per GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2015, for installation with Contract Demand exceeding 100 kVA/kW and upto 4000 kVA/kW, the supply would be three phase at voltage level of 11 kV and 33 kV and accordingly, individual consumer has to take the 11 / 33 kV supply and install transformers and associated requirement in its premises as per the provisions of the

aforesaid as per GERC Supply Code. However, the buildings do not have space for installation of individual transformer for each consumer having load more than 100 kW. Therefore, single transformer located at the basement of high-rise building is used to step down the voltage and necessary LT cable from the transformer has been used for individual metering and supply.

- 2.4. With regard to present technical arrangement of supply by the Petitioner, it is submitted that since, the consumer categories in these buildings are also mixed, with some LT and others HTP I consumers, every multi-storied building has 33/0.415 kV transformer having capacity to meet overall power requirement for all consumers with N-1 redundancy. For LT network, LT bus-ducts are installed for floor wise power distribution from transformer located at basement / ground floor of the building. For common use of every building, power requirement is more than 100 kW. Some tenants or owners are having more than one floor and, in that case, power demand is also more than 100 kW, for which it is technically prudent to give power supply from existing transformers and LT bus duct. The Petitioner is providing LT metering arrangement located in the basement / ground floor at LT metering panel for providing connection to the consumers having demand more than 100 kW. It is also submitted that as such LT bus duct sizes are of suitable sizes capable of drawing full capacity of the building load hence, every such HTP I consumer in the high-rise building is receiving the supply at LT level from the transformer located in the building without installing individual transformer and accordingly, the single building transformer is supplying required electricity through LT line to the HTP I consumers. This technical difficulty is compelling the Petitioner to bill those consumers as per HTP I tariff but metering is done at LT level.
- 2.5. He further pointed out the approach followed by other SERCs in dealing with aforesaid issue of providing supply at lower voltage than specified voltage and submitted that in order to solve the aforesaid issue, the Petitioner is now proposing to introduce the necessary provision of LT metering for HT consumers and seeking the permission of the Commission to permit the Petitioner to do the same in its area of supply as per the option which may be approved out of those proposed in the present Petition.

- 2.6. With regard to requirement of inviting comments/suggestions from the public in the matter, Shri Rakesh Inala agreed for inviting comments/suggestions from the stakeholders in the matter.
- 2.7. On a query of the Commission as to provide power supply of some of the consumers above 100 KW under LTP category level is not in violation of the Commission's Regulations and Orders and whether any approval for such act has obtained by the Petitioner, he submitted that the Petitioner shall verify the same and make its submissions on it.
3. We have considered the submissions made by the Petitioner. We note that the Petitioner caters to the power requirements in its license area which includes both Special Economic Zone and DTA zone. The present Petition is filed under Section 50 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Clause 3.3, 9.21, 9.22, 9.23, 9.24 and 9.25 of GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related matters) Regulations, 2015 seeking approval and necessary direction with regard to modification in the billing and metering arrangement of HTP-I consumers residing in the high-rise buildings in GIFT area.
- 3.1. We also note that the Petitioner has admitted that they are providing power supply of 100 KW and above capacity at LT level and it is against the Commission's Regulations and orders of the Commission. The Petitioner is required to clarify and justify the same with reasons that whether any approval has been obtained from the Commission or not.
- 3.2. We note that the issues involved in the present matter relate to the GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2015 and the relevant aspects as raised in the Petition imply seeking amendment in the aforesaid Regulations. Hence, prior to deciding the same, we are of the view that it requires following due process by inviting views/comments/suggestions/objections from the public/stakeholders.

- 3.3. We also note that the Petitioner has not made other distribution licensees of the State, GETCO-STU and SLDC as party Respondents to present Petition. As noted above, it is also necessary to hear the primary stakeholders viz., all other distribution licensees, STU and SLDC. We, therefore, direct the Petitioner, to implead the Distribution Licensees, namely, Uttar Gujrat Vij Company Limited, Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited, Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited, Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited, Torrent Power Limited- Ahmedabad, Surat and Dahej, MPSEZ Utilities Private Limited, Kandla Port Trust, Jubilant Infrastructure Limited and Aspen Infrastructure Private Limited,; State Transmission Utility, namely, Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited; and State Load Despatch Centre, as party Respondents in the present matter. The Petitioner is also directed to amend the memo of parties in the present Petition accordingly and file the same before the Commission within one week from the date of this Order while providing the copy duly amended Petition to aforesaid Respondents.
- 3.4. As noted above supra, the Petitioner is required to give public notice inviting suggestions/views/comments/objections from the stakeholders on the present Petition. Hence, we direct the Petitioner to issue a public notice after amending memo of parties in one daily Gujarati Newspaper and one English Newspaper having wide circulation in the State/National level stating that they have filed Petition No. 1875 of 2020 before the Commission for approval and necessary direction with regard to proposal of GIFT Power Company Limited for modification in the billing and metering arrangement of HTP-I consumers residing in the high-rise buildings in its license area of supply. The Petitioner is also directed to upload the present Petition with all the documents on its website and invite comments and suggestions from the stakeholders on the Petition on affidavit within 30 days from the date of issuance of public notice. The Petitioner shall also state in the public notice that the stakeholders/objectors shall file their objections/suggestions in the Petition to the Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th Floor, GIFT ONE, Road 5C, 3 Zone 5, GIFT City, Gandhinagar - 382355 in five copies along with affidavit in support of their submissions with a direct copy to the Petitioner. Upon receipt of the comments/views/objections/suggestions from the stakeholders, the Petitioner is at liberty to file its reply, if any, to the Commission.

- 3.5. The staff of the Commission is also directed to upload the Petition along with all relevant documents on the website of the Commission after compliance affidavit of issuing public notice and uploading of Petition is filed by the Petitioner along with copy of public notices issued by the Petitioner is filed.
- 3.6. Accordingly, we hold that a public hearing shall be conducted to take into consideration the views/comments/suggestions/objections of the stakeholder before deciding the present matter. The Petitioner is, therefore, directed
- 3.7. The newly joined Respondents are at liberty to file their reply, if any, within 10 days after receipt of copy of Petition from the Petitioner. We also direct the staff of the Commission to provide the copy of representation received in the present matter to the Petitioner to enable filing reply/response to the same.
- 3.8. The staff of the Commission is directed to inform/issue hearing notice for the present Petition to stakeholders/objectors who file their submissions/objections/comments before the Commission.
4. The next date of hearing will be intimated separately.
5. We order accordingly.

Sd/-
[S. R. Pandey]
Member

Sd/-
[Mehul M. Gandhi]
Member

Place: Gandhinagar.
Date: 30/06/2021.