



ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

FILE NO. AERC. 536/2016

Petition No.: 1/2016

ORDER SHEET

17.12.2016

Before the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission
ASEB Campus, Dwarandhar,
G. S. Road, Sixth Mile, Guwahati – 781 022

Date of Hearing: 17.12.2016

Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL) -----Petitioner

Representative for Petitioner:

Mr. S. K. Baisya, GM (Com-R)
Mr. B Medhi, AGM (Com-R)
Mr. A. N. Dev Choudhury, AGM (TRC)

Any other participants

(Representative from Supplier of Pre-paid meters):

Mr. S. Deb, Sr Engineer, Genus Power
Infrastructures Ltd.
Mr. M.Saikia, Manager (Marketing), Secure
Meters Ltd.

In the matter of

Petition No. 1 of 2016 for approval of
Miscellaneous Charges of Meter rent and
Meter security of Pre-paid meters and vending
charges

CORAM

Shri Naba Kr. Das Chairperson
Shri Dipak Chakravarty, Member
Shri Subhash Ch. Das, Member

ORDER

1. A Hearing was held on 17.12.2016, on the Petition (registered as Petition No. 1 of 2016) filed by APDCL for approval of Miscellaneous Charges of Meter security, Meter rent and vending charges of Pre-paid meters.
2. In the Order dated 16.09.2016, the Commission directed the following:
 - 2.1. The Petitioner and the Representative from Suppliers of Pre-paid meters to negotiate on the rate of Vending Charge
 - 2.2. The Representative from Suppliers of Pre-paid meters to assess/examine the technicality of inclusion of provision in the program itself for collecting Vending Charges directly from consumers at the time of recharging their pre-paid meters and intimate the same to the Commission.
3. Thereafter, APDCL submitted a Minutes of discussion held between APDCL & the suppliers of pre-paid meters vide Letter dated 25.10.2016. As per the MoM:
 - 3.1. The Pre-paid meter suppliers proposed that vending charges may be paid by APDCL rather than directly collecting from consumers
 - 3.2. APDCL proposed vending charge of Rs 10 per meter per month or Rs 120 per meter per year. On this proposal, the pre-paid meter suppliers agreed to reply within 15 days.
 - 3.3. Regarding non applicability of Power Factor (PF) & Max Demand (MD), penalty, the meter supplier intimated that there is no provision of programming logic in the existing pre-paid meters. Further, as the meter will trip immediately after MD touched CD, there is no requirement of keeping any programming logic for penalty.

- 3.4. APDCL enquired about possibility of allowing consumers to draw some percentage more than contract demand (CD) in pre-paid meters, so that those consumers can be tracked who have exceeded the CD. The pre-paid meter suppliers stated that they will reply within 15 days.
4. In the meanwhile, Hearing dated 26.10.2016 was deferred considering request made by Secure Meters Ltd.
5. During the Hearing, the Commission asked APDCL and suppliers of Pre-paid meters regarding status of directions issued vide Order dated 16.09.2016.
6. In reply, the Representative of Petitioner submitted that:
 - 6.1. Considering the present cost towards metering, billing and distribution of bills, APDCL has proposed for Rs 10 per meter per month as vending charge for Pre-paid meters.
7. The Representative of Secure Meters Ltd. stated the following:
 - 7.1. Vending Charge of at least Rs 12 per meter per month is required. However, in future when volume of pre-paid meter connection will increase, further reduction in vending charge is possible.
 - 7.2. A feature for allowing drawl of additional load over and above contract demand can be incorporated in the pre-paid meters, however, fixed charge can be charged only on contract demand or the maximum limit.
8. The Representative of Genus Power Infrastructures Ltd. submitted that :
 - 8.1. Vending Charge of at least Rs 15 per meter per month is required. However, in future when volume of pre-paid meter connection will increase further reduction in vending charge is possible.
 - 8.2. A feature for allowing drawl of additional load over and above contract demand can be incorporated in the pre-paid meters, however, fixed charge can be charged only on contract demand or the maximum limit
9. Further, with regard to meter rent and meter security for pre-paid meter connection, the Petitioner has proposed separate meter rent and meter security for LT single phase and three phase connections.
10. The Commission heard all the parties and ordered the following:
 - 10.1. APDCL to assess the impact of vending charge on Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) and project the estimated number of pre-paid meters and the corresponding vending charges for the next 3 years. APDCL is directed to submit a report in this regard along with the ongoing proceedings of MYT Petition for FY 2016-17 to FY 2018-19.
 - 10.2. The Commission approves a total Vending Charge of Rs 12 per Pre paid Meter per Month inclusive of all taxes, charges etc.
 - 10.3. Regarding the proposal of the Petitioner with regard to meter rent & meter security for pre-paid meters, separate order/notification will be passed by the Commission.

With the above orders, the Petition No 1 of 2016 is hereby disposed of.

Sd/-
(Subhash Ch.Das)
Member
AERC

Sd/-
(Dipak Chakravarty)
Member
AERC

Sd/-
(Naba Kumar Das)
Chairperson
AERC