

**Record Notes of the Smart Grid Consultation Committee (SG-CC) review meeting on
22nd December, 2015 in the Conference Hall of Assam Electricity Regulatory
Commission (AERC)**

The meeting of the Smart Grid Consultation Committee (SG-CC) was held at 2.00 pm on 22nd December, 2015, at Conference Hall of Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC).

The list of members and officers present is appended at **Annexure – 1**.

At the very outset, Mr. Dipak Chakravarty (Chairperson I/C, AERC) Chairperson, of the Committee, welcomed all the Members of the Smart Grid Consultation Committee (SG-CC) and AERC officers present to the 2nd review Meeting of the Committee.

The Chairperson informed the members that as per the progress report there seems to be not much progress with regard to the pilot smart Grid Project. Thereafter, the Chairperson asked APDCL to deliver a power point presentation on the progress of the pilot Smart Grid project of Assam.

Mr. Anuj Goswami AGM, RAPDRP, APDCL delivered a presentation covering the progress of the Project. Key Discussion points during the presentation are:

1. CENTRAL GOVT FUND:

APDCL informed the SG-CC that Government is yet to release fund for the project. APDCL further highlighted that, in reply to their request the Joint Secretary, MoP, GoI mentioned that the fund is yet to be approved and for receiving the fund a separate account need to be opened by the entities.

In this regard, Mr. R.K Pillai (Chairperson, ISGF) mentioned that the pilot Smart Grid Projects, being implemented across the country are part of the APDRP part C scheme and a total sum of Rs. 200 Crore has already been allotted for the same. He also mentioned that the fund will be released by Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC). Therefore, the matters of fund newly being approved does not arise and Mr. Pillai also mentioned that he will personally discuss the matter with the Joint Secretary, MoP, GoI. Mr. Pillai also advised APDCL to follow up the matter with PFC directly.

2. METERS:

APDCL informed the SG-CC that smart meters supplied by the Palmohan meters failed laboratory test twice. Therefore, presently in consultation with SGIA (M/s Phoenix IT Solutions), they are planning for procuring meter from different agency.

Mr. R.K Pillai advised that APDCL should go for installation of meters fulfilling IS-16444 or IS-15959. However, he pointed out that at present there are no such labs in India to test the meters fulfilling the new standards and presently ISGF is preparing a list of equipments required for the testing of new standard meters, which is expected to be completed by February 2016.

3. AUTOMATED DEMAND RESPONSE-PEAK LOAD MANAGEMENT:

In reply to a query raised by the Committee, APDCL mentioned that, in the Pilot project area a total of 3.5 MW peak load can be managed. Mr. Pillai asked APDCL about the solutions proposed by SGIA for managing peak load of 3.5 MW. In this

regard APDCL mentioned that SGIA has not proposed any solutions for peak load management. When, further asked by SG-CC, APDCL mentioned that they are planning for manual management of peak load i.e. requesting consumers over phone to reduce their load. In this regard, the SG-CC raised doubts that consumers may not curtail their load at times, which may defeat the whole purpose.

Then Mr. Pillai mentioned that for Peak load Management, Automated Demand Response is the only option, otherwise the purpose of Smart Grid will not be achieved. Through which, the APDCL will be able to curtail load of consumer from the control centre itself. For this, APDCL has to first identify consumers who are agreeing for voluntary participation in the scheme. Thereafter, forms specifying the demand response need to be circulated and agreement to be signed specifying about the loads that can be automatically reduced by the APDCL for Peak Load Management. He also highlighted that for achieving these, APDCL has to undertake lot of consumer interaction and awareness program.

Mr. Pillai further mentioned that, as for the Automated Demand Response program a substantial amount of effort and fund need to be invested, therefore, the fund of Rs. 29.94 Crore presently allotted for the pilot project may not suffice the need to achieve the peak load Management to the tune of 3.5 MW. He gave example of Reliance who is managing 1.3 MW Peak Load in Mumbai and suggested that APDCL may have a visit there to understand the modalities of Peak Load Management. He also gave example of CESC, who is presently developing system for 1.8 MW Peak Load Management. Thereafter, APDCL mentioned that, they will visit the running project of Mumbai and will discuss the matter of Automated Demand response with SGIA for incorporation in the design document if required.

4. **CONSUMER AWARENESS FOR AUTOMATED DEMAND RESPONSE**

When asked by the SG-CC about APDCL's planning for customer engagement for the purpose of Automated Demand Response, APDCL mentioned that SGIA is responsible for the same and notices & hoardings will be published in the back side of the bills and important places once the issue of fund and meter is sorted out.

However, after concerns were raised by SG-CC about the ability of SGIA for such program, APDCL requested ISGF for their help in this regard. Mr. Pillai mentioned that as presently ISGF is involved in such activity for the state of Punjab, they will be happy to be engaged for Assam as well. He also pointed out that such customer engagement programmes mainly involves two parts- Capacity Building and Consumer engagement. In this regard, coordination from local consumer groups will be helpful. Then, Mr. B K Das (President, Grahak Suraksha Sanstha) readily agreed to help APDCL in the matter. Mr. Anup Gogoi (Prof., EEE IITG) mentioned that Assam science and Technology University may also be approached in this regard.

Further, Mr. Anup Gogoi and Mr. Saurabh Agarwala (FINER) mentioned that to start with APDCL may choose big consumers for voluntary participation in Automated Demand Response programme.

Mr. Pillai mentioned that, incentives in form of time of use (TOU) Tariff may be provided to the pilot project area consumers for voluntary participation in the program. However, Incentive is the last step and APDCL has to first identify the consumers for voluntary participation in Automated Demand Response programme.

Mr Saurabh Agarwal suggested that incentive linked to connected load and fixed charge may also be introduced.

At the end of the meeting the Chairperson mentioned that there are three critical issues pertaining to pilot smart Grid project i.e. Central Government Fund, Meters, Customer engagement for Automated Demand Response-Peak Load Management. Out of these issues, Customer engagement for Automated Demand Response-Peak Load Management is the most critical and time consuming activity, which needs to be given top priority by APDCL and an action plan in this regard, may be submitted.

No other matter came up for discussion. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to and from the chair.

Sd/-

S.K ROY

(SECRETARY)

AERC

List of members present in the meeting of the SG-CC held on 22nd December, 2015

1. Shri D.Chakravarty, (Member AERC) Chairperson-SG-CC
2. Shri Reji Kumar Pillai, President, ISGF
3. Shri Manoj Kumar Bordoloi .CGM (SLDC) , AEGCL
4. Shri Anup Podder NO (GM), RAPDRP,APDCL
5. Shri B.K Das President Grahak Suraksha Sanstha
6. Shri Anup Kumar Gogoi, Prof Deptt. EEE IITG
7. Shri Saurabh Agarwala, FINER

Officers of AERC

1. Shri SK Roy (ACS, Retd.)Secretary AERC Convenor
2. Shri T. Mahanta, Joint Director (Tariff) AERC
3. Shri Sanjeeb Tamuli, Consultant AERC
4. Shri Jayjeet Bezbaruah, Consultant, AERC
5. Shri Himangshu Bhattacharjee, Consultant Audit

Officers of APDCL:

1. Anup Podder NO (GM) RAPDRP
2. Mridul Saikia AGM DC APDCL
3. Bharat Buragohain, DM (IT),RAPDRP APDCL
4. Mr. Anuj Goswami AGM,RAPDRP

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