

## **12<sup>th</sup> FORENS Meeting at Dirang from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**Venue: Hotel Norphel Retreat, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh**

### **AGENDA NOTE**

**Agenda-1: A presentation on the Power Sector of Arunachal Pradesh by APSERC**

A presentation on the Power Sector of Arunachal Pradesh including Power Sector- National overview, Power Sector – State Overview, Generation, Transmission and Distribution sector will be made by the host Commission.

**Agenda-2: Confirmation of the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of FORENS held at Digboi on 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019**

The minutes of the above meeting was circulated vide FORENS Secretariat letter No.701 dt.31.05.2019 (**Annexure-1**). No views/comments have been received from the FORENS members on the same.

Hence, the said minutes of the meeting may be confirmed.

**Agenda-3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 11<sup>th</sup> FORENS meeting.**

**1. Achieving 100% metering with special emphasis on Smart Meter**

This agenda point was discussed in the last meeting. OERC Chairperson informed that in Odisha the Commission has constituted a task force comprising of the officials of DISCOMs and OERC to suggest a way forward in implementation of the smart meters in the state. The teams of the task force visited four locations in the country where the smart meter implementation programme has made some progress. The Committee submitted the final report and the Commission has accepted the report for implementation of the same in Odisha. The final report of the task force is placed with this agenda for discussion in the meeting.

**2. Proposed amendment in Tariff Policy, 2016 - Implications in terms of capital fund requirement and imminent tariff rise.**

It was resolved in the last meeting by the members that since this is an evolving topic, this point may be deliberated in the next meeting of the FORENS.

**3. Proposed Amendment to Electricity Act, 2003 (Electricity (Amendment) Act 2018) – Issues and challenges with reference to changing distribution business.**

It was resolved in the last meeting by the members that since this is an evolving topic, this point may be deliberated in the next meeting of the FORENS.

#### **4. The Competitive Bidding Framework and Approaches to Threshold Limit**

A presentation was made by M/s Sterlite Power Transmission Limited. The members after deliberation opined that there needs to be lots of clarity on TBCB projects and the role of SERC is critical in order to protect the consumers from higher burden of increased tariff. It was therefore resolved that all the member states who have implemented these projects share their regulations and this would be discussed in the subsequent meetings for taking a view in the matter. This agenda may be taken up in the meeting for further deliberations by the members.

#### **Agenda-4: Financial Position of FORENS Account**

During the year 2019-20, FORENS Secretariat has received Annual Subscription Fee of Rs.9,00,000/- (Rupees nine lakh) only from the member Commissions. A statement of such contribution is placed at **Annexure-2**.

The last FORENS meeting was held at Digboi, Assam from 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019 hosted by AERC. The total expenditure as submitted by AERC for the said meeting was Rs.16.54,000/-. As per the resolution of the FORENS, an amount of Rs.7 lakh was paid to the host Commission i.e. AERC.

The present financial position is also shown in the Bank statement placed at **Annexure-3**.

#### **Agenda-5: Audit Report of FORENS Account**

The Audited Accounts for the FY 2018-19 is being prepared and certified by the statutory auditor. However, a draft financial statements prepared by FORENS Secretariat is placed in the meeting as **Annexure-4** for discussion.

#### **Agenda-6: A Brief Overview: Distribution Franchisee Framework**

A presentation was made by the APDCL, Assam on the topic highlighting Policy framework, Rules & regulation enabling Distribution franchisee mechanism, major franchisee systems, benefits to DISCOMs and experience of Franchisee system in APDCL during the last meeting at Digboi, Assam. It was resolved in the meeting that this topic may be further discussed in the next meeting. This may be discussed.

**Agenda-7: Consumer Advocacy in the Electricity**

A presentation on the topic highlighting the provisions for protection of Electricity consumer interest, NEP, Tariff policy, FOR Model Regulation 2011, consumer Advocacy Group (CAG) and Funding was made by the AERC in the last meeting at Digboi, Assam.

It was resolved in the meeting that this topic may be further discussed in the next meeting. This may be discussed.

**Agenda-8: Achieving 100% metering with special emphasis on Smart Meter**

In the last meeting, the development of the implementation of smart meters, feasibility, financial implications and models of implementation were discussed. It was also resolved in the last meeting that further developments in the matter shall be discussed in the next meeting.

In Odisha the Commission constituted a task force comprising of the officials of DISCOMs and OERC to suggest a way forward in implementation of the smart meters in the state. The teams of the task force visited four locations in the country where large scale implementation of the smart meter have been carried out. The Committee submitted the final report and the Commission has accepted the report for implementation of the same in Odisha. The final report of the task force is placed as **Annexure-5** with this agenda for discussion in the meeting.

**Agenda-9: Proposed amendment in Tariff Policy, 2016 - Implications in terms of capital fund requirement and imminent tariff rise.**

In June, 2018, MoP, GoI have circulated the proposed amendments in Tariff Policy, 2016. The proposed amendment envisages many changes to strengthen the generation, transmission and distribution segments. However, there are certain amendments proposed on installation of Smart Meters and reduction of losses in a very short period, which have far reaching consequences to the states in terms of financial implications as the DISCOMs are in poor financial health. The views of OERC submitted to the MoP, GoI, have been placed along with the agenda.

It was resolved in the last meeting that this point would be discussed further in the next meeting. This may be deliberated on in the present meeting.

**Agenda-10: Proposed Amendment to Electricity Act, 2003 (Electricity (Amendment) Act 2018) – Issues and challenges with reference to changing distribution business.**

MoP, GoI proposed amendment to the Electricity Act, 2003 in their notification dt.07.09.2018. The new proposed amendment envisages many sweeping changes to the Act.

A brief presentation on the proposed changes was circulated for discussion by the members in the meeting. The comments/ suggestions of WBERC on the proposed amendment sent to the Ministry of Power, Government of India was also circulated to the members in the meeting.

It was resolved that this point would be discussed further in the next meeting. This may be deliberated on in the present meeting.

**Agenda-11: The Competitive Bidding Framework and Approaches to Threshold Limit**

A presentation was made by M/s Sterlite Power Transmission Ltd. in the last meeting. The members after deliberation opined that there needs to be lots of clarity on TBCB projects and the role of SERC is critical in order to protect the consumers from higher burden of increased tariff. It was therefore resolved that all the member states who have implemented these projects share their regulations and this would be discussed in the subsequent meetings for taking a view in the matter.

This may be accordingly deliberated by the member Commissions in the present meeting.

**Agenda-12: Developing Comprehensive Metering Regulation and Accounting Framework for Grid Connected Roof-Top Solar Deployment in India.**

A presentation on the above topic was made by M/s Ernst & Young LLP. The presentation highlighted on The world Bank – SBI Grid connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Technical Assistance program (SUPRABHA). The program would cover 17 Indian States with interventions such as Policy and Regulatory, capacity Building, Knowledge exchange, process streamlining and demand aggregation. The presentation also highlighted technical and commercial issues related to model Net Metering Regulation. The members deliberated on the topic and resolved that since this topic is still evolving in many states this can be further taken up in subsequent meetings.

This may be deliberated on in the present meeting.

**Agenda-13: Venue for the next meeting of the FORENS with tentative date.**

The earlier meetings were conducted in the following manner.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Host Commission</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013	Puri	Odisha ERC
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2014	Kaziranga	Assam ERC
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> November, 2014	Rajgiri	Bihar ERC
4	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 2015	Sundarbans	West Bengal ERC
5	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016	Ranchi	Jharkhand ERC

6	6 <sup>th</sup> meeting	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016	Imphal	Jt. ERC (Manipur & Mizoram)
7	7 <sup>th</sup> meeting	27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017	Gangtok	Sikkim SERC
8	8 <sup>th</sup> meeting	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2017	Puri	Odisha ERC
9	9 <sup>th</sup> meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2018	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh ERC
10	10 <sup>th</sup> meeting	25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018	Bodh-Gaya	Bihar ERC
11	11 <sup>th</sup> meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2019	Digboi	Assam ERC
12	12 <sup>th</sup> meeting (current Meeting)	26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> September, 2019	Dirang	Arunachal Pradesh ERC

The members may deliberate to fix the venue and date for the next (13<sup>th</sup>) FORENS meeting.

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