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तीनों ऊर्जा निगमों में लागू हुई छठे वेतनमान की सिफारिश

ऊर्जा निगम के कर्मचारियों को छठे वेतनमान का लाभ दिये जाने की सहमति शासन ने प्रदान कर दी है। ऊर्जा के तीनों निगमों में छठे वेतनमान की सिफारिश लागू किए जाने की मांग की जा रही थी।

छठे वेतनमान की सिफारिश यूपी पावर कारपोरेशन की तर्ज पर लागू करने संबंधी शासनादेश 3 मार्च को जारी कर दिया गया है। इस शासनादेश से निगमों में लाइन कुली से लेकर प्रबंध निदेशकों तक लगभग ढाई हजार से 13 हजार रुपये तक का फायदा होगा। शासन द्वारा छठे वेतन आयोग की स्वीकृति के लिए गठित समिति द्वारा लागू फार्मूले के अनुरूप विगत 1 मार्च को मुख्य सचिव की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में लिये गए फैसले के अनुरूप राज्यपाल ने शासनादेश लागू कर दिया। अब तीनों निगमों के बिजलीकर्मियों और अधिकारियों को 1 जनवरी 2006 से छठे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप वेतन मिलेगा।

ऊर्जा कर्मियों को 31 मार्च 2009 तक के एरियर की धनराशि का भुगतान अगले तीन वित्तीय वर्षों में बारी-बारी से किया जाएगा। वर्ष 2009-10 में 40 फीसदी, 2010-11 में 30 फीसदी, वर्ष 2011-12 में 30 फीसदी कर्मचारियों को जीपीएफ अथवा बांड के रूप में दिया जाएगा। यह धनराशि बिजलीकर्मों 31 मार्च 2013 से पहले नहीं निकाल सकते हैं। बिजली कर्मों इस धनराशि का 40 फीसदी वर्ष 2013-14 में, 30 फीसदी 2014-15 में तथा इतना ही 2015-16 में निकाल सकेंगे।

Picture of the Issue



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Power Thought

Make Electricity Saving a Habit

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Editor's Note

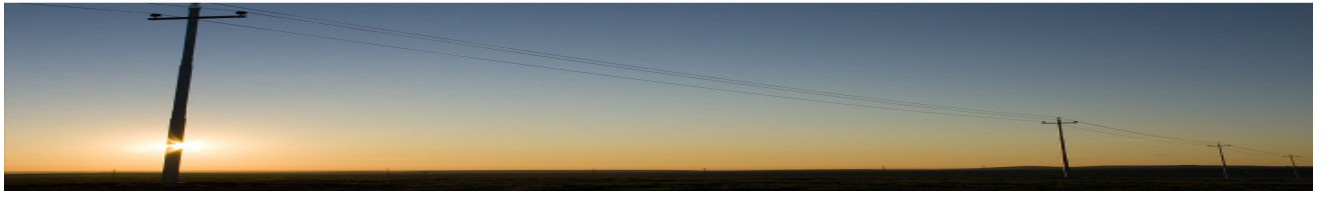
Please feel free to forward your views, suggestions /articles by e-mail to:

jayantsinha@uttarakhandpower.org
or
vishalrana@uttarakhandpower.org

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Energy Saving Tip

Do an "energy audit" in your home/office. Walk around the building and look for ways that energy can be conserved.



UPCL

निगम ने किया टीएचडीसी के साथ करार

ऊर्जा निगम और टीएचडीसी के मध्य हुए समझौते के बाद अब विष्णुगाड, पीपलकोटी तथा कोटेश्वर परियोजना से टीएचडीसी को बिजली क्रय का अधिकार मिल गया है।

इस संबंध में टीएचडीसी के मुख्यालय गंगाभवन में टीएचडीसी के निदेशक वित्त सीपी सिंह और यूपीसीएल के निदेशक वित्त टी. पंडा के मध्य समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

कंपनी अधिकारियों के अनुसार इस व्यवस्था से उत्तरी ग्रिड में ऊर्जा के संरक्षण को स्थिरता मिल पाएगी। टिहरी हाइड्रो डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन द्वारा कोटेश्वर में 400 मेघावाट की जल विद्युत परियोजना तथा चमोली जनपद के पीपलकोटी में 444 मेघावाट क्षमता की जल विद्युत परियोजना निर्माणाधीन हैं।

इन दोनों परियोजनाओं का निर्माण टीएचडीसी द्वारा ही किया जा रहा है किन्तु अब राज्य के साथ हुए समझौते के बाद दोनों परियोजनाओं से उत्पादित होने वाली बिजली को खरीदने का अधिकार भी टीएचडीसी को मिल चुका है। यह व्यवस्था टीएचडीसी के हाथों होने के बाद कंपनी का कहना है कि ग्रिड को व्यवस्था से संबंधित मजबूती मिल सकेगी।

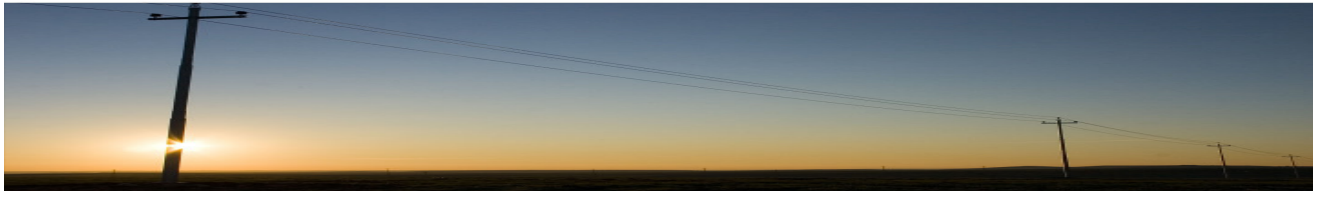
इससे पूर्व उत्तराखंड के साथ टिहरी एचईपी व टिहरी पीएसपी के लिए विद्युत क्रय करार हो चुका है। साथ ही भारत सरकार द्वारा आवंटित दर के अनुसार, उत्तराखंड को टिहरी एचपीपी परियोजना से पहले ही 12 प्रतिशत मुफ्त बिजली दी जा रही है। इन परियोजनाओं से उत्तराखंड को पात्रता के अनुसार लगभग 60 मेगावाट और 67 मेगावाट बिजली मिलेगी। इससे शीतकाल में होने वाली बिजली की समस्या को दूर करने में मदद मिलेगी।

अल्मोड़ा में खुलेंगे आठ नए विद्युत उपसंस्थान

पावर कारपोरेशन ने अल्मोड़ा जनपद के ग्रामीण अंचलों में विद्युत वोल्टेज सुधार के लिए 8 नए उपसंस्थान अस्तित्व में लाने की ठानी है। इस दिशा में कदम भी उठाए गए हैं। पावर कारपोरेशन विद्युत व्यवस्था को चाक-चौबंद करने का प्रयास करता है।

वोल्टेज सुधार के प्रयासों के तहत बजोल, कोसी, कनारीदीना, दत्या, जैंती, मछोड़, जालली व मानिला में पावर कारपोरेशन 33/11 केवी उपसंस्थान का निर्माण करेगा। जानकारी के मुताबिक बजोल व कोसी में निर्माण का कार्य प्रगति पर है। भौसियादीना ब्लाक अंतर्गत कनारीदीना में राजीव गांधी ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण योजना के तहत 33 केवी उपसंस्थान का निर्माण होगा। इसके लिए भूमि कय की जा रही है।

सल्ट के मानिला में भूमि कय की कार्यवाही चल रही है जबकि दन्या, जैंती, मछोड़ व जालली में भूमि चयन की कार्यवाही चल रही है। इन उपसंस्थानों के अस्तित्व में आने के बाद जिले में 33 केवी उपसंस्थानों की संख्या दो दर्जन हो जाएगी।



UPCL & Central

बदलें जायेंगे 40 हजार मैकेनिकल मीटर

पावर कॉरपोरेशन देहरादून में पिछले दस वर्षों से नहीं बदले गए 40 हजार मैकेनिकल बिजली मीटरों को अब बदलने जा रहा है। इस पर चार हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे। इसी तरह दून में 25 किलोवाट से ऊपर के 30 हजार कनक्शनों पर एएमआर (ऑटोमेटिक मीटर रीडिंग) सिस्टम लागू किया जाएगा। इस पर 30 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे।

देहरादून में उत्तर प्रदेश पावर कारपोरेशन के जमाने से ही तकरीबन 40 हजार मैकेनिकल मीटर लगे हुए हैं। इन्हें महकमे ने अब तक नहीं बदला है। इनसे पावर कॉरपोरेशन को राजस्व की क्षति हो रही है। इसकी मुख्य वजह यह है कि मैकेनिकल मीटर चार-पांच साल बाद घीमे पड़ जाते हैं। ऐसे में इन मीटरों पर बिजली उपभोग की सही रीडिंग अंकित नहीं हो पाती है।

एपीडीआरपी (एक्सीलिरेटेड पावर डेवलपमेंट रिफॉर्म प्रोग्राम) के दूसरे चरण में इन सभी मैकेनिकल मीटरों को बदलकर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीटर लगाने का लक्ष्य है। इस संबंध में शहरी क्षेत्र की बिजली व्यवस्था देख रहे विद्युत वितरण खंड दक्षिण, उत्तर और केंद्रीय ने इन मीटरों को बदलने के लिए प्रस्ताव तैयार कर लिये हैं।

इसके अलावा दून के 25 किलोवाट से ऊपर बिजली उपभोग करने वाले तीस हजार उपभोक्ताओं के यहां लगे मीटरों के साथ एएमआर सिस्टम लगाया जाएगा। इस उपकरण की सहायता से ऊर्जा भवन में बने कंट्रोल रूम के कंप्यूटर पर बिजली उपभोग की पल-पल की रीडिंग अंकित होती रहेगी।

गलत बिलों छुटकारे के लिए कारपोरेशन ने उठाया कदम

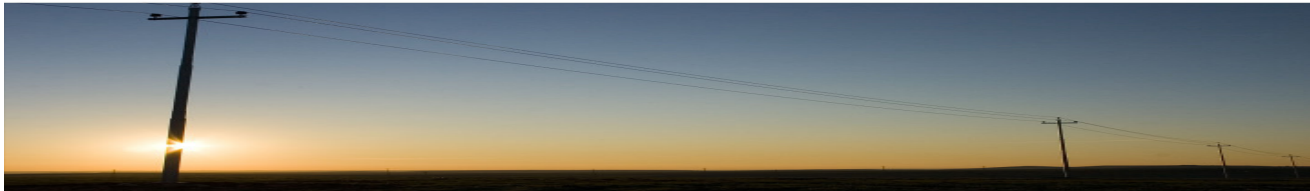
गलत बिलिंग में फंसे अपने पैसों की वसूली के लिए कारपोरेशन बीच का रास्ता निकालेगा। इसके लिए यहां उपभोक्ताओं के साथ सीधे बैठकर बातचीत की जाएगी। निगम को उम्मीद है कि पुराने प्रकरण निबटने से विवाद में अटके पैसों की वसूली की जा सकेगी।

गलत बिलिंग आदि के चक्कर में कारपोरेशन के लगभग 1300 करोड़ रुपये फंसे पड़े हैं। अधिकतर मामलों में उपभोक्ताओं ने न्यायालय की शरण ली है। कुल बकाए में 1200 करोड़ रुपये से ऊपर एचटी उपभोक्ताओं के हैं। शेष राशि एलटी उपभोक्ताओं की है। इस संबंध में एन आर और आईडीएफ वाले प्रकरणों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। छोटे उपभोक्ताओं के बिलों की समस्या निबटाने के लिए शिविर आदि भी क्षेत्र में लगाए जाएंगे। बड़े बकाएदारों से पैसों की वसूली के लिए एक कमेटी भी बनाई गई है। पुराने गलत बिलों के ठीक होने से लगभग 700 करोड़ रुपये की वसूली हो जाएगी। भविष्य में बिलों में किसी प्रकार की समस्या न आए इसके लिए भी कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं।

हर राज्य को मिलेगा अल्ट्रा मेगा पावर प्लांट

केंद्र सरकार हर राज्य को 4000 मेगावाट क्षमता का एक-एक अल्ट्रा मेगा पावर प्लांट (यूएमपीपी) देने पर विचार कर रही है। बिजली की किल्लत दूर करने के लक्ष्य वाली इस स्कीम में राज्य सरकारों ने काफी उत्साहजनक प्रतिक्रिया दिखाई है।

बड़ी संख्या में राज्यों ने यूएमपीपी के लिए अनुरोध किया है जिससे बिजली की मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच अंतर को खत्म किया जा सके। बिजली मंत्रालय हर राज्य को एक-एक यूएमपीपी देने के प्रस्ताव का आकलन कर रहा है। यूएमपीपी योजना में सभी राज्यों को शामिल करने से पहले मंत्रालय को कई पहलुओं पर विचार करना है खासतौर पर ईंधन एवं जल की उपलब्धता के बारे में। इसके अलावा महत्वपूर्ण पहलुओं में सामाजिक एवं पर्यावरणीय पहलू भी शामिल हैं।



UPCL , AP and Gujarat

Three power utilities of Andhra get awards for performance excellence

The AP Transco, AP Genco and AP Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited have bagged awards of the India Electrical Equipment Manufacturers' Association for 2008 for performance excellence achieved by them in the areas of transmission, generation and distribution respectively.

K. Vijayanand, Joint Managing Director, AP Transco, Ajay Jain, MD, AP Genco, and Natarajan Gulzar, CMD, APEPCPD, received the awards from Rakesh Nath, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, at a function in New Delhi.

ePayment Facility in Gujarat

Subhash Projects And Marketing Ltd (SPML), an infrastructure company under group company SPML Technologies, has completed the first phase of its Any Time Payment (ATP) services in Gujarat

SPML Technologies aims to offer ePayment facility support for various utility services such as power distribution, water distribution, transport corporations and telecom industry.

Gujarat is the third state to have initiated alternative ePayment facilities after Karnataka and Chattisgarh. In Karnataka, SPML Technologies has extended its services to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, apart from the core user Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM). SPML has also launched pilot programs for Indian Railways Catering and Transport Corporation (IRCTC).

Any Time Payment solutions, will create a service-oriented environment between the utility and its consumers. The ATPs are currently configured to accept electricity bill payments, telephone bills, mobile bills, credit card bills, pay life premiums, daily passes, issue of monthly passes, rail e-tickets etc.

UPCL to install 8 new ATP machines

With a view to provide accurate and timely electricity bills to consumers and to overcome quandary of late bill payments, UPCL has decided to further expand process of installing ATP (Any Time Payment) machines.

UPCL took the decision after receiving tremendous response for ATP machines, which are already functioning at different localities in the State's capital. If everything goes as per the plan, then eight ATP machine would be installed in the remote areas of various districts.

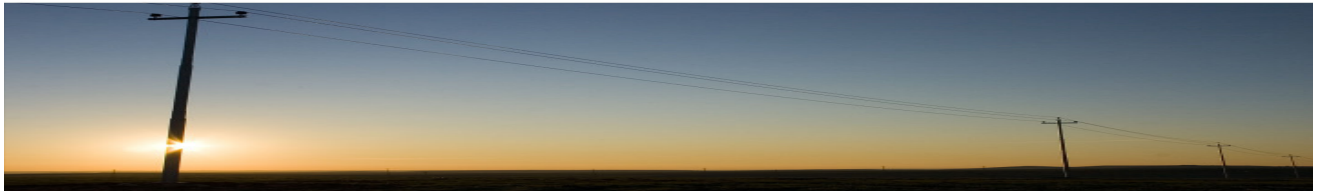
In a bid to overcome billing problems, Corporation took a decision for installing Any time Payment machine.

"Preference would be given to the remote areas of all the districts of the State. Busy consumers are among the ones who are primary beneficiaries with eight ATP's machines which are functioning at various localities in Dehradun", source reveled.

It is networthy, that UPCL is executing for installing Automatic Meter Reading System (AMR) at distribution transfers and feeders in the State.

AMR would be distributed and installed in establishments to only those customers, who pay power bills in lakh. If everything goes as per the plan then the system would be installed in a second phase to other consumers also.

Several projects are in the pipeline for increasing revenue to Corporation. Concrete steps have already taken by Corporation for providing timely and accurate bills to customers.



Power Lok Adalat

Overwhelming response to power Lok Adalat in Delhi

Power distribution company BSES had organised special Lok Adalats held on March 14 and 15 for on-the-spot settlement of cases relating to direct theft and dishonest abstraction of energy.

Cases pending in any court or yet to be filed and involving amounts up to Rs.5 lakh were taken up by the Lok Adalats.

BSES had couriered over 25,000 letters to their consumers. Special arrangements had been made to speed up the entire exercise and cut response time to settle each case. It was literally be a 'paperless' Lok Adalat and there had no physical movement of files. BSES had deployed software modules which made the entire customer case data available at the click of a mouse."

For speedy resolution, BSES has set up four special help desks to guide consumers. Post their "settlement orders", consumers can pay up their bills at the two specially set up cash counters or at the BSES enforcement office.

A special two-day Lok Adalat organised by power distribution company BSES in association with the Delhi High Court Legal Services here over saw an overwhelming response from power consumers.

Shopkeepers, businessmen, showroom owners, guest house owners, industrialists, housewives and even a religious organisation made a beeline for the Lok Adalat.

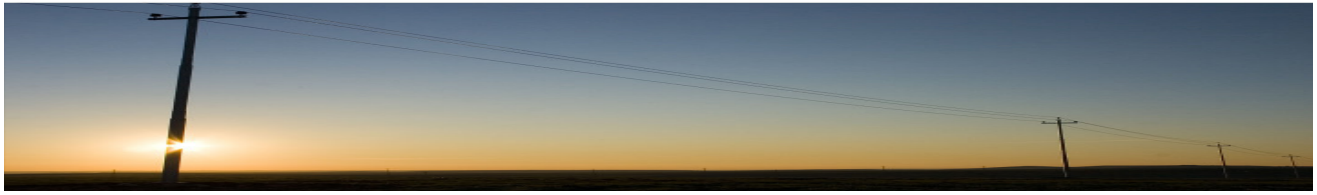
It saw over 92 per cent of the cases being settled on the spot. There were a total of 2,527 cases (BRPL 1,137 and BYPL 1,390). Of these, 2,333 cases (BRPL 1,056 and BYPL 1,277) were settled.

"Consumers whose cases were settled have been given up to 15 days to pay up. In fact, BSES has adopted a very humane approach. Looking at the financial position of the consumers and litigants, BSES has even allowed some to pay in three to four instalments," said a BSES official.

The Lok Adalat provided a unique opportunity to consumers and litigants for amicable on-the-spot settlement of power theft cases. Cases that were pending in any court or were yet to be filed in any court and up to Rs.5 lakh were taken up by the Lok Adalat. "Initially 12 special courts were set up. Looking at the huge rush, their numbers was increased to 16. Moreover, BSES had made special arrangements to speed up the entire exercise and cut response time to settle each case at this paperless Lok Adalat."

The law student volunteers helped the litigants by giving out information, directing them to proper courts, helping in their paper work and assisting senior citizens and women in particular to get their disputes settled on priority.

"Besides offering consumers a unique opportunity to settle their power theft related disputes and grievances, this exercise will help reduce the incidence of power theft and bring more people into the billing net," said a BSES spokesperson.



Delhi

Move to secure adequate power supply for Delhi

The economic meltdown that has affected industrial production and public awareness about the need to conserve energy might help cap the demand for power this summer, but the Delhi Government's Power Department says it is taking no chances.

The department has shot off letters to the Capital's power distribution companies asking them to arrange "adequate power" for the months of April and May. "We do not expect the peak load to cross 4,200 MW, but to play safe we have asked the discoms to make arrangements for meeting up to 4,400 MW of peak demand," said Delhi Power Secretary.

He said the department had been reviewing the power situation in the Capital every 15 days and will soon have weekly meetings to ensure that "all necessary steps are taken to secure adequate power for Delhi".

Power Department officials said last year's "mild summer" and the energy conservation drives launched by the State Government helped in limiting the demand for energy. But this year the Department is banking on the economic slowdown to contain the demand for power.

"The total energy demand for the current financial year has been 1.5 per cent lower than the previous one. Though the peak in April 2008 was 3,850 MW, we do not expect the peak to cross 3,500 MW this year, because recession has affected industrial production and consequently consumption of energy by industries will be lower," explained an official.

The Department has also asked the discoms to firm up buying-selling arrangements well in advance keeping in mind the spiralling cost of power. "In the coming weeks, elections will be in full swing. All the States will need power and will be willing to purchase power even if it is expensive. The price of power at the power exchange has escalated to Rs.11 per unit. So if the discoms do not make the required arrangements now, they will have no option, but to spend more," the official said.

Another reason for the discoms to act fast is fear of stringent action by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission against grid violations and over-drawal by States.

"North Delhi Power Limited has banked 100 MW with Himachal Pradesh, even then the price per unit is Rs.8 for the month of April. Keeping the elections in mind we have urged the discoms to make sure their deals are inked well in time," the official said.

Delhi: Get power cut alerts on SMS

The capital's residents can't be promised a summer free of power outages but at least they will know when they will have such power cuts through an alert by SMS. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is coming up with a new electricity and water utility system which will inform residents when they will have power cut in their area and the estimated time in which it will be restored. According to the civic body, this will help residents plan their day.

"We are in process of introducing a new system which will ensure that residents are given prior information when all they will have planned outages through a messaging service," said a senior NDMC official. "Apart from that if they have power cuts due to some technical fault, they will be sent a message telling them the estimated time in which power will be restored.

This will help them manage their time better." In addition, the civic body would also be setting up a grievance redressal call centre where residents would be able to file their complaints.

To start with, the SMS service would be made available to registered users but depending on the response the scheme gets it would be made available to all. Under the new system, residents would also be able to pay their bills online and get a customised billing report too.

"Residents will be able to view the entire history of their bill payment through the website and not just one or two year's history," the official said. The civic body has a consumer base of 70,000.



Western region and Gurgaon

RPTL signs PTA with western region power utilities

Reliance Power Transmission Limited (RPTL), has signed power transmission agreements with eight entities from the western region for two inter-state power transmission projects--B and C.

RPTL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure has signed the agreements through its two SPVs for the projects under the Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-II (WRSSS-II).

On the directive of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), the Power Grid Corporation of India, as the bid process co-ordinator, had invited tariff-based competitive bids in 2005 for establishing 400 KV double circuit transmission lines of around 1,500 kilometres under WRSSS-II in the western region, prominently in Maharashtra and Gujarat. On winning the project as the lowest bidder, RPTL, obtained transmission licence from the CERC and was entrusted to establish the transmission lines under the scheme.

After prolonged deliberations with the western region entities, the power transmission agreements have been now signed. This is a major achievement that shall pave the way for attaining financial closure for these projects, costing Rs 1,800-crore.

With this, RPTL will become the first-ever private transmission utility to build these first-ever 100 per cent privately-owned inter-state transmission projects in the country, the release said.

On completion of the projects as scheduled by the end of December 2010, they would facilitate the smooth flow of surplus power in eastern and northern regions of the country to the western region.

These projects, once commissioned, will benefit the western region constituents such as the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company, MP Power Trading Company, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Co, MP Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam Limited, the Goa Government's electricity department and the electricity departments of the administrations of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Mega power crisis cripples Gurgaon

The millennium city Gurgaon is again facing the bleak prospect of massive power shortage this summer with the demand-supply gap already hovering around 200MW in February. Even as the load growth is increasing at 30% per annum, the supply remained static over the years. This means that over 15lakh residents have to face power cuts at least 6 hours every day.

However, Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam (HVPN) claims the situation will improve this year with two new substations being commissioned and 8 substations augmented in the past few months. "Despite our efforts, we have to go for loadshedding for at least 5 hours," said Raghubir Sharan, superintending engineer, HVPN.

A senior Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) official said that power supply has remained constant but now they are hoping that the situation will improve once the 1,500 MW Aravalli power plant starts generation by 2011. "Haryana will get a share of 750 MW and we hope that it will solve the power woes of this city," he said.

He added that acute deficiency of electricity in Gurgaon could also be attributed to transmission and distribution losses, which is as high as 40%.



Himachal and Rajasthan

Himachal Power regulatory commission summons all chief engineers

Taking a serious view of callous attitude of officers of the state electricity board towards implementation of the transmission plan, the state electricity regulatory commission has summoned all chief engineers concerned and asked them to explain why action should not be initiated against them under the provisions of Electricity Act 2003.

The commission had set up an empowered committee comprising representatives of the board and Himurja under the Power Procurement from Renewable Sources and Co-generation by Distribution Licence Regulations for monitoring the progress of the transmission plan. However, the representatives of the board had not been attending the meeting of the committee as a result of which implementation of the plan could not be monitored. The tardy implementation of plan has been a major concern as a large number of small hydroelectric projects were nearing completion in the state but the board had failed to put in place the required transmission network for evacuation of power in place.

The officers on whom notices have been served include chief engineers in charge of transmission, operations, south zone, private sector projects, system and planning and the director of Himurja. They have been asked to submit their reply and personally appear before the commission. They failed to attend the meetings of the committee convened on November 12 and December 9 last year and January 15 and February 21 in the current year.

The notice has been issued under Section 142 of the Act under which the commission has power to impose penalty for violation of any provision, non-compliance of its orders and causing hindrance in the functioning of the commission.

Under the regulation for evacuation of power from renewable sources and co-generation beyond the interconnection point, the board was required to formulate a plan for augmenting and establishing transmission and sub-transmission systems corresponding to the commissioning of the projects to match the establishment of the related evacuation system. Further, plan for projects expected to be commissioned during the subsequent five-year plan period was also to be prepared at least one year in advance of the corresponding plan, indicating the year-wise time lines.

In case the time lines laid down in the approved plan were not adhered to, the board will be liable to pay such penalty as the commission may impose. Over the next two years about 65 mini and micro-hydel projects with an aggregate capacity of over 250 MW are slated for completion but the board has so far not started work on ground for construction of transmission lines for evacuation of power from this project.

Rajasthan ropes in private sector for better power transmission

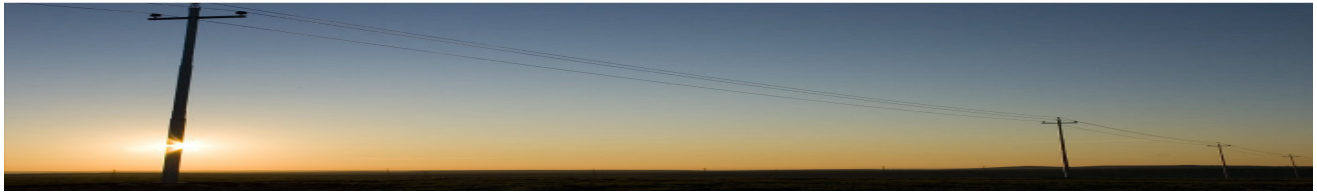
The Rajasthan Government has given the nod for involving private companies in the power transmission sector to strengthen the wheeling system in the State. The public sector Rajasthan Vidyut Prasaran Nigam has invited proposals for establishment of 220 and 132 KV grid sub-stations and transmission lines.

Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Chairman and Managing Director Sudhansh Pant said here over the weekend that the State Government had chalked out a massive plan for augmentation of power generation capacity during the next five years. The corporation has taken up the expansion programme of transmission network for evacuation of power from the generating projects.

Mr. Pant said the Vidyut Prasaran Nigam had decided to invest Rs.7,500 crore in the next five years for upgradation of transmission system through the private sector participation on the build, own and operate (BOO) basis. In 2009-10 alone, the corporation will invest Rs.1,233 crore to strengthen the system.

This will facilitate the supply of quality power to consumers and help reduce the transmission and distribution losses significantly.

Mr. Pant said the private companies would be assigned the task to construct 400 KV GSS at Bikaner and Hindaun and 220 KV GSS at Sikar with transmission lines in the first phase. They will be allowed to take wheeling charges for transmission of energy from their GSS and transmission lines.



Uttar Pradesh

In UP no shutdown for maintenance this summer

The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) engineers are ensuring that none of the power units in the state will be shut down for maintenance during the peak summer time, which also happens to be the poll season.

On the persuasion of the UPPCL, the Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) — in its meeting held in Jhansi — has agreed to not shut down unit number III of the Rihand Super Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Sonbhadra. The decision to shut down this unit for the maintenance of boilers — from April 1 to April 30 — had been taken in February, said Shailendra Dubey, UPPCL Chief Engineer (Thermal Power). "The decision would have vastly affected the state as it gets the largest share from this power project. The state gets 200 MW of electricity from this one unit," said Dubey. The Rihand Super Thermal Power Project has set up seven plants, of which two are of 500 MW each and five are of 200 MW each.

The state gets forty per cent of the 2,000 MW of power produced by these seven plants. Dubey — who was present in the meeting — said currently, the electricity demand in the state is around 8,500 MW against which it is getting around 6,500 MW from all sources included. "This requirement is expected to go as high as 9,000 to 10,000 from next month and any deduction in existing availability would only worsen the situation," said Dubey.

The UPPCL officials emphasised on this problem and appealed to the NRPC to not shut down any unit in April. Besides, the officials have requested the NRPC to not shut down any other unit during the peak months. An alternative would be to shut down during the lean period, monsoons. "On this too, the NRPC has agreed to come to a consensus," said Ashok Kumar, the UPPCL Chief Engineer (Power Systems). This was the monthly meeting of NRPC comprising eight northern states — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana besides the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The meeting is represented by officials and technical staff of power and distribution corporations of all states, beside officials of central power units like National Thermal Power Project, Power Grid.

Delay will cost UP Power Corp Rs. 20,000 Crore

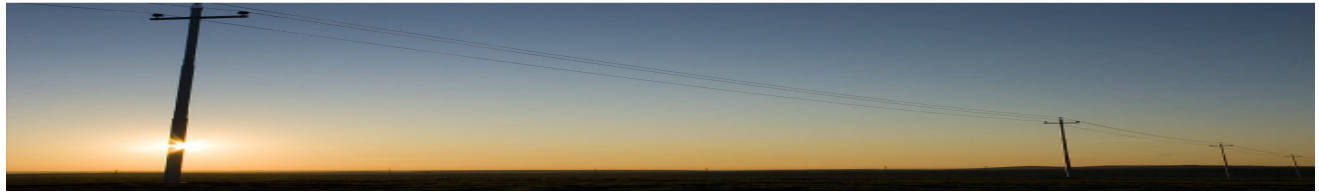
The UP Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) will shell out an additional amount of Rs. 20,000 crore on purchase of electricity for 25 years from the proposed Bara and Karchhana power houses. The corporation could have saved this amount and spared the consumer from the ultimate burden, had it awarded projects to the original bidder a year ago.

The UPPCL's long year long search for suitable developer ended last month with it accepting the (lowest) power price quoted by Jaypee Associates. But, even the lowest rates in respect of both the power houses are 36-37 paise higher than the rates, which the bidder had originally quoted. Unofficial calculations made reveal that the department would suffer a loss of Rs. 20,000 crore or more by purchasing electricity at the agreed rates from the two power houses for 25 years.

As per the terms and conditions, the UPPCL will buy electricity from the Bara power house for Rs. 3.02 per unit and Rs. 2.97 per unit from the Karchhana powerhouse for 25 years after the projects start generating electricity. On an average, it will be buying around eight crore units of electricity everyday from both the plants together. When the UPPCL invited bids for the 1980 mw Bara and 1320 mw Karchhana thermal power houses in April last year, the power prices quoted by Lanco Infratech were found to be the lowest at Rs. 2.65 per unit in case of Bara and Rs. 2.61 per unit in case of Karchhana power house.

However, the corporation had then argued that though the lowest, the prices were on the higher side and decided to reinvoke bids. This time, Reliance Energy's rates were found to be one paisa lower than what Lanco had quoted. But this also did not satisfy the authorities and they rejected the bids deciding to invite fresh proposals. Ultimately, the projects went to Jaypee group when bids were opened recently as the power price quoted by it was the "lowest", 36-37 paise higher than what the Lanco and Reliance had quoted earlier.

Significantly, the UPPCL will be buying power at this rate after giving many concessions to the private developer. These concessions were incorporated later to make bids lucrative and were not available to the original bidders.



Topic of the Month

IT INTERVENTIONS FOR POWER REFORMS IN UPCL UNDER R-APDRP

~~~Author~~~  
**JAYANT SINHA**  
DGM (IT/ R-APDRP)

#### Introduction

Several key reforms have been envisaged by UPCL under Restructured APDRP scheme announced by the Ministry of Power, during the XIth plan (2007-2012) period. Uttarakhand has been accorded a special status under the programme and 31 towns have been identified for power reforms. UPCL being the premier and the only power distribution utility in the state has the onerous task of implementing a slew of IT initiatives to enhance the operational efficiency, commercial viability, capability building and fiscal management. The main focus areas of reforms in UPCL are:

1. Reduction of ATC losses
2. Strengthening of distribution network
3. Total energy accounting using AMR
4. Robust MIS for effective system monitoring

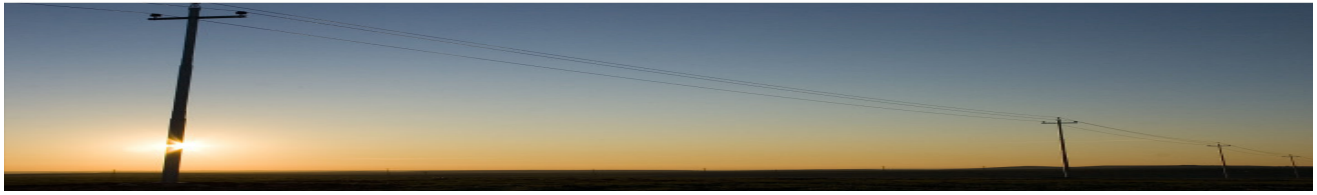
#### Reduction of ATC Losses

In the DPR submitted to the Ministry of Power, the following works have been planned by UPCL during the XIth plan to check ATC losses:

*1. Segregation of Agriculture Feeders:* Separate feeders have been planned to supply agricultural loads, distinct from the feeder supplying the non-agricultural loads in rural areas. This facilitates proper accounting and removes distortions in loss measurement arising due to subsidies, un-metered agricultural loads and peak-hour load measurements. The Integrated Energy Policy also recommends bifurcation of agriculture PTW connections from the non-PTW connections in all rural feeders. It further recommends the use of available technologies to limit and accurately measure the amount of agriculture load consumed.

*2. Metering of Agricultural Consumers:* Metering of agricultural consumption allows quantifiable supply to agriculture which is a necessary condition for transparent subsidy mechanism. Though the legal framework provides for compulsory metering of electricity supply, agricultural consumers in UPCL are supplied unmetered power on flat rate basis (Rupees/ BHP/ Month). The system of unmetered supply at flat rates for agricultural PTW consumers makes it difficult to have correct estimates of energy consumption and losses. UPCL is keen to adopt ring-fencing of the town feeders, have separate metered agricultural feeders and install energy meters at all import/export points.

*3. Conversion to HVDS:* Large scale expansion of urban and rural electrical network has resulted in considerable build-up of LT distribution system. To meet the increasing demand, DTRs are being constantly overloaded. The length of LT circuits is also increasing resulting in high losses in LT lines, excessive voltage drops, frequent faults on LT network and higher failure rate of distribution transformers. High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) envisages running 11 KV lines right up to the loads and setting up small sized DTRs and extend supply with LT lines over shorter distances. This leads to considerable reduction in ATC losses, improvement in voltage conditions, reduction in DTR failure rate, better load monitoring and lesser system outages.



## **Topic of the Month - IT INTERVENTIONS FOR POWER REFORMS IN UPCL UNDER R-APDRP**

UPCL is planning large scale implementation of HVDS in order to bring down the LT: HT ratio all across the state of Uttarakhand. The investment on HVDS can be easily offset through benefits in ATC loss reduction, load management and system availability.

### **Strengthening of distribution network**

Improvement in the LT distribution system is also envisaged under R-APDRP implementation during XIth plan. Following are some of the major IT interventions planned by UPCL in this direction:

*Reliability Monitoring of Power Distribution Systems:* UPCL plans to develop a system for complete reliability monitoring of its distribution systems from substation to the consumer meter. Through the system, it should be possible to monitor the health of substation 33 kV/ 11 kV feeders supplying power to the high voltage consumers and distribution transformers. There are several metrics to assess the reliability of the distribution network. Customer average interruption duration index (CAIDI) is defined as the ratio of Customer-hours available over a given time period to the total number of Customer-hours that should have been available over the same time period. UPCL's objective is bring the reliability of distribution system at par with the global best practices in terms of the outage duration and interruptions.

*GIS mapping of distribution network:* UPCL plans to create a Geospatial database of its distribution network elements. The network elements shall be codified in an assets database. The existing network shall be geo-referenced on GIS base maps. The consumers shall be mapped to the corresponding electrical address, referenced through the GIS application.

### **Total Energy Accounting using AMR**

Improvement in metering, billing and collection (MBC) is a critical requirement in the R-APDRP action plan of UPCL for total energy accounting. UPCL's objective is to integrate a variety of metering systems currently operational in the organization with the billing system, in a seamless manner without manual intervention, through suitable IT initiatives. The metering and billing systems of UPCL is planned to be seamlessly interfaced with asset management, outage management and CRM. Automated meter reading (AMR) is an important tool for effective metering and total accounting of energy input and supplies, which UPCL wishes to introduce all over the state of Uttarakhand, starting with high-value industrial, institutional and commercial consumers and later for agricultural and LT consumers as well. Pre-paid metering is also being targeted for willing consumers for automating bill payment and collection.

### **Automated Meter Reading (AMR) and Meter Data Management (MDM)**

Electricity distribution utilities have to install and maintain meters at all consumer locations, for proper measurement and billing of electric supply. Since the electric meters record the value of electricity consumption for utility billing purpose, it would not be an exaggeration to term the energy meter as "cash box" of the utility. While single phase energy meters are used for small domestic and commercial consumers (up to 4 KW), three-phase meters are used for industrial, agricultural and large domestic and commercial consumers (above 4 KW).



## Topic of the Month - IT INTERVENTIONS FOR POWER REFORMS IN UPCL UNDER R-APDRP

A need has been felt in UPCL to capture energy consumption data and load pattern of consumers during various time intervals for analysis purposes, in order to prevent electricity theft, control revenue leakages and manage load effectively. Under the scope of AMR, UPCL plans to introduce an integrated Meter Data Management system for bi-directional communication between various metering points and the centralized Meter Data Logging system. UPCL wishes to leverage the capability of MDM to directly control the energy consumption by setting load threshold at the meter which when exceeded trips the meter circuit breaker. This will help UPCL to curb huge revenue losses on account of overdrawing.

Meter Data Management system is the single point of management, processing and integration with the utility billing system and related MIS. It incorporates all relevant business rules regarding meter data validation, updation and load estimation. UPCL plans to have the following functionalities in MDM:

1. Exceptions handling and processing
2. Flexible data aggregation for various consumer categories
3. Integration with outage management system
4. Integration with customer information, asset management, outage management, billing and energy accounting system
5. Meter data analysis and reporting

### **Prepaid Metering System**

Prepaid metering is a system by which consumers use smart card for a pre-set value of electricity that they wish to consume. The amount paid along with other consumer information is encoded in the smart card. To transfer the credit, the consumer inserts the card in the prepaid meter, which reads the data and when the pre-paid energy is used up, the consumer gets the card recharged/ reprogrammed in the utility office.

The system has the capability of programming with multiple rates, time of use tariffs, etc. The use of prepaid meters totally eliminates cases of non-payment or delayed payment. It also enables transfer of reliable, accurate and up-to-date energy consumption and billing data, as per the tariff. This information can be utilized by the utility for demand forecasting and controlling peak demands. It also eliminates problems related to meter reading, bill distribution and billing disputes.

### **Robust MIS for effective system monitoring**

UPCL plans to build up a robust MIS application which cuts across various business functions of the organization. There is a constant need to provide reliable, consistent, secure and accurate operational data "anytime, anywhere" to enable departments make timely and right decisions. The purpose of MIS in UPCL is to integrate silos of information, eliminate data redundancy and provide a unified platform for accessing enterprise data in order to increase operational and commercial efficiency, enhance transparency and improve consumer services.

***"Save Electricity in the Interest of the Nation"***

**Note: All care has been taken to verify the authenticity of the contents of this newsletter.**

**However, the readers are requested to verify the news gathered from different sources and inform about discrepancies, if any .**