

PRESS RELEASE

25th May, 2009

CERC amends the inter-state open access regulations

After considering the suggestions and comments received from various stakeholders on the draft proposals, CERC has notified the final amendments to the open access regulations. These amendments have been carried out with the objective of streamlining and rationalizing the processes involved in obtaining open access keeping in view the importance of open access in carrying forward reforms in power sector. The following are the main features of the amendments :

- i) When requested to give concurrence to an inter-state open access proposal, if the State Load Dispatch Centre does not respond in the given timelines, which is 7 working days on first occasion and 3 working days on subsequent occasions, the concurrence of the SLDC shall be deemed to have been given.
- ii) The State Load Dispatch Centres will check only two parameters i.e. availability of transmission capacity and availability of metering infrastructure. This has been done to explicitly provide that no other ground can be the basis for refusal of the open access. It has been further clarified that metering infrastructure will be in accordance with grid code specified by the Commission.
- iii) Open access customer can now request for change in schedule at a notice of two days instead of the presently provided period of five days.
- iv) The transmission charges for short-term open access have been rationalized keeping in view the philosophy that these should reflect economic value of the service provided and the charges for long-term usage and short-term usage should ultimately converge.
- v) SLDCs have now been mandated to display on their websites, the information regarding the applications pending for decisions, the reasons for refusal of

open access in the cases where open access has been refused, the applicable transmission losses and other related information.

- vi) Presently, 75% of the charges earned through short-term open access are disbursed to Central Transmission Utility who pass on this amount as rebate in the transmission bills. To make this process simple and transparent, this share of income will now be disbursed to the long-term customer directly by Regional Load Dispatch Centres.
- vii) In line with the responsibility entrusted under the Electricity Act, 2003, now all disputes arising under these inter-state open access regulations shall be decided by the Commission irrespective of the fact that such dispute involves the SLDC and the intra-state entity of the concerned state.

The new regulations will come into force from 15th June, 2009. Central transmission utility has been asked to prepare detailed procedure and get it approved from Commission before this timeline. Full text of the amendments are available at www.cercind.gov.in.

Sd/-

(Alok Kumar)
Secretary