

Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Government of Kerala

1. THE ORGANISATION

a. About the Commission

The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission was constituted under the provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 17 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 vide Government Order G.O. (Ms).No.34/ 2002/PD dated 14th November, 2002 notified in the Government of Kerala Gazette, Extra-Ordinary dated 18th November, 2002. The Commission is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued. In addition, the Commission, a quasi-judicial body, w.e.f. 10th June, 2003 has come under the purview of the Electricity Act, 2003, as the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has since been repealed.

The Commission consists of Chairman and two Members. In recognition of the need for multi-disciplinary approach while addressing issues related to independent regulation, the statute prescribes that the Chairman and Members shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge of, and having shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to engineering, finance, commerce, economics, law or management. The Chairman and Members are appointed by the Government of Kerala from a panel recommended by a Selection Committee constituted as prescribed under the statute. The statute also provides for the appointment of a Secretary, to the Commission, whose powers and duties are defined by the Commission.

b. Organisational Structure

The Commission consists of a Chairman and two Members. The Commission has a Secretary who is assisted by an Administrative Officer, a U.D. Clerk and Office Attendants. Commission is assisted by a Senior Economic Analyst, Consultant (Tariff) and Consultant (Engg.). In addition a Legal Consultant has also been posted recently. The Commission is functioning in the KPFC Bhavanam, Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram. So as to implement Orders & Regulations of the Commission a Compliance Examiner has been posted. Commission has also appointed an Ombudsman at Kochi so as to hear complaints of electricity consumers and decide on the same.

c. Mission of the Commission

The mission of the Commission is:

To promote competition, efficiency and economy in the activities of the Electricity Industry within the State of Kerala.

To regulate the power purchase and procurement process of the distribution licensees for sale, distribution and supply of electricity within the State of Kerala.

To determine the tariff for generation, transmission, wheeling and supply of electricity, wholesale, bulk or retail, as the case may be, within the State of Kerala.

2. Chairman & Members

Sri. C. Balakrishnan, Chairman

Tel: 0471 - 2735544, 2735577 (Direct)

Sri. C. Abdulla, Member

Tel: 0471 - 2735544, 2735566 (Direct)

Sri. M.P. Aiyappan, Member

Tel: 0471 - 2735544, 2735555 (Direct)

3. PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

The Commission being a quasi-judicial authority is not involved in any project implementation. The functions of the Commission are as given below:

- (a) Determine the tariff for generation, supply, transmission and wheeling of electricity, wholesale, bulk or retail, as the case may be, within the State;
 - (b) Regulate the electricity purchase and procurement process of distribution licensees including the price at which electricity shall be procured from the generating companies or licensees or from other sources through agreements for purchase of power for distribution and supply within the State;
 - (c) Facilitate intra-State transmission and wheeling of electricity;
 - (d) Issue licenses to persons seeking to act as transmission licensees, distribution licensees and electricity traders with respect to their operations within the State;
 - (e) Promote co-generation and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the grid and sale of electricity to any person, and also specify, for purchase of electricity from such sources, a percentage of the total consumption of electricity in the area of a distribution licensee;
 - (f) Adjudicate upon the disputes between the licensees and generating companies and to refer any dispute for arbitration;
 - (g) Levy fee for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003;
 - (h) Specify State Grid Code;
 - (i) Specify or enforce standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees;
- Fix the trading margin in the intra-State trading of electricity, if considered, necessary;
- (k) Discharge such other functions as may be assigned to it under the Electricity Act, 2003;
 - (l) Advise the State Government on all or any of the following matters, namely:-
 - (i) Promotion of competition, efficiency and economy in the activities of the electricity industry;
 - (ii) Promotion of investment in the electricity industry;
 - (iii) Reorganization and restructuring of the electricity industry in the State;

(iv) Matters concerning generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity or any other matter referred to the State Commission by the State Government.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS & SUCCESS STORIES

In order to carry out the functions in Para 3 above, Commission has issued following Regulations.

1. KSERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2003
2. Kerala Electricity Supply Code, 2005
3. Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman
4. Procedure for filing Appeal before the Appellate Authority Regulations, 2005
5. Terms and conditions for Open Access Regulation, 2005.
6. Conditions of License for State Transmission Utility Regulation, 2005.
7. Supply Code First Amendment, 2005
8. State Grid Code.
9. Conditions of License for Existing Distribution Licensee Regulations, 2006.
10. Terms and Conditions of Tariff for retail sale of Electricity Regulations, 2006.
11. Licensing Regulations, 2006.
12. KSERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006
13. Power Procurement from Renewable Sources by Distribution Licensees Regulations, 2006
14. KSERC(Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006 - Postponement of enforcement in the case of KSEB
15. Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff for Distribution and Retail Sale of Electricity Under MYT Frame work Regulations, 2006
16. Kerala State Electricity Supply Code (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007
17. KSERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006 - Postponement of enforcement in the case of KSEB
18. KSERC (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Electricity Ombudsman) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2007
19. KSERC(Fees) Regulations, 2007
20. KSERC (Supply of Power from Captive Generating Plants to Distribution Licensees) Regulations, 2007
21. KSERC (Terms and Conditions for Open Access) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2007
22. KSERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006- Postponement of enforcement in the case of KSEB
23. Kerala State" Electricity Supply Code (Third Amendment) Regulations 2007
24. KSERC (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Electricity Ombudsman) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007
25. Kerala Electricity Ombudsman (Terms and Conditions of Service Regulations, 2008
26. KSERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006- Postponement of enforcement in the case of KSEB.
27. Kerala State Electricity Supply Code (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2008
28. KSERC (Licensees' Standards of Performance) Regulations, 2006- Postponement of enforcement in the case of KSEB.

29. KSERC (Power Procurement from Co-generation Plants by Distribution Licensees) Regulations, 2008
30. KSERC (Power Procurement from Solar Plants by Distribution Licensee) Regulations, 2008

The regulations are available in the official website of the Commission which is www.erckerala.org. Commission has issued an order on open access in the year 2005 which is the first order on open access in the country.

Commission could exercise control over the expenditure by KSEB and hence the tariff was also kept constant. This is considered as a major achievement considering the fact that inflation has been increasing consistently. Also, regulation on tariff for mini-hydro and wind power had enabled smooth implementation of projects. Commission has fixed 5% of total energy purchased to be procured from non-conventional energy sources. Due to continuous intervention of the Commission T & D losses of KSEB has been brought down from 24.95% in 2003 to 18.69% in 2008. With proper monitoring the interest liability of KSEB has been brought down from 679.26 crores in 2003 to 365.60 crores in 2008. Also for addressing consumer complaints, Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum has been constituted under KSEB and other Licensees with one member from the public appointed by the Commission. Also an Ombudsman has been posted by the Commission at Kochi for dealing with appeals of consumers not satisfied by the decision of CGRF

5. SERVICES

The Commission organizes Public Hearings on all matters for presenting facts & grievances of individuals of public in various parts of the State to reach wide spectrum of population. Further the public can submit written opinion on tariff and other matters. Commission finalizes its Orders through a transparent process. Thus the Commission through its concerted efforts could instill confidence in the minds of the stake holders and the general public as a judicial body imbining the true spirit of the Electricity Act, 2003.

6. E-SERVICES & APPLICATION FORMS

The Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum under KSEB and other Licensees are at the following addresses: KSEB

1. Southern Region : Deputy Chief Engineer (Ele)
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
KSEB, Vidythi Bhavanam
Kottarakkara – 506

2. Central Region:
Deputy Chief Engineer (Ele)
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Power House Building, Kochi 18

3. Northern Region:
Deputy Chief Engineer (Ele)
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
KSEB, Vidyuthi Bhavanam
Gandhi Road, Kozhikode - 673 011

4. Rubber Park India Pvt. Ltd.:
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Rubber Park India Pvt. Ltd.
Valanchirangara, KOCHI

Cochin Special Economic Zone
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Cochin Special Economic Zone
Kakkanad, KOCHI 682 037

6. KINFRA:
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
KINFRA Export Promotion Industria
Park Limited, Kusumagiri. P.O.
Kakkanad, KOCHI 682037

7. Cochin Port Trust:
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Cochin Port Trust
Wellington Island, KOCHI 682 003

8. Thrissur Corporation
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum

Thrissur Corporation
THRISSUR -1

9. KDHPCPL :
Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum
Kanan Devan Hills Plantations Co. Pvt. Ltd.
MUNNAR

The address of Ombudsman is as follows:

The Electricity Ombudsman
O/o. the Electricity Ombudsman
Club Junction, Pookkattupadi Road,
Edappally toll
KOCHI 682 024

The application forms and other forms required for filing petitions are available in the website of the Commission. The orders issued by the Commission and Ombudsman are available in the website of the Commission.

9. OTHERS

Copy of the Annual Reports from 2004-05 to 2007-08 are enclosed. The report contains major activities such as Consultative Council Meetings & Advisory Forum Meetings. The list of Government Orders relating to KSERC is given below.

G.O. Ms. No. 1/2002/PD, dated 16-01-2002
G.O. Ms. No. 34/2002/PD, dated 14-11-2002
G.O. Ms. No. 35/2002/PD, dated 16-11-2002
G.O. (Rt) No. 170/03/PD, dated 03-05-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 222/2003/PD, dated 30-06-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 260/03/PD, dated 17-07-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 314/03/PD, dated 23-08-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 462/03/PD, dated 29-12-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 7481/2003/Fin, dated 23-09-2003
G.O. (Rt) No. 9/2004/PD, dated 03-01-2004
G.O. (Ms) No. 10/04/PD, dated 15-04-2004
G.O. (Rt) No. 194/04/PD, dated 27-04-2004
G.O. (Rt) No. 346/04/PD, dated 09-08-2004
G.O. (Rt) No. 611/04/PD, dated 03-12-2004
G.O. (Rt) No. 209/04/PD, dated 09-06-2005
G.O. (Ms) No. 30/05/PD, dated 30-08-2005
G.O. (P) No. 18/2005/PD, dated 12-07-2005
G.O. (Rt) No. 44/06/PD, dated 10-02-2006
G.O. (Rt) No. 11996/2007/GAD, dated 06-12-2007
G.O. (Ms) No. 1/2006, dated 03-02-2006
G.O. (Rt) No. 8154/2008/Fin, dated 14-10-2008

The Senior Economic Analyst is designated as the Public Information Officer.
The Secretary of the Commission is the Appellate Officer.

WEBSITE of the Commission : www.erckerala.org
WEBSITE of the Ombudsman : www.keralaeo.org