

**Before**

**UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**In the matter of:**

Show cause notice dated 05.09.2008 in the matter of non compliance of regulation of the UERC (The Electricity Supply Code) Regulations 2007 on Periodical Testing of Meters.

**Coram**

**Shri V.J. Talwar                      Chairman**

**Shri Anand Kumar                  Member**

**Date of Order 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**

**ORDER**

- 1) This order relates to a show cause notice issued on 05.09.2008 to the Managing Director, Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, the sole Distribution & Retail Supply licensee for the State of Uttarakhand, on the non-compliance of regulation 3.1.3 of the UERC (The Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2007, under which the licensee was required to carry out the periodical testing of meters of its consumer in the manner as detailed in the said regulation. The relevant provisions of this Regulation, which came into force on April 21, 2007 are reproduced below:

**“3.1.3 Testing of meters**

*The Licensee shall conduct periodical inspection/testing and calibration of the meters as per Rule 57 of the Electricity Rules, in the following manner:*

*(1) Periodicity of meter tests - The Licensee shall observe following time schedule for regular meter testing:*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Interval of testing</b>
<i>Bulk supply meters (HT)</i>	<i>1 year</i>
<i>LT meters</i>	<i>5 years</i>

*CT ratio and accuracy of CT/PT, wherever applicable, shall also be tested along with meter."*

- 2) Accordingly, UPCL was required to carry out one test on each HT consumer meter in the year 2007-08 and another in the year 2008-09.
- 3) The above said regulation is an important regulation in order to safeguard the large amount of revenue of the licensee in selling electricity to large consumers connected on higher voltages by a correct energy meter. Therefore the Commission, from the very beginning, is concerned with this issue and has been issuing directions to the licensee from time to time to comply with such regulations. After issuing such directions, the Commission has also held a meeting on 26.06.2008 to know the progress made by the licensee in this regard. During the meeting, the licensee informed the Commission that an offer from CPRI, Bangalore regarding testing of HT consumer meters has been received and the testing shall commence within 15 days. The status report on the same was stated to be submitted to the Commission by 15.07.2008.
- 4) As no reply was submitted, UPCL was asked to appear before the Commission on 16.09.2008 to explain why action should not be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 for non-compliance of Commission regulations for not carrying out tests as specified in these Regulations. The date was later extended to 03.10.2008 on the request of MD, UPCL.
- 5) The licensee filed a reply in the matter on 16.09.08, in which it was stated that work order for testing of 50 HT meters has been placed with M/s CPRI, Bangalore. Advance payment for the designated work has already been made and the testing programme from M/s CPRI is awaited.
- 6) In this reply the licensee also informed that tenders for comprehensive onsite checking, testing and inspection of complete metering system of all high value consumers (25 kW and above) have been invited and the work shall start by November 2008 and shall be completed by March 2009.
- 7) Regarding testing of LT meters licensee informed that it can only be taken up in FY-2009-10.
- 8) The hearing was held on 03.10.2008, wherein the MD, UPCL admitted that testing of HT consumer meters could not be carried out in the year 2007-08 as required under the

Regulations. He cited several reasons for the same; however for the year 2008-09, the MD, UPCL reiterated his stand given in reply to complete the testing by March 2009. In view of his promise for achieving the given targets for completing the testing, he prayed the Commission to condone his action for the default for 2007-08.

- 9) The Commission is of the view that the testing of HT consumer meters, being the major source of revenue to UPCL, should have been taken at war-footing level without even the intervention of Commission, particularly when cases of very low load factor were pointed out by Commission in its analysis given in the tariff order dated 18.03.2008. Further, as a sizeable amount of revenue is also generated from billing of domestic consumers, the testing of their meters should also be ensured in a strict time bound manner with periodicity of atleast once in five years as stipulated in the Regulations.
- 10) In spite of a specific provision in the Regulations for periodical testing of meters, being one year for HT consumers, UPCL failed to conduct the tests for the year 2007-08 and even till date. However, considering the commitment given by UPCL for completing these tests for the year 2008-09 by March 2009, the Commission is, at present, condoning his default.
- 11) The Commission further directs MD, UPCL to submit the action plan in meeting the targets as reported in his reply dated 16.9.2008 with the connecting documents such as internal orders/tenders etc. for validating the status of progress made so far. These documents must be sent to the Commission by 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. Further, UPCL is also being directed to ensure adherence to its own target on completing the tests by March 2009 and submit the quarterly reports on the progress made, as promised in his reply.

**(Anand Kumar)**  
**Member**

**(V.J. Talwar)**  
**Chairman**