

**RECORD NOTES OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE DISTRIBUTION REVIEW  
MEETING HELD ON 12/06/12**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

1. Thiru K. Venugopal, Member(I) , TNERC
  2. Thiru S.Nagalsamy, Member(II), TNERC
  3. Thiru S. Gunasekaran, Secretary (TNERC)
  4. Thiru P. Muthusamy, Director (Engg)
  5. Thiru S. Balathandayudhapani, Director(Tariff)
  6. Thiru K. Viswanathan, Director operation, TANTRANSCO
  7. Thiru G. Perumalsamy, Chief Engineer Distribution, Chennai North Region
  8. Thiru N.Sankar, Chief Engineer/Distribution, Chennai South Region
  9. Thiru V.R. Geethanathan, Chief Engineer Planning, TANGEDCO
  10. Thiru S.Syed Liyakath, Chief Engineer/Personnel, TANGEDCO
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1. The discussion was initiated by Member(I), TNERC based on the report submitted by TANGEDCO in response to the agenda communicated. Member(I), TNERC observed that the report was devoid of any commitment on the part of TANGEDCO on the list of works envisaged to overcome the prevailing low voltage problems in Chennai city and other areas. No definite time frame was fixed regarding commencement or commissioning of the improvement works. TANGEDCO represented by Director/Operation, TANTRANSCO, however, submitted that TANGEDCO would be commissioning 24 Nos. capacitor banks in 19 substations in Chennai region. It was also stated by the Director/Operation, that the capacitor banks in 10 substations would be commissioned by 15/06/12 and the balance by 15/08/12. The Commission requested for revised report with details on definite time frame fixed for all proposals alongwith commencement and completion dates.
  2. To the query raised on the monitoring mechanism and the effect consequent to the installation of capacitors, the Director/Operation stated that the voltage readings prior to commissioning and after the commissioning of capacitors would be submitted by 15/07/2012 for those

substations commissioned during June 2012 and for the balance, details would be submitted later.

3. The issue on overloading of most of the power transformers in the substations and the resultant low voltage problem was raised by the Member(I). It was stated that while the problem could be solved only on increase in generation, various short term, medium term and long term measures were proposed by the respective regions in addition to the schemes proposed under RAPDRP and JICA. Member(II) observed that purchasing high cost power from the IPPs in and around Chennai is a unscientific and uneconomical solution to improve the voltage. He also observed that since the schemes under RAPDRP and JICA were far from operational there was a need to optimize purchase cost.
4. The Commission desired to know whether the tap position is maintained at the minimum level in most of the power transformers in the city. The Chief Engineer(Distn) Chennai South stated that in areas like Madippakkam, Thillai Ganga Nagar, Kodambakkam and K.K. Nagar the power transformers in the substations were fully loaded especially during summer due to back feeding on account of breakdowns. It was also stated by Director/Operation, that 29 nos. 33 KV substations were sanctioned to improve the voltage and that the low voltage problem could also be tackled by installation of capacitors at the consumer end. Member(I) observed that the TANGEDCO was already directed by the Commission for examining introduction of KVAh billing in the Tariff Order No. 1 dtd. 31/03/12. This needs to be examined by TANGEDCO and the outcome reported to the Commission. It was also pointed out that TANGECO should ensure the working of the capacitors already installed in the distribution transformers. The Chief Engineer/North stated that Dynamic capacitor compensation was being introduced initially in 200 substations in Chennai.

5. The Member(I) pointed out that the prevalent low voltage condition was due to overloading of the network and hence necessary improvements for introduction of parallel paths and new substations shall be undertaken urgently. The Chief Engineer/North/Chennai stated that 3 nos. substations were proposed to be commissioned during this year and that the incident load was three times during summer. Member(I) requested the details on transformation ratio being maintained and stressed upon the urgent need to improve the situation as the annual growth of demand is being projected at 7% p.a.
6. To the question raised on the supply position of power transformers, Director/Operation stated that the orders were placed and delivery is in the pipeline. TANGEDCO also stated that on erection of 230 kV Mylapore – Taramani – Kalivanthapettu line, there would be considerable improvement in the low voltage problem. Further the 230 kV substations like Athipattu is scheduled for commissioning within a month, CMRL SS by December 2012, Guindy by December 2013 and commissioning of substations like OCF and Vyasarpadi which had been sanctioned already would follow. The Commission pointed that the work on the 230 kV sources for Chennai city and the associated substations were to be made ready and requested TANGEDCO to furnish details of work under progress and likely date of completion.
7. TANGEDCO stated that land had been identified for 5 substations and there was a problem in getting land for putting up a 110 KV SS near Madippakkam. The Commission suggested that the TANGEDCO prepare a comprehensive proposal on the substations requirement and take up the issue of land allotment with GoTN.
8. The issue of erection of distribution transformers was taken up next and TANGEDCO replied that 1139 nos. DTs were envisaged for Chennai city under RAPDRP and the Purchase order for the same was under issue.

The Commission also pointed out that the failure rate in Madurai, Villupuram and Trichy regions was of the order of 10% which was on the higher side. It was stated that the DT failures were mainly due to overloading in feeders feeding agricultural load. The Commission suggested that they may regularize the unauthorised agricultural load as it would help the TANGEDCO to augment DT capacity, reduce DT failure and increase consumer satisfaction. This will also help better measurement of agricultural consumption and line loss. TANGEDCO stated that a proposal for voluntary disclosure of the loads in agricultural service connections is being placed before the Board shortly. The Commission also pointed out that some substations in Coimbatore region were also overloaded. The CE/Planning stated that many substations had been sanctioned for the region.

9. The Commission raised the issue of unsafe feeder pillar boxes without doors, slanting which are prone to safety hazards, accidents and theft of electricity. TANGEDCO clarified that steel doors of feeder pillar boxes are being stolen and they are planning to install Fibre glass ones. It is imperative that this issue needs to be sorted out urgently.
10. The Commission pointed out that the the data furnished by TANGEDCO relating to the Distribution Standards of Performance was overstated and that realistic figures need to be submitted since there was delay in replacement of DTs and considerable delay in effecting new service connections. CE/Chennai South stated that the backlog in effecting three phase service connection was upto February 2012 and for single phase it was longer and that 25,000 meters were required for Chennai. TANGEDCO also confirmed that if the consumers opt to buy meters, the same is being accepted for energizing the connection and more publicity will also be given for this scheme.

11. The Commission also insisted that details of CGRF had to be necessarily printed on the white meter cards.
12. In order to alienate the low voltage problem in Chennai city and other areas a comprehensive and concrete programme with details of target date was called for by the Commission from the TANTRANSCO/TANGEDCO.

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Secretary

TNE Regulatory Commission