



ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Dated Guwahati the 13th Aug, 2019

NOTIFICATION

Constitution of Consumer Advocacy Cell (CAC)

One of the major objectives of Electricity Act, 2003, is the protection of consumer interest. Although, there are various provisions in the said act as well as rules and regulations made there under, regarding consumer's right, but due to lack of awareness, the consumers, particularly low end consumers are not able to reap the benefit of the provisions of the Act/rules/regulations as they do not have a forum to represent their case before the Commission.

With a view to educate the consumers, various awareness activities were carried out in the past by Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission as well as Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. An advocacy cell was also established way back in 2005, but it did not function as desired.

Consumer participation in the regulatory process like framing rules and regulations, tariff determination etc is a must for the development of the power sector. Though some consumers group actively participates in the regulatory process, the representation from the general mass of the electricity consumers is not as per expectation.

The matter was discussed at length in the 25th State Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting held on 26/07/2019. In view of the consensus opinion of the meeting, the Commission has decided to constitute a Consumer Advocacy Cell (CAC) on an experimental basis with the following members:-

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| 1. Sri Subodh Sarma | Member-Convenor |
| 2. Sri Banerwar Khound | Member |
| 3. Sri Ajay Hazarika | Member |

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| 4. Sri Manoj Adhikary | Member |
| 5. Sri Kumud Medhi | Member |
| 6. Sri Saurabh Agarwal | Member |

Smt Panchamrita Sarma will be the Nodal Officer from AERC for the CAC and she will also liaise between CAC and AERC.

The terms of references of the committee will be as follows:-

1. The tenure of the CAC will be initially for one year.
2. The members will act on Honorary basis. However, basic expenses related to the meetings of CAC may be reimbursed.
3. Sitting accommodation, computer, clerical assistance including paper etc. will be provided by AERC.
4. To start with, the cell will analyze the tariff petitions of the utilities for the FY 2020-21, likely to be submitted by 30th Nov, 2019 by AEGCL, APDCL and APGCL.
5. After scrutiny of the Tariff Petitions, the cell will submit their views, comments and suggestions on the Tariff Petitions to the Commission in the form of a reply petitions.
6. The CAC shall also make their presentations if any, during the public hearing.
7. Financial Assistance will be provided by the Commission to the Cell. A budget for the year will be prepared by the cell and submit to the commission within 30th Sept /2019 for approval. The budget may also include expenses against Consultant/expert which CAC may engage.
8. The budget will be finalized after discussion with the CAC.
9. The CAC shall mainly concentrate on the interest of the consumers from domestic segment, Educational Institutions, small commercial units and small scale industries and any other consumers who does not have an organized forum to represent their case before the Commission.

10. The Cell may call for any clarification or additional information from the utilities through the Commission.
11. The Cell is also authorized to represent the consumers before the Commission in any other matter of common interest.

By order of the Commission

Sd/-
Secretary,
Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission