

# UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

‘Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan’, Near I.S.B.T., P.O.-Majra, Dehradun-248171

Dated: March 27, 2024

## Order

The Ministry of Power (MoP) vide notification dated 22.02.2024 issued the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rule, 2024, thereby amending the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rule 2020. Vide the said Amendment Rules, MoP has clarified certain matters related to supply of electricity which directly affect the consumers.

However, besides notification of the above Amendment Rules, a National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December on the subject; ‘Ease of Living’, wherein, *inter alia*, following action points were discussed and agreed to be promptly implemented across all States:-

- i. Alignment of timelines for new connection as per Electricity Amendment Rules 2024.
- ii. Pre-specified connection charges up to 150 kW.
- iii. Easy-to-understand bills.
- iv. Issuance of bills in local language.

To ensure immediate compliance in the above and to know the status on the same, the MoP conducted a meeting on 18.03.2024 with the secretaries of all State Electricity Regulatory Commission. In the said meeting, it was emphasised that the above action plan needs to be implemented with utmost priority with immediate alignment of the Regulations/Code/Guidelines of the State Commissions with the aforesaid Rules on the said pointers by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Besides above, Section 181 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 obligates the Commission to make Regulations consistent with the provisions of the said Act and Rules specified thereunder. The said section reads as:-

*“181. (Powers of State Commissions to make regulations): --- (1) The State Commissions may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules generally to carry out the provisions of this Act.”*

In light of the above, it is observed that due to the issuance of the new Amendment Rules, 2024, some of the provisions of the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (The Electricity Supply Code, Release of New Connections and Related Matters) Regulations, 2020 [UERC (The Supply Code) Regulations, 2020] stands in variance with the said Rules, though urgent implementation of Rules is specific to the point no. (i) & (iv) of the action plan enlisted above, it is imperative to relax the conflicting provisions of the Regulations to ensure no confusion for the distribution licensee.

In this regard, Regulation 8 (3) & 8 (1) of the UERC (The Supply Code) Regulations 2020, provides that:-

“

- (1) *Nothing in these Regulations shall, expressly or impliedly, bar the Commission dealing with any matter or exercising any power under the Act for which no regulations have been framed, and the Commission may deal with such matters, powers and functions in a manner, as it considers just and appropriate.”*

...

**(3) Powers to Relax**

*The Commission, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may relax or vary any of the provisions of these regulations on its own motion or on an application made before it by an interested person.”*

**[Emphasis added]**

Further, Regulation 59 (3) of the UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014 provides that,

**“59. Inherent Powers of the Commission**

...

- (3) *Nothing in these Regulations shall, expressly or impliedly bar the Commission to deal with any matter or exercise any power under the Central Act or State Act, for which no Regulations have been framed, and the Commission may deal with such matters or exercise such powers and functions in a manner it thinks fit.”*

Therefore, in exercise of the powers given in the aforesaid quoted Regulations, the Commission hereby directs: -

- (i) Regulation 3.3.3 (15) & Regulation 4.1.1 (8) of the UERC (The Supply Code) Regulations, 2020 shall be read as:-

**Existing**

**“ 3.3.3**

*15. Where a new connection does not require extension of its distributing mains or laying of new distributing mains or commissioning a new substation, the Licensee shall be under obligation to energize the connection through a correct meter within 15 days from the date of application.”*

...

**4.1.1**

*(8) Subject to the procedures and completion of formalities as per Sub-regulation 3.3.1 to Sub-regulation 3.3.3 for LT connections and Sub-regulation 3.4.1 to Sub-regulation 3.4.3 for HT/EHT connections of these Regulations, the distribution Licensee shall complete the works as per timelines specified in these Regulations. However, if enhancement/reduction of load does not require any alteration of line/substation works the contracted load shall be enhanced/reduced within 30 days for HT/EHT connection and within 15 days for LT connection from the date of submission of application.*

**Modified**

**“3.3.3**

**15.** Where a new connection does not require extension of its distributing mains or laying of new distributing mains or commissioning a new substation, the Licensee shall be under obligation to energize the connection through a correct meter within 3 days in metropolitan areas, 7 days in other municipal areas and 15 days in rural areas from the date of application.”

**“4.1.1**

**(8)** Subject to the procedures and completion of formalities as per Sub-regulation 3.3.1 to Sub-regulation 3.3.3 for LT connections and Sub-regulation 3.4.1 to Sub-regulation 3.4.3 for HT/EHT connections of

these Regulations, the distribution Licensee shall complete the works as per timelines specified in these Regulations. However, if enhancement/reduction of load does not require any alteration of line/substation works the contracted load shall be enhanced/reduced within 30 days for HT/EHT connection and within 3 days in metropolitan areas, 7 days in other municipal areas and 15 days in rural areas for LT connection from the date of submission of application.”

- (ii) For the purpose of levying/calculating penalty and compensation for delay in release of connection and enhancement & reduction of load, the timelines provided above in the modified Regulations shall be applicable.
- (iii) In all other places in the UERC (The Supply Code) Regulations, 2020 and any other Regulations, the modified timelines mentioned in the clause (i) above of this order shall be applicable and be read in the same manner as above.
- (iv) In a move towards simplification of the electricity bills issued by distribution licensee, the bills issued via Spot Billing Machine (SBM) shall be printed in Hindi, whereas, at the website of licensee electricity bills can be viewed by the consumers either in English or Hindi.
- (v) Distribution licensee to ensure strict implementation of the above directions from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
- (vi) Staff of the Commission shall initiate the process of amendment of the UERC (The Supply Code) Regulations, 2020 in accordance with the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rule, 2020 and amendments thereof and put up a draft amendment Regulations before the Commission.

Ordered Accordingly.

**(M.L. Prasad)**  
**Member (Technical)**

**(D.P. Gairola)**  
**Member (Law) / Chairman (I/c)**