

Before the Appellate Board National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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No. NEPRA/Appeal/060/2021/068

January 09, 2025

- M/s. New Asia Woolen Mills, Small Industrial Estate No. 1, Gujranwala
- 3. Muhammad Azam Khokhar, Advocate High Court, 10-Fatima Jinnah Chambers, Sessions Courts, Gujranwala Cell No. 0301-6434497
- POI/Electric Inspector, Gujranwala Region, Energy Department, Govt. of Punjab, Munir Chowk, Near Kacheri Road, Gujranwala

- 2. Chief Executive Officer, GEPCO Ltd, 565-A, Model Town, G. T. Road, Gujranwala
- Sub Divisional Officer (Operation), GEPCO Ltd, Model Town Sub Division, Gujranwala

Subject:

Appeal No.060/2021 (GEPCO Vs. M/s. Asia Woolen Mills) Against the Decision Dated 29.01.2021 of the Provincial Office of Inspection to Government of the Punjab Gujranwala Region, Gujranwala

Please find enclosed herewith the decision of the Appellate Board dated 09.01.2025 (04 pages), regarding the subject matter, for information and necessary action, accordingly.

Encl: As Above

(Ikram Shakeel) Deputy Director Appellate Board

Forwarded for information please.

1. Director (IT) –for uploading the decision of the Appellate Board on the NEPRA website



Before The Appellate Board

In the matter of

Appeal No.060/POI-2021

Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited	Appellant
Versus	
M/s. Asia Woolen Mills, Small Industrial Estate No.1,	
Gujranwala	Respondent

APPEAL U/S 38(3) OF REGULATION OF GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER ACT, 1997

For the Appellant: Syed Asim Legal Assistant

For the Respondent:

Mr. Muhammad Azam Khokhar Advocate

DECISION

- Through this decision, the appeal filed by the Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Appellant") against the decision dated 29.01.2021 of the Provincial Office of Inspection, Gujranwala Region, Gujranwala (hereinafter referred to as the "POI") is being disposed of.
- 2. Briefly speaking, M/s Asia Woolen Mills (the "Respondent") is an industrial consumer of the Appellant bearing Ref No.28-12111-03204001 with a sanctioned load of 497 kW and the applicable Tariff is B-2(b). The Appellant has claimed that the yellow phase of the billing meter of the Respondent was found dead stop during the Metering & Testing ("M&T") team checking dated 21.01.2020. Resultantly, the Multiplication Factor (the "MF") of the Respondent was enhanced from 160 to 240 due to 33.33% slowness of the impugned billing meter w.e.f January 2020 and onwards.
- 3. Subsequently, the Appellant filed an application before the POI on 21.02.2020 for checking the metering equipment of the Respondent. In response, the impugned billing meter of the

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Respondent was checked by the POI on 11.11.2020 in the presence of both parties in which 33.33% slowness was established due to the yellow phase of the meter being dead. The matter was disposed of by the POI vide the decision dated 29.01.2021, wherein the Appellant was allowed to recover the detection bill for two months i.e. November 2019 and December 2019 due to 33.33% slowness of the impugned meter.

- 4. Through the instant appeal, the afore-referred decision dated 29.01.2021 of the POI has been impugned by the Appellant before the NEPRA u/s 38(3) of the NEPRA Act. NEPRA Appellate Board vide decision dated 13.01.2023 dismissed the subject appeal.
- 5. The Appellant filed Appeal No.17/NT/2023 before the Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA) against the decision dated 13.01.2023 of the NEPRA Appellate Board. Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA) vide order dated 12.12.2023 set aside the aforesaid decision of the Appellate Board and remanded back the matter to NEPRA for decision afresh in accordance with law after revisiting Clause 4.4(e) of Consumer Service Manual-2010 (the "CSM-2010") (existing Clause 4.3.3 of the CSM-2021).
- 6. Subsequently, the NEPRA Authority vide order dated 13.06.2024 retained the period of supplementary/detection bill for two billing cycles in case of the slowness of the metering equipment/defective CTs as mentioned in Clause 4.4(e) of CSM- 2010 (existing Clause 4.3.3 of CSM-2021), the operative portion of which is reproduced below:

"For the reasons stated above, we reject the proposal of the distribution companies and retain the period of the supplementary bills for two (02) billing cycles in the case of the slowness of the metering installation/defective CTs as mentioned in clause 4.4(e) of CSM-2010 (existing clause 4.3 of CSM-2021). In a vigilant system, slowness of the metering installation should be detected timely, hence the distribution companies must bring efficiency in their working and replace the slow meters/defective CTs within the stipulated period as provided in clause 4.3 of the CSM-2021 in true letter and spirit. The distribution companies should ensure the charging of supplementary bills maximum for two billing cycles. If in the cases where the slowness of the metering installation is not pointed out timely and the metering installation is not replaced within maximum period of two (02) billing cycles, the competent authority of the relevant distribution company shall take disciplinary action against the concerned officials and fix the responsibility for negligence in such cases."

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- 7. Accordingly, a hearing in the subject appeal was conducted at NEPRA Regional Office Lahore on 02.11.2024, wherein learned counsels tendered an appearance for the Appellant and the Respondent. The representative for the Appellant contended that the honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan vide order dated 17.05.2023 remanded back the matter to the Authority for re-examination of the period of the slowness of the metering equipment, however, the Authority while rendering the order did not consider the genuine grievance of the DISCOs with regard to the period of slowness. The representative for the Appellant averred that the above-said order of the Authority has been challenged before the honorable Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA) and the matter is under adjudication. He finally prayed to hold the proceedings of the subject appeal in abeyance till the final disposal of the case before the Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA). On the contrary, learned counsel for the Respondent defended the impugned decision and argued that the same is in line with provisions of the CSM-2010 as well as the order of the NEPRA Authority. Learned counsel for the Respondent finally prayed for the dismissal of the appeal.
- 8. Arguments were heard and the record was perused. The following has been observed:
- 8.1 33% slowness of the meter of the Respondent was observed by the Appellant on 21.01.2020, which was confirmed by the POI during joint checking dated 21.02.2020. MF was raised from 80 to 120 w.e.f January 2020 and onwards. The POI vide impugned decision directed the Appellant to recover 33.33% slowness for two months i.e. November 2019 and December 2019 against which the Appellant filed subject appeal before the NEPRA.
- 8.2 NEPRA Appellate Board vide decision 13.01.2023 dismissed the subject appeal against which the Appellant filed Appeal No.17/NT/2023 before the Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA). Appellate Tribunal (NEPRA) vide order dated 12.12.2023 set aside the aforesaid decision of the Appellate Board and remanded back the matter to NEPRA for decision afresh in accordance with law after revisiting Clause 4.4(e) of Consumer Service Manual-2010 (the "CSM-2010") (existing Clause 4.3.3 of the CSM-2021).
- 8.3 After detailed deliberation with the DISCOs and the Consumers, the NEPRA Authority vide order dated 13.06.2024 retained the period of supplementary/detection bill for two billing cycles in case of the slowness of the metering equipment/defective CTs as mentioned

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in Clause 4.4(e) of CSM-2010 (existing clause 4.3.3 of CSM-2021).

- 8.4 In view of the ibid order of the Authority, the POI has rightly allowed the Appellant to recover the detection bill for two billing cycles i.e. November 2019 and December 2019 before checking dated 21.01.2020 of the Appellant due to 33.33% slowness as per Clause 4.4(e) of the CSM-2010 (Existing Clause 4.3.3c(ii) of the CSM-2021). Moreover, the bills already charged with enhanced MF=120 w.e.f January 2020 and onwards by the Appellant are consistent with Clause 4.4(c) of the CSM-2010 (existing Clause 4.3.3c(i) of the CSM-2021).
- 9. For the reasons given above, we do not find any reason to indulge the impugned decision, the same is maintained and consequently, the appeal is dismissed.

On leave

Abid Hussain

Member/Advisor (CAD)

Muhammad Irfan-ul-Haq
Member/ALA (Lic.)

Thattag

Naweed Illahi Sheikh Convener/DG (CAD)

Dated: 09-01-2025