

Consumer Affairs Department

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Provincial Office

1st Floor, Link Arcade, 54B, GECH Society, Phase 3, Link Road, Model Town, Lahore. Phone: 042-99333931

> POL.05 3008-2025 May 26, 2025

Chief Executive Officer Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), 22-A, Queens Road, <u>Lahore</u>.

Subject: DECISION IN THE MATTER OF COMPLAINT FILED BY MR. MUHAMMAD SULEMAN UNDER SECTION 39 OF THE REGULATION OF GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER ACT, 1997

AGAINST LESCO REGARDING DELAY IN REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE METER (REF#10 11344 1319300 U)

Case No. LESCO-LHR-50168-02-25

Please find enclosed herewith the decision of NEPRA Complaints Resolution Committee (CRC), dated May 26, 2025 regarding the subject matter for necessary action and compliance within fifteen (15) days, positively

Encl: As above

(Aisha Kalsoom)
Assistant Director (CAD)

Copy to:

- 1. C.E/Customer Services Director LESCO, 22-A, Queens Road, <u>Lahore</u>.
- 2. The, Manager/Incharge Central Complaint Cell LESCO, (Focal Person, NEPRA) LESCO, 22-A, Queens Road, <u>Lahore</u>.
- 3. S.E 3rd Circle LESCO, Sukh Nahar, Wapda Road, Shalamar, <u>Lahore.</u>
- XEN Mughalpura Division, LESCO
 Quaid-e-Azam Interchange Near Ring Road,
 Harbancepura, <u>Lahore.</u>
- 5. Mr. Muhammad Suleman R/O House No. 45, Street No. 11, Punj Pir Lahore. Cell#0324-4914512





BEFORE THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NEPRA)

Complaint No. LESCO-LHR-50168-02-25

Mr. Muhammad Suleman

R/o House No. 45, Street No. 11, Punj Pir, Lahore.

Cell # 0324-4914512

Versus

Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) 22-A, Queens Road, Lahore.

Date of Hearing:

February 27, 2025

April 22, 2025

On behalf of:

Complainant:

Mr. Saddam

Respondent:

1) Mr. Muhammad Usman Qadeer, SDO, LESCO

2) Mr. Muhammad Afzal SDO, LESCO

Subject: DECISION IN THE MATTER OF COMPLAINT FILED BY MR. MUHAMMAD SULEMAN

UNDER SECTION 39 OF THE REGULATION OF GENERATION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER ACT, 1997 AGAINST LESCO REGARDING DELAY IN REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE METER (REF # 10-11344-

131<u>9300)</u>

Case No. LESCO-LHR-50168-02-25

DECISION

This decision shall dispose of the complaint filed by Mr. Muhammad Suleman (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant") against Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent" or "LESCO"), under Section 39 of the Regulation of Generation, Transmission and Distribution of Electric Power Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the "NEPRA Act").

- The Complainant in his complaint disputed the charging of an unjust bill amounting to Rs. 86,711/- by LESCO on pretext of installed meter defectiveness. Upon approaching LESCO, the grievances remained unaddressed and consequent to the above, matter was escalated to NEPRA, seeking review of the detection bill. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with LESCO for submission of detailed para-wise comments/report. However, LESCO failed to submit the required report within stipulated timer period.
- In order to probe further into matter, hearings were held at NEPRA Provincial Office, Lahore, which were attended by representatives of both the parties wherein the matter was discussed at length. The case has been examined in detail in the light of the written/verbal arguments of both the parties and applicable law. The following has been concluded:
 - The Complainant's residential connection installed against reference number i.e. 10-11344-1319300 was charged detection bill (1321) units during January, 2025 on account of meter's defectiveness i.e. sticking stop. The Complainant was of the view that the excessive detection bill was charged by LESCO with the mala fide intent inconsiderate of already charged average bills during the defective period.
 - Perusal of documentary evidence reveals that the Complainant was charged the detection bill of (1321) units for a period of six months i.e. May to October, 2024 as per the actual consumption of corresponding months of previous year i.e. 2023 while the same is inconsistent with clause 9.2.3 (b) of Consumer Service Manual (CSM) for charging detection bill. As per which LESCO is restricted to charge the

.....Complainant

.....Respondent

detection bill for maximum period of (3) months as envisaged in the same clause which has not been followed by LESCO. The analysis of detection bills notes the lack of adoption of relevant procedure by LESCO officials for the establishment of illegal abstraction including but not limited to the securing of meter, installation of check meter etc. as also envisaged in the clause 9.2.2 of CSM.

- iii. However, the analysis of consumption divulges that the Complainant's meter does recorded low electricity consumption during the detection period when compared with corresponding months, thus corroborating meter sticking. The record further reflects that the Complainant's meter was declared defective by LESCO during the month of November, 2024 and was, later, replaced during February, 2025 after accrual of the considerable delay. As above, the Complainant was also charged average bills for period of three months in violation of chapter 4.3.1 (b) of the CSM which restricts average billing for maximum period of two billing cycles. Thus, the same instigated sheer and plain violation of the prudent practices while further complicating the matter at hand.
- iv. Hence, after careful perusal of available evidence and the consumption pattern, it can be concluded that the detection bill was charged for an extended period of six months in clear violation of clause 9.2.3 (c) of CSM which constitutes revision of detection bill to period of only (2) month i.e. September to October, 2024 as the Complainant was additionally charged third consecutive average bill surpassing the allowed time frame of two months.
- 4. Foregoing in view, LESCO is directed to revise the aforementioned detection bill of (1321) units, charged to the Complainant during the month of January, 2025 only for period of two months. A compliance report be submitted to this office within fifteen (15) days.

گور مندرجه بالا حقائق کے پیش نظر لیسکو کو ہدائت کی جاتی ہے که شکائت کنندہ کو ماہ جنوری 2024 میں نقص شدہ میٹر کی بنیاد پر چھ ماہ کے لیے چارج کیا گیا 1321 یونٹس کا بل درست کر کے صرف دو مہینوں کے لیے چارج کیا جائے اور درج بالا احکامات پر عمل کی رپورٹ پندرہ (15) یوم کے اندردفتر ہذا میں جمع کروائی جائے۔

(Aisha Kalsoom)

Member Complaints Resolution Committee/Assistant Director (CAD)

Lahore, May 24, 2025

(Ubaid Khan)

Member Complaints Resolution Committee/Assistant Director (CAD)