



Before the Appellate Board
National Electric Power Regulatory Authority
(NEPRA)
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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No. NEPRA/Appeal/004/2024/640

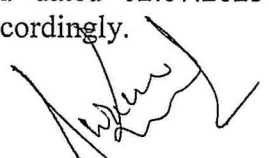
July 02, 2025

1. Muhammad Ashraf,
Through Aamir Nawaz Khan,
S/o. Ahmed Nawaz Khan,
Present owner/occupier consumer,
Prop: Tube Well, Chak No. 90/15-L,
Tehsil Mian Channu, District Khanewal
Cell No. 0309-7138926
0300-7890890
2. Chief Executive Officer,
MEPCO Ltd,
MEPCO Complex, Khanewal Road,
Multan
3. Executive Engineer (Operation),
MEPCO Ltd,
Khanewal Division,
Khanewal
Cell No. 0300-7333369
4. Sub Divisional Officer (Op),
MEPCO Ltd,
Kacha Khu Sub Division,
Tehsil & District Khanewal
5. POI/Electric Inspector,
Multan Region,
Energy Department, Govt. of Punjab,
249-G, Shah Rukan-e-Alam Colony,
Phase-II, Multan

Subject: **Appeal No.004/2024 (MEPCO vs. Muhammad Ashraf) Against the Decision Dated 30.11.2023 of the Provincial Office of Inspection to Government of the Punjab Multan Region, Multan**

Please find enclosed herewith the decision of the Appellate Board dated 02.07.2025 (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



National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

Before The Appellate Board

In the matter of

Appeal No.004/POI-2024

Multan Electric Power Company Limited

.....Appellant

Versus

Muhammad Ashraf Through Aamir Nawaz Khan,
present owner Prop: Tubewell, Chak No.90/15-L,
Tehsil Mian Channu, District Khanewal

.....Respondent

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

For the Appellant:
Mr. Rehan Ali XEN

For the Respondent:
Nemo

DECISION

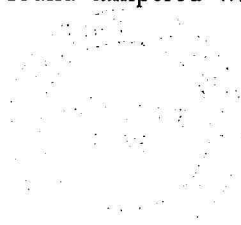
1. Brief facts leading to the filing of instant appeal are that Muhammad Ashraf (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent") is an agricultural consumer of Multan Electric Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Appellant") bearing Ref No.29-15916-1013000-U with sanctioned load of 11 kW and the applicable tariff category is D-2. The impugned meter of the Respondent became defective and it was replaced with a new meter by the Appellant in November 2020. Subsequently, the impugned meter of the Respondent was checked by the M&T team of the Appellant, wherein it was declared tampered (intentionally 73% slow) vide report dated 04.12.2020. Notice dated 07.12.2020 was issued to the Respondent regarding the above discrepancy and a detection bill amounting to





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- Rs.925,660/- for 93,068 units for the period from 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 was charged by the Appellant to the Respondent @ 73% slowness of the impugned meter.
2. Being aggrieved with the abovementioned actions of the Appellant, the Respondent approached the Provincial Office of Inspection, Multan Region, Multan (hereinafter referred to as the "POI") and assailed the above detection bill. The matter was disposed of by the POI vide the decision dated 30.11.2023, wherein the detection bill of 93,068 units for the period from 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 was cancelled and the Appellant was directed to charge the revised detection bill of 39,715 units for the period from May 2020 to October 2020 @ 73% slowness of the impugned meter.
 3. Subject appeal has been filed against the afore-referred decision dated 30.11.2023 of the POI (hereinafter referred to as the "impugned decision") by the Appellant before the NEPRA. In its appeal, the Appellant opposed the impugned decision *inter alia*, on the main grounds that the POI has miserably failed to appreciate and understand the documentary evidence and facts submitted by the Appellant; that the POI has lacked the jurisdiction in the matter according to the settled law on the point; that the lower forum without going into merits, documentary evidence and facts of the case accepted illegal plea of the Respondent vide impugned decision; that the impugned decision is against the facts and law of the case and that the impugned decision is liable to be set aside.
 4. Upon filing of the instant appeal, a Notice dated 30.01.2024 was sent to the Respondent for filing reply/para-wise comments to the appeal within ten (10) days, which however were not filed.
 5. Hearing of the subject appeal was initially conducted at NEPRA Regional Office Multan on 11.01.2025, which was attended by the representative for the Respondent, whereas no one tendered appearance for the Appellant. The representative for the Respondent supported the impugned decision to the extent of cancellation of the impugned detection bill and prayed for upholding the same. The representative for the Respondent opposed the impugned decision for revision of the detection bill for six months @ 73% slowness of the meter and prayed for withdrawal of the same to this extent. In order to provide final opportunity for hearing to the Appellant, hearing of the appeal was again conducted on 07.02.2025, which was attended by an official for the Appellant. The Appellant repeated the same arguments as contained in memo of the appeal and averred that the impugned meter of the Respondent was found tampered with (intentionally 73% slow) during





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checking dated 04.12.2020, therefore a detection bill amounting to Rs.925,660/- for 93,068 units for the period from 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 was debited to the Respondent. As per the Appellant, the POI did not examine the consumption data and cancelled the above detection bill. The Appellant defended the charging of the impugned detection bill and prayed that the same be declared as justified and payable by the Respondent.

6. Arguments were heard and the record was perused. Following are our observations:

6.1 Detection bill of Rs.925,660/- for 93,068 units for the period 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 (twenty months and 12 days):

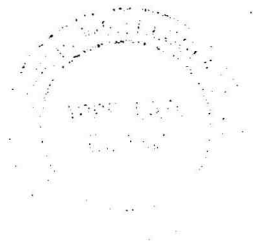
In the instant case, the Appellant claimed that the impugned meter of the Respondent was intentionally tampered as observed on 04.12.2020, therefore, a detection bill of Rs.925,660/- for 93,068 units for the period from 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 was debited to the Respondent, which was challenged by the Respondent before the POI.

6.2 As per the judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan reported in *PLD 2012 SC 371*, the POI is the competent forum to check the metering equipment, wherein theft of electricity was committed through tampering with the meter and decide the fate of the disputed bill, accordingly. In the instant case, the Appellant neither produced the impugned meter before the POI for verification of alleged tampering nor submitted the data retrieval report before the lower forum. Even otherwise, the Appellant may debit the detection bill maximum for six months in case of theft of electricity through tampering with the meter as per Clause 9.1c(3) of the CSM-2010. However, in the instant case, the Appellant debited the impugned detection bill for more than twenty-two months @ 73% slowness of the impugned meter.

6.3 In view of the foregoing discussion, we are of the considered view that the detection bill of Rs.925,660/- for 93,068 units for the period from 01.01.2019 to 12.11.2020 charged by the Appellant to the Respondent is unjustified and the same is cancelled as already determined by the POI.

6.4 During the hearing, the Respondent opposed the determination of the POI for revision of the detection bill for six months @ 73% slowness of the impugned meter. However, the Respondent neither filed an appeal before the NEPRA against the impugned decision nor could he bring concrete documentary evidence in support of his contention. To verify the contention of the Respondent, consumption data is analyzed in the below table:

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Month	Units	Month	Units
Jan-20	639	Jan-21	5330
Feb-20	838	Feb-21	0
Mar-20	398	Mar-21	1650
Apr-20	1545	Apr-21	6215
May-20	1976	May-21	8021
Jun-20	3433	Jun-21	10411
Jul-20	2232	Jul-21	11840
Aug-20	2785	Aug-21	11816
Sep-20	2328	Sep-21	10173
Oct-20	1955	Oct-21	7480
Nov-20	0	Nov-21	4348
Dec-20	932	Dec-21	2617
Average	1588	Average	6658

6.5 As evident from the above table, consumption of the Respondent during the allowed disputed period is considerably lesser than the consumption of corresponding months of the succeeding year, which confirms that the impugned meter remained slow during these months. As such the determination of the POI for revision of the detection bill against 39,715 units for the period from May 2020 to October 2020 for six months @ 73% slowness of the impugned meter is correct and the same is maintained to this extent.

7. Foregoing in view, the appeal is dismissed.


Abid Hussain
Member/Advisor (CAD)


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


Naweed Illahi Sheikh
Convener/DG (CAD)

Dated: 02-07-2025