



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

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No. NEPRA/Appeal/043/2024/ 578

June 24, 2025

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mst. Aasia Qureshi,
D/o. Hafiz Abdul Aleem,
Through Abdul Jabbar Khan Korai,
Advocate & Husband, Mohallah Rasool Abad,
Tehsil & District Muzaffargarh
Cell No. 0300-7101455 | 2. Chief Executive Officer,
MEPCO Ltd,
MEPCO Complex, Khanewal Road,
Multan |
| 3. Executive Engineer (Operation),
MEPCO Ltd,
Muzaffargarh Division,
Muzaffargarh | 4. Executive Engineer (Operation),
MEPCO Ltd,
Muzaffargarh Division,
Muzaffargarh |
| 5. Sub Divisional Officer (Op),
MEPCO Ltd,
Muzaffargarh-I Sub Division,
Muzaffargarh | 6. POI/Electric Inspector,
Multan Region,
Energy Department, Govt. of Punjab,
249-G, Shah Rukan-e-Alam Colony,
Phase-II, Multan |

Subject: **Appeal No.043/2024 (MEPCO vs. Mst. Aasia Qureshi) Against the Decision Dated 15.04.2024 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 24.06.2025 (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 Nos.043/POI-2024

Multan Electric Power Company Limited

.....Appellant

Versus

M/s. Aasia Qureshi D/o. Hafiz Abdul Aleem,
Through Abdul Jabbar Khan Korai Advocate,
Mohallah Rasool Abad Tehsil & District Muzafargarh

.....Respondent

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

For the Appellant:

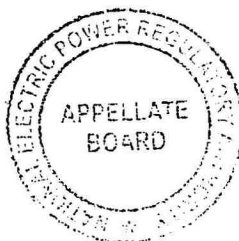
Nemo

For the Respondent:

Mr. Jabbar Khan Advocate

DECISION

1. Through this decision, the appeal filed by Multan Electric Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Appellant") against the decision dated 15.04.2024 of the Provincial Office of Inspection, Multan Region, Multan (hereinafter referred to as the "POI") is being disposed of.
2. Brief facts of the case are that Mst. Aasia Qureshi (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent") is a domestic consumer of the Appellant bearing Ref No.14-15711-1018018-U with a sanctioned load of 02 kW and the applicable Tariff category is A-1(a). Reportedly, the display of the billing meter of the Respondent was found washed out in May 2021, therefore DEF-EST code was fed by the Appellant w.e.f May 2021 and onwards. Subsequently, the impugned meter of the Respondent was replaced with a new meter by the Appellant in February 2022 and sent to the Metering & Testing ("M&T") lab for checking. As per M&T, 1,430 units were found uncharged. Resultantly, a detection bill of Rs.38,616/- against 1,430 units was debited to the Respondent and added to the bill for May 2022.

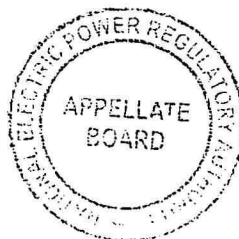


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3. Being aggrieved, the Respondent filed a complaint before the POI and assailed the above detection bill. The complaint of the Respondent was disposed of by the POI vide the decision dated 15.04.2024, wherein the detection bill of Rs.38,616/- against 1,430 units was cancelled.
4. Being dissatisfied, the Appellant filed instant appeal before the NEPRA against the afore-referred decision of the POI (hereinafter referred to as the "impugned decision"), which was registered as Appeal No.043/POI-2024. In its appeal, the Appellant objected to the maintainability of the impugned decision, *inter alia*, on the main grounds that the impugned decision is against the facts and law of the case; that the impugned meter became defective in May 2021 and subsequently it was replaced with a new meter in February 2022 and checked by the M&T team, wherein 1,430 units were found pending; that the detection bill of Rs.38,616/- for 1,430 units was charged to the Respondent, which was challenged before the POI; that the said forum failed to see the case in true perspective which results in great miscarriage of justice; that no report of the current load was collected by the POI; that the impugned decision is self-contradictory, arbitrary and based on surmises and conjectures; that the POI without applying the conscientious mind has passed the impugned decision in illegal manner; and that the impugned decision is liable to be set aside.
5. Upon the filing of the instant appeal, a notice dated 24.06.2024 was sent to the Respondent for filing reply/para-wise comments to the appeal within ten (10) days, which were filed on 04.07.2024. In the reply, the Respondent prayed for dismissal of the appeal *inter alia*, on the following grounds that the appeal is time-barred as the Appellant with mala fide intention overwrote the date of receipt of the impugned decision from 20.04.2024 to 29.04.2024; that the entire proceedings including the M&T checking report are unilateral and fabricated; that the impugned detection bill of Rs.38,616/- against 1,430 units was charged by the Appellant illegally, which was rightly cancelled by the POI.
6. Hearing was conducted at NEPRA Regional Office Multan on 07.02.2025, which was attended by the counsel for the Respondent, whereas no one tendered appearance for the Appellant. At the beginning of the hearing, learned counsel for the Respondent raised the preliminary objection regarding limitation and argued that the appeal is barred by time. He prayed for dismissal of the appeal on this sole ground. On merits, learned counsel for the



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Respondent opposed the charging of the impugned detection bill of Rs.383,616/- and argued that the entire proceedings including the unilateral M&T checking are false and based on concocted stories and the Respondent is not responsible for payment of any detection bill. Learned counsel for the Respondent finally prayed for upholding the impugned decision. To arrive just conclusion, the Appellant was directed to submit the PITC data, data retrieval report, and MCO, which were subsequently submitted by the Appellant vide XEN letter No.2305 dated 10.02.2025.

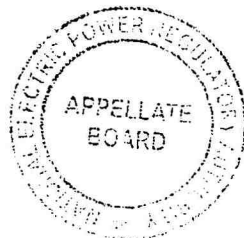
7. Arguments were heard and the record was perused. Following are our observations:

7.1 While considering the preliminary objection of limitation raised by the Respondent, it is noted that the Appellant obtained the copy of the impugned decision dated 15.04.2024 on 29.04.2024 and filed the appeal before the NEPRA on 27.05.2024 which is within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the impugned decision as per Section 38 of the NEPRA Act, 1997. There is no force in the arguments of the Respondent that the impugned decision was received on 20.04.2024. Reliance in this regard is placed on the judgment of the honorable Lahore High Court Lahore cited as 2016 YLR 1916, wherein it was held that the POI is required to send a copy of the impugned decision to the parties and the period of limitation for filing the appeal will start from the date of receipt of the impugned decision. In view of the above, the objection of the Respondent regarding limitation is not valid and, therefore, dismissed.

7.2 Detection bill of Rs.38.616/- against 1.430 units to the Respondent in May 2022:

It is observed that the Appellant charged the above detection bill based on the data retrieval report of the M&T team but the said checking was neither carried out in the presence of the Respondent nor the impugned meter was checked by the POI being a competent forum. It is further observed that the display of the impugned meter became defective in May 2021, the Appellant was required to replace the same within two billing cycles as per Clause 4.3.2(a) of the CSM-2021. However, the Appellant fed the DEF-EST code w.e.f May 2021 and onwards and later on replaced the impugned meter in February 2022 after lapse of nine (09) months, which is inconsistent with the ibid clause of the CSM-2021.

7.3 To further verify the contention of the Appellant regarding the above detection bill,





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consumption data is reproduced below:

Last eleven months		Disputed period		Period before dispute		Period after dispute	
Month	Units	Month	Units	Month	Units	Month	Units
Jun-20	153	May-21	112	May-20	26	Feb-22	159
Jul-20	599	Jun-21	153	Jun-20	153	Mar-22	76
Aug-20	316	Jul-21	599	Jul-20	599	Apr-22	12
Sep-20	97	Aug-21	316	Aug-20	316	May-22	215
Oct-20	5	Sep-21	113	Sep-20	97	Jun-22	28
Nov-20	5	Oct-21	123	Oct-20	5	Jul-22	255
Dec-20	8	Nov-21	134	Nov-20	5	Aug-22	20
Jan-21	16	Dec-21	145	Dec-20	8	Sep-22	19
Feb-21	3	Jan-22	157	Jan-21	16	Oct-22	17
Mar-21	10					Nov-22	6
Apr-21	16					Dec-22	4
Average	112	Average	206	Average	136	Average	74

It is revealed that the normal average consumption charged during the disputed months is higher than the normal average consumption of the corresponding months of the preceding year as well as the normal average consumption of the last eleven months. Even otherwise, the Appellant debited the bills for the period from May 2021 to January 2022 on DEF-EST code, hence the Respondent cannot be charged twice for the same cause of action. In view of the foregoing discussion, it is concluded that the detection bill of Rs.38,616/- against 1,430 units charged based on the feedback report of M&T is unjustified and the same is cancelled as already decided by the POI.

8. Foregoing in view, the appeal is dismissed.

Abid Hussain
Member/Advisor (CAD)

Naweed Illahi Sheikh
Convener/DG (CAD)

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

Dated: 24-06-2025

