



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

NEPRA Office , Ataturk Avenue (East), G5/1, Islamabad
Tel. No.+92 051 2013200 Fax No. +92 051 2600030
Website: www.nepra.org.pk E-mail: office@nepra.org.pk

No. NEPRA/Appeal/065/2024/ 065

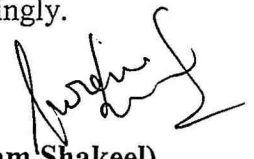
January 06, 2025

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mst. Kousar Parveen,
Widow of Khalil Ahmad,
R/o. Mouza Faizpur, Basti Thaheem Wali,
Tehsil & District Multan | 2. Chief Executive Officer,
MEPCO Ltd,
MEPCO Complex, Khanewal Road,
Multan |
| 3. Malik Mureed Hussain Makwal,
Advocate High Court,
15-New Block, District Courts,
Multan.
Cell No. 0301-7510406 | 4. Executive Engineer (Operation),
MEPCO Ltd,
City Division, Multan |
| 5. Sub Divisional Officer (Op),
MEPCO Ltd,
Walayatabad Sub Division,
Multan | 6. POI/Electric Inspector,
Multan Region,
Energy Department, Govt. of Punjab,
249-G, Shah Rukan-e-Alam Colony,
Phase-II, Multan |

Subject: **Appeal No.065/2024 (MEPCO Vs. Mst. Kousar Parveen) Against the Decision Dated 22.05.2024 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 06.01.2025 (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



National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

Before The Appellate Board

In the matter of

Appeal No.065/POI-2024

Multan Electric Power Company Limited

.....Appellant

Versus

Mst. Kousar Parveen widow of Khalil Ahmed,

R/o. Mouza Faizpur, Basti Thaheem Wali, Tehsil & District Multan

.....Respondent

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 38(3) OF THE REGULATION OF GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER ACT, 1997

For the Appellant:

Malik Mureed Hussain Advocate

For the Respondent:

Mst. Kousar Parveen

DECISION

1. Briefly speaking, Mst. Kousar Parveen (hereinafter referred to as the “Respondent”) is a domestic consumer of Multan Electric Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the “Appellant”) bearing Ref No.15-15132-2566606-R having a sanctioned load of 03 kW and the applicable tariff category is A-1(a). New connection was installed on the premises of the Respondent on 21.07.2023 and the first bill of 1,472 units was issued to the Respondent in October 2023, which was initially challenged before the Civil Judge 1st Class, Multan. Subsequently, the honorable Civil Court vide order dated 21.12.2023 dismissed the petition as withdrawn. Thereafter, the Respondent filed an application before the Provincial Office of Inspection, Multan Region, Multan (hereinafter referred to as the “POI”) and challenged the above bill. Electricity of the Respondent was disconnected by the Appellant in February 2024 due to non-payment of electricity dues and P-DISC was fed in March 2024. Meanwhile, the premises of the Respondent was checked by POI on 19.03.2024 in the presence of both parties, wherein the connected load was observed as 516 watts, and the billing meter was found working within permissible limits with reading index noted as 1,562. The complaint of the Respondent was disposed of by the POI vide decision dated 22.05.2024, wherein, the bills for the period from August 2023 to February 2024 were cancelled and the Appellant was directed



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to charge the revised bills @ 75 units/month for the period from July 2023 to October 2023 based on 20% load factor of the connected load i.e. 516 Watt.

2. Being dissatisfied, the Appellant has filed the instant appeal before NEPRA and assailed the decision dated 22.05.2024 of the POI (hereinafter referred to as the "impugned decision"). In its appeal, the Appellant opposed the maintainability of the impugned decision *inter alia*, on the following grounds that the impugned decision is against the facts and law of the case; that the POI miserably failed to appreciate the real facts of the case and erred in giving the observations; that the connection of the Respondent was installed on 21.07.2023 with meter reading noted as 00001; that 1,472 units was charged in October 2023 as per meter reading, which was challenged before the Civil Court Multan; that the Civil Suit was dismissed by the honorable court vide order dated 21.12.2023 against which the Respondent filed an appeal before the District Court Multan, which is under adjudication; that the Respondent filed a complaint before the POI but the said forum has not given cogent reasons and passed the impugned decision; and that the impugned decision is liable to be set aside.
3. Notice dated 12.07.2024 of the appeal was issued to the Respondent for filing reply/para-wise comment, which however were not filed.

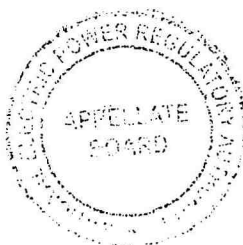
4. **Hearing:**

Hearing of the appeal was conducted at NEPRA Regional Office Lahore on 14.09.2024, wherein both parties participated through Zoom. Learned counsel for the Appellant contended that the billing meter of the Respondent was installed on the premises of the Respondent on 21.07.2023 and the first bill of 1,472 units was issued to the Respondent in October 2023. Learned counsel for the Appellant further contended that the Respondent instead of making payment, challenged the above bill initially before the Civil Court and subsequently before the POI. As per learned counsel for the Appellant, the POI during joint checking confirmed the accuracy of the impugned meter and verified the reading as 1562. Learned counsel for the Appellant termed the above bill as justified and payable by the Respondent. On the other hand, the Respondent appearing in person rebutted the version of the Appellant and averred that such high consumption of 1,472 units charged in October 2023 is neither compatible with the connected load as witnessed by the POI nor has valid basis. The Respondent defended the impugned decision and prayed for upholding the same.

5 Having heard the arguments and record perused. Following are our observations:

- 5.1 As per the available record, new connection was installed on the premises of the Respondent on 21.07.2023 and the first bill of 1,472 units was charged in October 2023. Subsequently, the

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electricity of the Respondent was disconnected by the Appellant in February 2024 due to non-payment of electricity dues and P-DISC was fed in March 2024. During joint checking of the POI on 19.03.2024, the connected load was observed as 516 watts, and the billing meter was found working within permissible limits with reading index noted as 1562. Hence the billing for the period October 2023 to February 2024 is compared below with the final reading of the meter noted on 19.03.2024:

POI checking dated 19.03.2024	Month	Units	Status
	Jul-23	0	New Connection
	Aug-23	0	New Connection
	Sep-23	0	New Connection
	Oct-23	1472	First Bill
	Nov-23	0	Same-to-Same
	Dec-23	0	Same-to-Same
	Jan-24	0	Same-to-Same
	Feb-24	89	Disconnection
	Mar-24	0	P-DISC
Reading	1562	Total	1561
			-

Perusal of the above table shows that the Appellant debited total 1,561 units for the period from July 2023 to March 2024, which is equivalent to the reading of the impugned meter noted as 1,562 during the joint checking dated 19.03.2024 of POI. It is observed that the first bill of 1,472 units was charged to the Respondent in October 2023, which is much higher as compared to the 75 units assessed by POI on the basis of connected load i.e. 516 watts. It is further observed that the Appellant charged nil consumption during the period from November 2023 to January 2024, which indicates that initially excessive bill was charged to the Respondent by the Appellant in October 2023, which was adjusted by them in subsequent months. The Appellant did not provide copies of bills for the period from October 2023 to February 2024 showing the snapshot of meter readings to justify their claim. Thus, we conclude that the bills for the period from October 2023 to February 2024 were charged with fictitious readings, which raised the tariff slab rates and financially overburdened the Respondent.

5.2 In view of the above, the bills charged for the period from October 2023 to February 2024 are cancelled and the same are revised @ 195 units/month for the period from August 2023 to February 2024 as per the final reading of the meter i.e. 1,562. The impugned decision is liable to be modified to this extent.

6 In view of what has been stated above, we concluded that:

6.1 The bills for the period from October 2023 to February 2024 debited to the Respondent are unjustified and the same are cancelled.



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6.2 The Respondent may be charged the revised bills @ 195 units/month for the period from August 2023 to February 2024 as per the final reading of 1562 noted during the joint checking of the POI dated 19.03.2024.

6.3 The billing account of the Respondent may be overhauled, accordingly.

7 The impugned decision is modified in the above terms.

Abid Hussain
Member/Advisor (CAD)

Dated: 06-01-2025

Naweed Illahi Sheikh
Convener/DG (CAD)

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

