

Electric Forum NEPRA NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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NEPRA Energy Week

For the first time in the country, NEPRA hosted Energy Week from 24-28 February, 2020 which provided a powerful platform to connect local realities and priorities with the regional and global energy outlook. The Energy Week brought together the entire power community from Pakistan and all over the globe, with public sector, private sector and academia addressing power challenges, driving practical action, and helping shape the future of Pakistan's Power



Sector. Spreading over a period of five days, the Week had each day dedicated to the focal areas of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Generation, Innovation, Transmission and Distribution. The sessions were attended by Federal Minister for Energy, Chinese and German Ambassadors, Chairman CPEC Authority, Chairman WAPDA, Provincial Secretaries as well as renowned National and International Experts of the Power and Energy Sectors.

In his inaugural address Chairman NEPRA stressed upon the participants to come up with innovative ideas for addressing the challenges faced by the power sector. Honourable Minister for Energy, Mr. Omer Ayub



Khan emphasised to specially focus on availability of affordable and sustainable energy and appreciated NEPRA's efforts in organizing such events. H.E. Mr. Yao Jing, Ambassador of China assured continued cooperation and stressed that CPEC would open new era of development and prosperity in the region. H.E.

Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Republic of Germany, stressed the importance of generation of electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

The week concluded with a resolve to ensure provision of affordable and reliable electricity, eliminating inefficiencies and introduction of competition through supplier regime, Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market, Wheeling and Net Metering arrangements. Further, experts agreed that Pakistan needs to tap hydro potential on Indus cascade and also promote indigenous resources such

as Thar Coal and Renewable Energy in order to achieve energy security, reliability, affordability and ensure sustainable development in the country. Chairman NEPA appreciated the innovative ideas, valuable recommendations and latest approaches and hoped to chalk out an action plan based on the findings.



Glimpses of Energy Week

Meeting of Chairman with Prime Minister



In February 2020, Chairman NEPA presented a report on Electricity Tariffs to Prime Minister Imran Khan and apprised him on issues confronting the power sector followed by several of meetings thereof with the Prime Minister.

Annual Coal Conference in South Africa

The Chairman and Member (CA) attended the 15th Annual Coal Conference in Cape Town, South Africa from January 28-30, 2020. The event provided an insight into the changing landscape arising from new regulations, challenges, technologies and players of the coal industry and what to expect over the next decade. Further, insight was offered on how producers can better adapt their coal to changing market demands.



Call on Chairman by Multilateral Donor Agencies

H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy called on Chairman NEPA on March 4, 2020 to discuss Investment Avenues in Pakistan's Power Sector. Dr. Rikard Liden, Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank called on Chairman on January 17, 2020 for discussion regarding NEPA Act amendment. Issues regarding constraints to



Chairman NEPA with USAID Mission



H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy with Chairman

competition were also discussed which impede achieving non-discriminatory and effective competition followed by another meeting on February 3, 2020. An IMF Staff Mission called on Chairman on February 11, 2020 in connection with review of the second quarter of FY 2019-20 under 39 months Extended Fund Facility.

Ms. Armeena Malik, Senior Advisor (Renewable Energy), USAID also called on Chairman on January 14, 2020 and January 24, 2020. Review of NEPRA (Amendments) Act 2018, vision of the Government of Pakistan in establishing a competitive power market and identifying gaps in the existing regulatory regime, to bring it in conformance with the provisions of the NEPRA Act, were discussed.

The CEO of Enertech, Mr. Abdullah Al Mutairi, met with Chairman on February 11, 2020 and discussed setting up of renewable energy projects in Balochistan.

Training session on "Eliminating Harassment at Workplace"

An in-house training session was held on "Eliminating Harassment at Workplace" on February 17, 2020. In his opening remarks, Chairman NEPRA emphasized that such trainings will provide a better understanding to avoid harassment at the workplace. Barrister Maham Durrani elaborated upon the associated national laws comprehensively. Participants lauded efforts of NEPRA management and acknowledged that the session will help them understand ways and means to counter harassment at work.

Grant of Generation Licences in Balochistan

There is a global trend of reduction in the prices of PV Cells, resulting in lower tariffs. Generation Licences were granted for solar based power plants to P&G Energy (Private) Limited (62.2 MW) and Enertech Boston Solar (Private) Limited (50 MW) in Gwadar and Pishin respectively. The proposed projects will result in optimum utilization of untapped solar energy potential in Balochistan.

Tariff for Solar Power Projects

Tariff was determined for 100 MWp Solar Power Project of Zorlu Solar Pakistan Limited to be set up at Quaid-e Azam Solar Power Park (Extension), Lal Sohanra, District Bahawalpur. This is an important project as it requires minimal maintenance costs. Tariff was also determined for 50 MWp Solar Power Project of Enertech Quetta Solar (Private) Limited in Pishin, Balochistan. This is the first renewable Independent Power Producer (IPP) project being developed in Balochistan.



Authority at Gharo Solar Power Plant

Visit of Authority to Gharo Solar Power Plant

The Authority visited Gharo Solar Power Plant in District Thatta, Sindh on January 20, 2020. The 50 MW plant will add a significant amount of renewable solar power in the energy mix of K-Electric.

Visit of Authority to Port Qasim Power Plant

The Authority was invited to visit the 1320 MW Port Qasim Power Plant on January 20, 2020 in connection with Chinese Spring Festival Gala and New Year celebrations. Chairman NEPRA was chief guest on the occasion. The project is estimated to create more than 2,000 jobs and generate sufficient power to serve between three and four million families a year.



Chairman NEPRA and Guest Speaker addressing the Participants



Visit of Authority to Port Qasim Power Plant

Visit of Authority to Gwadar Power Plant

The Authority visited Gwadar Power Plant and Grid Station at Pasni on January 21, 2020. The Authority also met with officials from Gwadar Development Authority and visited Grid Station at Jiwani. The 300 MW Coal-fired Power Plant at Gwadar would improve access to electricity and alleviate Gwadar's severe electricity shortage. The project will not only meet the current demand for power in Gwadar and adjoining areas, but will also support future demand growth.

Consultative Meeting at Jhampir, Thatta and Visits to Lasbela & Hydro Power Plants

Taking cognizance of continued power curtailment of 14 wind power projects at Jhampir, the Authority held an onsite consultative meeting of stakeholders at Jhampir, Thatta on February 6, 2020. CPPA, NTDC, NPCC, HESCO, K-Electric and executives of the Wind Power Projects participated. The ongoing curtailment was seen as discriminatory in violation to Renewable Energy Policy spirit of renewables must-run concept.



Authority and Participants at Consultative Meeting



Visit of Authority to Lasbela

The Authority visited Lasbela Industrial Estate Development Authority which has two pressing issues including improved Transmission Lines and an additional load of 32 MW. The Authority is striving to facilitate the improvement of Transmission Lines by arranging money for K-Electric through funds from the Government of Balochistan. Vice Chairman NEPRA carried out visits to Hydro Power Plants in order to check their compliance with Performance Standards (Generation) Rules, 2009.



Chairman NEPRA relieving shield

Visit to NTDC

The Chairman was invited as chief guest at the closing ceremony of the 3rd Technical Refresher Course at NTDC Training Centre Lahore on January 3, 2020 and was presented shield by Managing Director, NTDC.

Hearings on Consumer Complaints

Hearings regarding consumer complaints were chaired by Member Consumer Affairs at NEPRA Regional office, Lahore on February 15, 2020 followed by meeting with NEPRA field officers of Lahore, Gujranwala and Faisalabad.



Member (CA) at Hearing on Consumer Complaints

Consultative Sessions regarding Consumer Service Manual



Authority and participants during the Consultative Sessions

Two consultative sessions were conducted on January 8, 2020 and January 27, 2020 regarding amendments in Consumer Service Manual. Officials of Board of Investment and DISCOs participated. Efforts to fast track the application process for new electricity connections were also discussed to improve Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan.

Internship Program

In order to meet demands of corporate social responsibility, platform of NEPRA Internship Programme was provided, where students and fresh graduates could apply the practical use of their education and explore career opportunities at NEPRA, besides gaining experience and increase their marketability. In this regard, a total of 2075 candidates applied for various Departments of NEPRA wherein NEPRA hired 24 best incumbents to serve the purpose.

Measures to deal with Coronavirus Outbreak

Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) the Human Resource Department devised a fool proof mechanism to avoid close contact of the employees and encouraged women and employees over the age of 50 to work from home using video link/calls. Rotational attendance mechanism was also devised for all other employees who would visit office on alternate days or as advised by their respective Head of Departments.

Face masks, hand sanitizers, floor disinfectants, radioactive thermometers, hand gloves, protective suits for security team etc. were provided to avoid any untoward situation. Detailed disinfection of NEPRA Building was carried out thrice each week to fight the virus outbreak as a whole.

RFID Active Cards were procured for each employee for marking attendance at the biometric attendance system on daily basis to avoid touching the biometric devices during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Online Training Programs

Online training programmes have been developed and would become operational during the month of May, 2020 which would assist employees to counter deficiencies of their day to day tasks from within their homes or office, without physical interactions.

Procurement of Vehicles

Vehicles were procured for the entitled Professionals at the Director level in the record time of two weeks.

Upgradation of Health and Fitness Centre

NEPRA's Health and Fitness Centre was revamped and upgraded by expanding space and procuring new equipment to meet the physical requirements of employees .

Retainment of Panel Hospitals

Several panel hospitals on NEPRA's pool were retained at the specialized discounted rates only offered to the employees of NEPRA and their dependents by the respective hospitals. The Administration Department after their untiring efforts ensured to reduce the rates of M/s Maroof International Hospital in comparison to the preceding year.

Insurance

NEPRA Tower and essential assets were insured therein through National Insurance Company Limited during the first quarter of year 2020.

Addition of Regional Offices

Five Consumer Affairs Regional Offices were established at Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Sukkur and Hyderabad upon the directives of the National Assembly's Standing Committee.



The Authority on the occasion of farewell in honour of Syed Insaf Ahmed, Senior Advisor (Tariff) & Ms. Saira Najeeb Ahmed, DG (C & I)



Consultative session on the participation of women in Energy Sector with Ms. Saadiya Qayyum, Energy Specialist, World Bank



Chairman NEPRA addressing the staff during Hajj Balloting 2020