

TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION

Regd. No. 181-8524/1998 – CIN.No. U37102TZ1998GAP008524

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TECA: 2017/2018/SD/15

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CIRCULAR

To
All Members,
Sir,

Sub: Harmonics issue - Madras High Court order - Harmonic regulations not applicable to consumers receiving supply through 11 kV / 22 kV supply lines -Regarding.

Ref: TECA W.P.No.1241 of 2015

A clause on harmonics was included in the Tariff Order issued on 20.06.2013 by TNERC and based on the same, the TANGEDCO has started to implement the same by issuing notices to customers. TECA sent objections to TANGEDCO informing that Harmonics control regulations are not applicable for 11/22 kV supply lines based on CEA standards. However, TANGEDCO started applying Harmonic controls for all HT consumers irrespective of the supply line capacities through which they receive power.

Hence, their intention of enforcing the harmonic control norms among all HT consumers was identified and accordingly, TECA has decided to take up the matter for a judicial review. However, the Hon'ble High Court did not pass any orders on the petition. Hence, TECA requested individual members who are affected by this action to file individual petitions for which TECA facilitated the same. All the members, who filed petitions got individual stay orders allowing them to pay CC bills without harmonic compensation charges.

As the CEA was impleaded as a Respondent in the Batch of Writ Petitions, it has provided a counter before the Hon'ble Judicature at Madras stating that 11 kV and 22 kV supply line consumers are not obligated for harmonic control norms and accordingly, the matter was also very clearly webhosted in the website of CEA for clarity.

The whole Batch of matters challenging the action of TANGEDCO, was listed for hearing finally before the Hon'ble Justice Mr.T.Raja at the Principal Bench. After elaborate arguments, for which TECA also engaged a senior counsel, the matter was reserved for orders on 02.03.2017. On 05.06.2017, the Hon'ble Justice Mr.T.Raja pronounced the order that even though the State Commission has the authority to bring Regulations / Orders in respect of harmonic control norms, it is for the CEA to prescribe the limits by which harmonic levels should be maintained and controlled. As long as no limits of harmonics were prescribed for consumers receiving supplies through 11kV / 22kV supply lines by the CEA, such consumers cannot be obligated for the harmonic control norms for want of authority by law.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Court has ordered to allow all the writ petitions. In respect of few grievances experienced by the 33kV supply line consumers, the Hon'ble Court has ordered to deal the matter separately.

The members who filed the petition will receive the original order copy. Since it is a large Batch matter, the original order copy may be released only after few weeks. TECA will also circulate a copy as soon as it receives the same.

With Warm Regards,

K Ilango
Secretary