

**Dated: 13th July, 2020**

**PRACTICE DIRECTIONS (AMENDED) STIPULATING THE PROTOCOL FOR  
REMOTE ACCESS HEARING THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The Commission vide Practice Directions dated 11 May 2020, laid down procedure to be followed for proceedings to be conducted by remote access through video conference for urgent matters. After that the Commission has conducted hearings through Video Conference in 72 Cases. The Commission notes that all the concerned parties to these Cases were proactively involved through guidance and Mock Drills by the staff of the Commission. The Commission is now satisfied that the process of hearings through Video Conference has fully stabilised and the concerned parties are now comfortable with the process, features and the ease of operations/ease of Communication. The Commission also notes that even when the lockdown is being relaxed, to avoid the infection and spread of Covid-19, the necessity of social distancing continues.

The Commission is also aware that in addition to urgent matters being heard by the Commission through Video Conferencing, there are other regular Petitions pending for hearing. In the opinion of the Commission, option of conducting proceedings through video conferencing which has been effectively used for urgent matters can also be used for disposing other Petitions pending before it.

Accordingly, in exercise of power under Section 92 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, read with the Regulations 19, 36, 65, 91, 92, 93 and 94 of the MERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004, the Commission hereby modifies/amends its Practice Direction dated 11 May 2020, and directs that said Practice Direction henceforth shall not be restricted to conduct hearings only in the urgent matters, whereas, it shall also be applicable to all other Petition filed before it.

These directions are issued in addition and in conformity with the earlier Practice Directions issued on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 for conducting the hearings in all the matters before the Commission during this period wherein social distancing is to be maintained for restricting spread of COVID-19.

The hearings in all the regular Cases will commence w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2020.

Sd/-

**(Mukesh Khullar)**  
**Member**

Sd/-

**(I. M. Bohari)**  
**Member**

  
**(Abhijit Deshpande)**  
**Secretary**

