

Before the
MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
World Trade Centre, Centre No.1, 13th Floor, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400005
Tel. 022 22163964/65/69 Fax 22163976
Email: mercindia@merc.gov.in
Website: www.mercindia.org.in / www.merc.gov.in

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Constitution of Working Group for Agriculture Consumption Study

1. Mid-Term Review (MTR) Order for MSEDCL was issued on 12 September, 2018 in Case No. 195 of 2017. In the said Order, as regards assessment of Agricultural sales the Commission has ruled as under:

*“3.2.32. In the previous MYT order, the Commission had disallowed 2,414 MUs of AG sales in FY 2014-15 and 3,400 MUs of AG sales in FY 2015-16. In the MTR Petition, MSEDCL has requested the Commission to approve the AG sales for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 without any disallowances. In the review order Case No. 176 of 2016, the Commission had decided to revisit the disallowances in the MTR Petition on the basis of statement by MSEDCL that the Committee report is expected by March, 2017. However, the Commission notes that MSEDCL has not yet submitted the report as elaborated earlier in this section. **Hence, the Commission now shall conduct an independent study through an agency for assessment of Ag sales, which shall form the basis of establishment of Ag sales from FY 2014-15 and in subsequent years. The Commission shall appoint an independent 3rd party agency to undertake such study. Further the Commission shall define a detail ToR in due course of time and would be published on website.:” (Emphasis Added)**”*

2. Now, the Commission has accorded approval for constitution of the Working Group for Agricultural Consumption study. Details of Working Group is as follows:

2.1. Constituents / Members of Working Group:

- a. Executive Director / Director, MERC – Convener
- b. Prayas (Energy Group), Pune – Member
- c. Idam Infrastructure Advisory Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai – Member
- d. Survey Agency / Agencies (to be appointed) – Member
- e. Representative of MSEDCL – Special Invitee

2.2. Objective:

- a. To ascertain AG consumption norm (units/HP/annum and/or hours/HP/annum) for different region/districts/zone/circles within Maharashtra based on approved sampling methodology
- b. To verify and validate metered AG consumption for select sample feeders based on sample survey and methodology to be formulated
- c. To devise methodology for verification and validation of AG consumption based on feeder AMR data.
- d. Based on assessment of AG Consumption Norm, devise the methodology for ascertaining the AG Sales for FY 2014-15 to FY 2017-18.
- e. To evolve methodology and formulate procedure for measurement and estimation Agricultural sales for future period.

2.3. Responsibility of each Constituent/ Member of the Working Group:

a. Terms of Reference for Executive Director, MERC –Convener:

- i. Coordinating with Members of Working Group and MSEDCL.
- ii. Monitoring timelines and take corrective steps
- iii. Arrange to resolve difficulties faced by Working Group Members / Survey Agencies in undertaking Study.
- iv. Preparation of Survey Questionnaire jointly with other Working Group Members
- v. Any other work which is important for successful completion of Study.

b. Terms of Reference for Prayas (Energy Group) – Member:

- i. Finalization of survey methodology, finalization of approach for data analysis and approach for monitoring/ verification and reporting framework.
- ii. Identification of sample feeders, finalization of sampling methodology and sample size
- iii. Preparation of Survey Questionnaire jointly with other Working Group Members
- iv. Independent analysis and validation of data and key findings presented by Survey Agency during Monthly/Quarterly progress review meetings of Working Group
- v. Development methodology for validation of findings through Secondary Research/Data sources
- vi. Development of Templates for data collation and Report preparation for Study Group
- vii. Any other work which is important for successful completion of Study

- c. Terms of Reference for Idam Infrastructure Advisory Pvt. Ltd. – Member:**
- i. Identification of sample feeders, finalization of sampling methodology and sample size
 - ii. Finalization of survey methodology, finalization of approach for data analysis and approach for monitoring/ verification and reporting framework.
 - iii. Preparation of Survey Questionnaire jointly with other Working Group Members
 - iv. Verification and validation of data analysis and key findings presented by Survey Agency during Monthly/Quarterly progress review meetings of Working Group
 - v. Highlighting the gaps / limitations upon verification of data/analysis presented by Survey Agencies
 - vi. Methodology adopted in 4-5 adjoining similarly placed states to the extent information available in public domain
 - vii. Any other work which is important for successful completion of Study
- d. Terms of Reference for Survey Agencies – Member:**
- i. Participate in Working Group discussions for finalization of survey methodology & representative sample size giving due consideration to the timeframe
 - ii. Preparation of Survey Questionnaire jointly with other Working Group Members
 - iii. Undertaking field survey as per methodology to be agreed in consultation with Working Group
 - iv. Undertaking data analysis / Presenting findings during Monthly/Quarterly and final progress review meetings of Working Group
 - v. Preparation of Survey Report and findings for the selected area under study
 - vi. Sharing of data in the prescribed form/formats using IT tools for further analysis.
 - vii. Support in extrapolation of the findings from sample to region to State with highlighting limitations, if any.
 - viii. Support in preparation and finalization of the Report of the Working Group
 - ix. Any other work which is important for successful completion of Study
- e. Support from MSEDCL – Special Invitee:**
- i. Provide data required by the Working Group. MSEDCL should identify Single point source at Senior Level for this purpose
 - ii. Provide support to Survey Agencies for field survey including followings:
 - 1) Ensures that meters and allied measuring equipments of selected Feeder/ DTC are working correctly.

- 2) Depute Field Staff to assist the survey agency in identifying Feeder / DTC / Ag consumer.
- 3) Provide help, if required, to Survey Agency in collecting data / taking readings.
- iii. Provide IT Tool and Data Repository support
- iv. Any other work which is important for successful completion of Study

2.4. Timeline - Final Report to be submitted by January/February, 2020.

3. The Commission is in the process of appointing Survey Agency (one or more).
4. First Meeting of Working Group was held on 30 October, 2018.

Sd/-
Secretary, MERC