

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR USE OF E-FILING APPLICATION

1. Procedure for filing of Petition/Reply/Rejoinder, and it's scrutiny and scheduling of hearing before the Commission is governed by MERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004. Following provision of the said Regulations, enables the Commission to permit electronic filing of documents:

“36. The Commission may permit the Petitions to be filed in a computer disk or through electronic media in accordance with such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine.”

2. In pursuance of the above provision the Commission is adopting digital technologies in its functioning for easy, user friendly and improved working, transparency, and efficiency. The Commission has developed 'E-filing Application' for online filing of petitions and other documents. Through this 'E-filing Application', users can file their petitions/replies/rejoinders/other documents online and can track/view the status of their petitions. The Commission has ensured that all the requirements stipulated in its Conduct of Business Regulations for processing of any petition have been incorporated in this software Application. This application will enable easy access of MERC's system to all stakeholder and will also strengthen the Commission's on going efforts in making continuous improvements by progressively increasing the use of digital technologies in its working.
3. Accordingly, the Commission is launching test (Beta) version of its 'E-filing Application' from 1 May 2021. The stake holders can use this application for filing their petition.
4. User guide and video tutorial for accessing 'E-filing Application' are already uploaded on MERC website. Users can also contact IT Team of MERC in case of any difficulty in accessing the Beta Version of 'E- filing Application. All contact details have been provided on MERC website.

5. The Commission has also setup facility to assist the persons who do not have access to digital technologies and it will ensure that petition/documents of such persons is converted into e-filing format and then processed through 'E-filing Application'.
6. Although, the Commission is intending to process all filings of documents only through this 'E-filing Application', in order to allow users to acquaint themselves with this application, the Commission has decided to use this application as parallel process for filing of petition/reply/rejoinder for initial few months. This exercise will help in addressing the difficulties faced by users and further improving the 'E-filing Application', if necessary.
7. In view of the above, the Commission issues following Practice Directions:
 - a. All new Petitions to be filed from 1 May 2021 onwards would be filed through Beta version of 'E-filing Application';

Provided that in case any person is having difficulty in accessing digital technology, Commission's staff will convert such petition in digital format and then process it through 'E-filing Application'.

- b. Existing system of filing of petition (in hard/in email) and subsequent processing of such documents shall be followed as primary process. Filing through Beta version of 'E-filing Application' shall act as parallel process.
- c. The Commission will separately notify the date on which final version of 'E-filing Application' will be launched after which 'E-filing' could be expanded/mandated for users to exclusively use this application to file new petitions.

Sd/-
(Mukesh Khullar)
Member

Sd/-
(I.M.Bohari)
Member

Sd/-
(Sanjay Kumar)
Chairperson

