

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR USE OF E-FILING PORTAL

1. Procedure for filing of Petition/Reply/Rejoinder, and its 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. Accordingly, the Commission had launched test (Beta) version of its ‘Petition E-filing Portal’ on 1 May 2021 and instructed stake holders to use this application for filing their petitions in addition to their filings in physical form.
3. Accordingly, Stake holders have been using the portal and have now got acquainted with ‘Petition E-filing Portal’. Some of the operational difficulties encountered during trial run have been removed and beta version of ‘Petition e-filing portal’ has been modified accordingly.
4. Considering the satisfactory and hassle-free working of the beta version of the ‘Petition e-filing portal’ as reported by the stakeholders, the Commission is now launching final version of the ‘Petition E-filing Portal’ with effect from 15 August 2021.
5. Through this ‘E-filing Portal’, users can file their Petition/Reply/Rejoinder/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 duly incorporated in this software Application. This application will enable easy access to MERC’s registry 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.
6. User guide and video tutorial for accessing ‘E-filing Portal’ are already uploaded on MERC website. Users can also contact IT Team of MERC in case of any difficulty in accessing the Portal. All contact details have been provided on MERC website. The Commission has also setup facility to assist the persons who do not have access to digital technologies and it will ensure that Petition/Document of such persons is converted into e-filing format and then processed through ‘E-filing Application’.

7. Accordingly, the Commission issues following Practice Directions:

- a. All new Petitions to be filed from 15 August 2021 onwards shall be filed through 'E-filing Portal' only and the same shall be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the Respondents / impleaded parties to file their Reply / Rejoinder etc. to the Petition.

Provided that in case any person is having difficulty in accessing digital technology, Commission's secretariat will assist in converting such petition to digital format and then process it through 'E-filing Portal'.

- b. Post E-filing of the documents, only single original copy of the Petition/Submission notarised as per the MERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004 is required to be submitted to the Office of the Commission.
- c. Accordingly, existing system of filing of Petitions through email and subsequent processing of such documents stands modified as above.

Sd/-
(Mukesh Khullar)
Member

Sd/-
(I.M.Bohari)
Member

Sd/-
(Sanjay Kumar)
Chairperson

