## BEFORE THE CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM M. S. ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION CO.LTD. (NAGPUR ZONE – RURAL) NAGPUR.

Application/Case No. CGRF/NZ/Rural/ 43 of 2007

Applicant : 1)Shri Milind Jaideo Petkar, R/o Kawtha (Zopdi), Taluka Deoli, Dist. Wardha.

## -- VS --

Non-applicants:	<ol> <li>Executive Engineer/Nodal Officer, I.G.R.C., Circle Office, M.S.E.D.C.L., Wardha.</li> <li>Executive Engineer, C.C.O&amp;M Dn., M.S.E.D.C.L., Arvi</li> </ol>
Presence:	<ol> <li>Shri N. J. Ramteke, Chairman</li> <li>Shri M.G.Deodhar, Member.</li> <li>S. J. Bhargava, Member/Secy.</li> </ol>
Appearance.	: 1.Shri Milind Jaideo Petkar, Applicant.
	1.Shri V.M. Bhattad Nodal Officer 2.Shri R.M. Bobade, AE, for N.A-2.

## <u>ORDER</u>

(Passed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007) (Per Shri N.J.Ramteke, CHAIRMAN)

Applicant presented an application in form Schedule 'A' of the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations, 2006 (hereinafter called the Regulations) to this Forum on 18.06.2007.

He made the grievance in this application about the bill of January 2007 which is alleged to be abnormally high. Applicant also presented a separate application dated 18.06.2007 (record page 2), requesting the Forum to pass an Interim Order and grant the stay to the disconnection notice.

On receipt of application, the Forum issued acknowledgement, called comments of the Non-Applicants, on receipt of the parawise comments, the copy of the same is supplied to Applicant, notices issued and served on both the parties for hearing. The Forum heard both the parties on 16.07.2007. Thus the Forum followed the rules of natural justice as required under the relevant provisions of the Regulations.

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The Forum on hearing the Applicant, passed an Interim Order dated 18.06.2007 (record page 7) and granted the stay till disposal of this case to disconnection notice dated 04.06.2007.

The Interim Order was communicated on the same day i.e. 18.06.2007 to the Executive Engineer (N.A.) and Applicant.

The non-Applicants submitted the parawise comments to this Forum on 04.07.2007 (record pages 11-12).

At the time of hearing, the Applicant reiterated the points as mentioned in his application and application dated 18.06.2007. He submitted that in February 2007, he received a abnormal high consumption energy bill of 573 units where as in January 2007 72 units and December 2006 57 units and in the following months bill of 219 units and 227 units in March and April 2007, respectively. He never consumed this much electricity i.e. 573 units and, therefore, this bill is not acceptable to him.

The non-Applicants contended the most of the points as stated in parawise comments, at the time of hearing. In short, their submission is that Applicant is the owner of FM with connection load 10 HP Service Connection No. 392040000050. The meter of applicant was replaced on 11.11.2006 as per H.O. Circular. They have shown the units consumed by Applicant from October 2006 to May 2007. They reiterated that the bill issued to the Applicant is as per actual consumption and question of excess billing does not arise. The Assistant Engineer, Pulgaon also gave a suitable reply to Applicant after verification of the meter. Applicant has lastly paid Rs.900/- on 05.02.2007. The disconnection notice was issued to him on 04.06.2007 as he was in arrears of Rs.4510/-.

On hearing both the parties and perusal of the record, the Forum come to conclusion and decide unanimously as under;

Applicant is a consumer of the MSEDCL as per above Service Connection number. He runs Flour Mill. The perusal of the bill clearly shows the consumption which is definitely less than the consumption of February 2007 i.e. 573 units. But the Forum does not find any justification in the grievance of Applicant that the bill of February 2007 i.e. 573 is abnormally high. The bill dated 22.05.2007 and the details as given by Non-Applicants reveals that the bill for October 2006 was 208, November 2006 was 209, for December 2006, 57 units, for January 2007, 72 units. It means, the reading was on very lower side for the months of December 2006 and January 2007. It is also seen that the reading of the meter for March, April and May 2007 was 219, 227 and 230, respectively. Thus the Forum does not find the reading for the month of February 2007 on higher side. The Forum agrees with the Non-Applicants that it is

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the bill of actual consumption (573 units). The Assistant Engineer, MSEDCL, Pulgaon has suitable replied to Applicant about his complaint. The Assistant Engineer, rightly explained the position to Applicant in this regard. The Forum does not find any opportunity to interfere into the bill of 573 units and the arrears as shown by Non-Applicant in the bill date 22.05.2007 (record page 3). When there were very less units in the month of December 2006 and January 2007, the Applicant remained silent but he received the bill of 573 units in the month of February 2007, he raised his grievance. This grievance is not justified.

The Applicant paid 50% amount Rs.2690/- to Non-Applicant in terms of the Interim Order dated (18.06.2007) vide receipt date 20.06.2007 (record page 15).

In view of above position, the Forum finds no substance in the present application and it needs to be rejected. The Applicant should pay the remaining amount of arrears (excluding Rs.2690) to Non-Applicants with prevailing rate of interest. The Stay Order as granted by this Forum is vacated.

With above observations, the Forum unanimously passes the following order.

## <u>ORDER</u>

- 1) Application is rejected.
- 2) Stay Order is vacated.
- 3) Applicant should make the payment of the amount of arrears, excluding amount which he has already paid within 10 days from receipt of this order.
- 4) No order about cost. .

CHAIRMAN MEMBER MEMBER-SECY CONSUMER GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL FORUM M.S.E.D.C.L., NAGPUR ZONE (RURAL) NAGPUR. -000No. CGRF/NZ/R/

Date:

This is to certify that this is the true and correct copy of the above order.

Member-Secy./ Exe.Engineer, C.G.R.F.(NZ-R) MSEDCL <u>N A G P U R</u>

Copy to :

- 1. Shri Milind Jaideo Petkar, R/o Kawtha (Zopadi), Pulgaon, Tq. Deori, Dist. Wardha.
- 2. The Chief Engineer, Nagpur Zone (Rural) MSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan, Katol Road, Nagpur.
- 3. The Nodal Officer/E.E.(Admn), Circle Office, MSEDCL, Wardha.
- 4. The E.E., C.C.O&M Dn., MSEDCL, Arvi for information and necessary action.

Address of - Electricity Ombudsman is given as below. Office of - The Electricity Ombudsman, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, 606-608, Keshava Building, Bandra-Kurla complex, <u>MUMBAI- 400 051</u>

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