

## CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY

A registered, recognised, non-partisan, non-profit and non-government organisation  
pursuing social justice and economic equity within and across borders.

**CUTS**  
International

Value For People

S44/1369

Date: 19/11/2012

To  
Mr.K.P.Bhar  
Secretary  
West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission  
Poura Bhawan  
Salt Lake

**Sub: Comments on WBERC Draft Regulations titled "Draft West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions), Regulations, 2012" and "Draft West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recovery of Expenditure for Providing New Connections) Regulations, 2012"**

**Reference: Your Notice No. WBERC/Regulation/38/12-13/1083**

Dear Mr.Bhar,

Greetings from CUTS International!!

In response to the notice mentioned above, we are enclosing our comments on the Draft Regulation for your kind consideration and inclusion.

We have also consulted our district based Civil Society partners and the comments being submitted also has inputs from the following organisations:

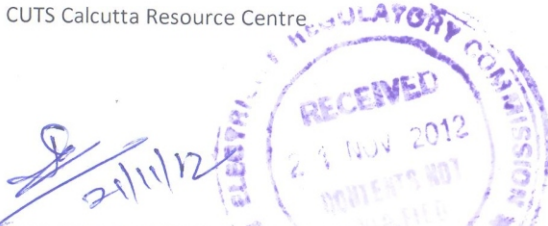
1. Magra Women Development Centre, Magra, Hooghly
2. Alinan Ramkrishna Vivekananda Yuba Sangha, Alinan, East Midnapore
3. Kajla Jana Kalyan Samity, Kajla, East Midnapore
4. Sreema Mahila Samity, Duttaphulia, Nadia
5. Chapra SEWA, Chapra, Nadia
6. Haldibari Welfare Organisation, Haldibari, Cooch Behar
7. Dakshin Ramchnadrapur Vivekananda Seva Kendra, Cooch Behar
8. Agragati, Amta, Howrah
9. Purulia District Agragami Mahila O Sishu Mangal Samiti, Jargo, Purulia
10. Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity, Chanchal, Malda
11. Chak Kumar Association for Social Services, Chak Kumar, West Midnapore
12. Ramkrishna Lok Seva Kendra, Gosaba, South 24 Parganas
13. Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha, Kultali, South 24 Parganas
14. Debnibas Sindhubla Nari Kalyan Samity, Namkhana, South 24 Parganas
15. MUKTI, Raidighi, South 24 Parganas

We hope that our comments and concerns that reflect those of the grassroots consumers will be favourable considered for inclusion.

With kind regards

*Keya Ghosh*

Keya Ghosh, Ph.D  
Director  
CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre



## CUTS INTERNATIONAL

### **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT REGULATIONS THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) REGULATIONS, 2012**

- 1) **Clause 4.1 (vi) should be modified to read as** “The distribution licensee shall pay interest on cash security deposit equivalent to 6% per annum. Such interest shall be computed annually and added to the security deposit held against the consumer's account as long as the security deposit thus held is less than or equal to the amount of required security deposit. The excess interest amount shall be annually refunded / adjusted to the consumer in the event, the security deposit amount is already sufficient or becomes sufficient, in the billing month of May of each year. The non-refund or non-adjustment of the interest on security deposit to eligible consumer accordingly shall attract interest @ 10% per annum in addition to other penalties etc. as per the provisions of the Act and Regulations”.
- 2) **Clause 4.1 (vii) should be modified to read as** - Security deposit for temporary supply shall be based on the estimated quantum of consumption and the rate of tariff applicable for the purpose for which the temporary connection will be used, in accordance with the relevant tariff order of the Commission, which is in force for the time being. Such security deposit shall be paid in cash or demand draft or banker's cheque as will be decided by the licensee in advance before providing the supply.
- 3) **With reference to Clause 4.1 (x) our recommendation is to add the following** "If the licensees, at any time, have to collect/ recover Security Deposits of more than one past year, the due/ insufficient amount should be recovered from the consumer in a number of installments, not less than six at the tariff rate prevailing then, instead of collecting at a time at the current tariff rate ".

### **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT REGULATIONS THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURES) REGULATIONS, 2012**

- 1) The detailed procedure for applying for a temporary supply given under the earlier regulation number 22 Clause 10 vide notification number WB/DTP/Pt.I/CPS/2005/6057 dated 28.09.2005, should be retained or an appropriate amended version be included.
- 2) **With reference to Clause 14**, it should be modified as - “If any applicant / intending consumer / consumer submits any application for new connection(s) with the intention of splitting the load to obtain the benefit of lower charges or furnishes wrong / inaccurate / false statements, his application would be liable to be rejected under the provision of the Act, or the Regulations made thereunder. A report of such intention has to be provided to the applicant by the licensee after the inspection. No connection charges are to be taken from the applicant before such inspection reports are finalized and sent to the applicant”.