

MISSION STATEMENT

The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission is committed to fulfill its mandate of creating an efficient and economically viable electricity industry in the State. It balances the interests of all stakeholders while fulfilling its primary responsibility to ensure safe and reliable supply of power at reasonable rates. It is guided by the principles of good governance, namely, transparency, accountability, predictability, equitability and participation in the discharge of its functions. It safeguards the interests of the state and gives a fair deal to consumers.

HISTORY

The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission(OERC) was established under the Orissa Electricity Reform act, 1995, as a part of the Reform Process.

ROLE OF OERC

- Take measures conducive to an efficient electricity industry in the State
- Safeguard the interests of the consumers
- Prevent monopolistic behaviour by operators
- Establish independent and objective decision making process

FUNCTIONS

- To determine tariff for generation, supply (trading), transmission & wheeling of electricity within the State
- To regulate electricity purchases and procurement process of distribution licensees
- To facilitate intra-state transmission and wheeling of electricity
- To issue licenses for transmission, distribution and trading within the state
- To promote co-generation and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy.
- To adjudicate upon disputes between generators and licensees
- To levy fees for the purposes of the Act
- To specify State Grid Code
- To specify and enforce standards of quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees.
- To fix the trading margin in intra state trading
- To advise the State Govt. in matters relating to the power sectors

POWERS OF OERC

- Issue/revoke licenses/to approve/modify/reject tariff change proposal
- Set technical standards and standards for consumer protection
- Arbitrate between operators
- Issue enforceable orders
- Review its decision wherever necessary

Organisation Chart

The members of the Commission, known as Commissioners, are appointed from among persons of ability, having adequate knowledge or experience in dealing with the problems relating to engineering, economics, commerce, accountancy, law or administration.

The Commission is organised to work through 5 divisions namely Secretariat, Law, Engineering, Tariff and Administration. The Engineering Division deals with issue of licenses and all engineering matters excluding those related to tariff. The Tariff division handles all matters relating to tariff and economic and financial analysis. The Secretary to the Commission along with the Law Division handle the legal and quasi-judicial activities of the Commission. Administration Division is responsible for housekeeping activities of the Commission.

It has been the endeavour of the Commission to function in a modern office environment with emphasis on officer-oriented work and computerised work procedure. An efficient Local Area Network with state of the art P-IV computers and structured cabling reaches every officer.

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES OF THE LAW DIVISION

The Law Division deals with all legal matters pertaining to the functions of the Commission. Scrutinization of applications/replies/objections filed before the Commission, rendering necessary legal advice on various matters, representing the Commission in various Courts, Forums and Tribunals, liaisoning with legal counsel, drafting and vetting of regulations, practice directions, notifications; maintaining relevant legal information, participating in Commission's proceedings, monitoring the activities of GRF & Ombudsman are the prime functions of this Division.

1. Case matters
2. Scrutiny of applications filed before the Commission
3. Oath Commissioner and Member of the Rule Making Committee
4. Drafting and legal vetting
5. Legal Information and Liaisoning with Legal Counsels
6. GRF and Ombudsman

As per the provisions of OERC (GRF & Ombudsman) Regulations, 2004, the Distribution Licensees have established Grievance Redressal Forums at their area of supply, as mentioned below:

	<u>Location</u>		<u>Jurisdiction</u>
WESCO	GRF, Rourkela	-	Rourkela Ele. Circle.
	GRF, Sambalpur	-	Burla Elec. Circle.
	GRF, Bolangir	-	Bolangir Elec. Circle.
NESCO	GRF, Jajpur Road	-	Jajpur Elec. Circle
	GRF, Balasore	-	Balasore. Elec. Circles Baripada Elec.Circles . Bhadrak Elec. Circles
CESCO	GRF, Bhubaneswar	-	Bhubaneswar Circle I & II
SOUTHCO	GRF, Berhampur	-	Berhampur Electricity Cirty Circle, Berhampur Elec. Circle

GRF, Jeypore - Bhanjanagar Elec. Circle
Jeypore Elect. Circle.
Rayagada Elec. Circle,

The Commission has also established the offices of the Ombudsman as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 in the different parts of the State as mentioned below:

Location	Jurisdiction
Ombudsman, Bhubaneswar	- For CESCO's area of supply
Ombudsman, Balasore	- For NESCO's area of supply
Ombudsman, Berhampur	- For SOUTHCO's area of supply
Ombudsman, Sambalpur	- For WESCO's area of supply

ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARIAT DIVISION

The Secretariat is the pivot of the Commission's activities and the post of Secretary is statutory. Under the provisions of section 91(1), the Secretary is required to assist the Commission to carry out its functions. The OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004 also defines the role of Secretary as the spokesman & representative of the Commission in all matters pertaining to its proceedings/hearings. The Secretary is the repository of the Commission's orders and records and carries out all correspondences of the Commission. He issues true copies/certified copies of orders, documents, notification for and on behalf of the Commission. He prepares the briefs and summaries of all cases presented before the Commission. He is the custodian of the seal of the Commission. The Secretary also conducts important meetings of the Commission, such as, the State Advisory Committee meeting, Directors level meeting between OERC and licensees and other internal meetings. The Secretary acts as the ex-officio Secretary of the State Advisory Committee.

Consumer Complaints

The Information Officer who reports to the Secretary monitors disposal of consumer complaints. The Electricity Act, 2003 came into force w.e.f. June 2004. Subsequently the statutory provision was made for disposal of consumer complaints by a two-tier mechanism consisting of Grievance Redressal Fora and Ombudsman. The OERC framed a regulation called the OERC Grievance Redressal Forum and Ombudsman Regulation, 1994 which was notified in July.

Ten GRF and four Ombudsmen were set up in the four distribution zones of the state and they became functional in October, 2004. The following are also supervised by the Information Officer :

Library
Publications
Publicity
Training & Awareness
Press clipping service

ACTIVITIES OF THE TARIFF DIVISION

Determination of tariff and monitoring the performance of the licensees are the two main tasks of the Commission. Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) is vested with the responsibility of determination of tariff for (a) supply of electricity by a generating company to a distribution licensee, (b) transmission of electricity, (c) wheeling of electricity and (d) retail sale of electricity by virtue of the provisions of Section 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Tariff Division undertakes the task of scrutinizing Annual Revenue Requirement of the Licensees and framing tariff for generation, transmission, and distribution. It also deals with open access consumers and reviews performance review of Gridco and the distcos. It consists of one Director, four Joint Directors, three Deputy Directors and one supporting staff.

ACTIVITIES OF ENGINEERING DIVISION

One Director, one Joint Director and one Deputy Director man the Engineering Division. Since beginning of this calendar year, the I.T. Section consisting of one Joint Director and One Deputy Director joined this Division. Following is the annual progress report of Engineering Division for the year 2004-05 including the activities of I.T. Section.

This Division provides vital technical input for grant, revocation, amendment or exemption from license under Part IV "Licensing" of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Section 15 of the OER Act, 1995. It monitors the performance of the utilities (i.e. Transmission Licensee and Distribution Licensees) under various technical parameters, including license conditions and performance standards. Interruptions in Distribution System are measured in term of Interruption Reliability Indices (known as SAIFI, SAIDI and MAIFI). All the Distribution Licensees are required to submit it in a report every quarter and a consolidated annual report in every financial year. This Division also looks into general complaints of technical nature affecting large areas /group of consumers.

Other important tasks of the Engineering Division include:

- (i) Provision of information to the Commission (major breakdowns & other related information),
 - (ii) Investment approval,
 - (iii) Monitoring payment of licence fees,
 - (iv) Approval, review & implementation of GRIDCODE,
 - (v) Approval, review & implementation of Distribution (Planning & Operation) Code.
 - (vi) Load Forecast for the power system and Transmission and generation procurement Planning for future years, Monitoring of Transmission Projects.
2. Publication of System Performance of GRIDCO for 2003-04:
 3. Annual Overall Performance of DISTCOs:-
 4. Long-term Load Forecast and Transmission Planning:-
 5. Notification of various Regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division provides vital support to the Commission in recruitment of executive and non-executive staff and overseeing operational needs such as fiscal services, budget, Information Technology support, purchase and procurement, maintenance and care taking, training and performance appraisal. The following are also dealt by the Division :

- 1) Retirements
- 2) Reversions

- 3) New Entrants
- 4) Deputation
- 5) Assets acquisition
- 6) Training