

Minutes of the Review Meeting on Digital Connectivity, held on 17th December 2021 at 12:00 PM, chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya

Smt. R. V. Suchiang, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, convened a meeting on Digital Connectivity to review status of Electricity Connection and Tower permissions.

The main objective of the meeting was to increase coordination to fast track telecom penetration in the State as well as to sort out issues/ challenges in order to expedite execution and roll out of the Telecommunication projects in the State.

Attendance: as per **Annexure- I**

The Chair welcomed all the members present in the meeting and requested Shri. E. Lyngwa, Head SeMT-Meghalaya to make a presentation as per the agenda.

The following were the points discussed and the decisions taken:

Agenda 1: Pending Electricity connections from MeECL/MePDCL :

1. As per the latest list submitted by Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA), it was noted that there were 115 cases of electricity connections of which 83 cases are pending for more than 6 months in Meghalaya. The break-up District-wise/Zone wise pendency that has already been shared by IT & C Department with the Nodal Officers of MePDCL as given below:

Long Pending Electricity Connection Permissions from MePDCL				
S.no	IP name	Pending less than 6 months	Pending more than 6 months	Total Pending
1	ATC	18	45	63
2	Indus Towers	14	38	52
	Total	32	83	115

Also, it was noted that **237** cases of electricity connections were pending for Reliance Jio.

2. The Chair requested that there must be a close co-ordination between the Nodal Officers from both TSPs/IPs (ATC, Indus Towers, etc) and their MePDCL counterpart in order to expedite granting of necessary permission on priority basis to all these pending cases related to telecom connectivity especially in rural areas.
3. During the meeting the workflow of the new electricity connection process was discussed. It was noted that the timelines at various stages of the workflow process can be reengineered in order to reduce the service delivery time.
4. Shri D. P. Wahlang, IAS, CMD, MeECL, mentioned that a joint meeting between the IT&C Department and the Nodal Officer- MeECL and other stakeholders be held to take up the matter on priority aimed at modifying the electricity connection for Telecom sites. In this

regard, Shri Sumer SE of MeECL / MePDCL will also be on-boarded on this exercise.

5. This exercise will pave the way towards development of an **Online application system** with automated workflow that will cover the Telecom related electricity connections.
6. The executing agency of USOF 4G project in Meghalaya (Airtel), highlighted that the Capital expenditure (Capex) cost for bringing HT lines to the new 4G Telecom tower sites is as high as Rs 16 lakhs to Rs 32 lakhs per site. Presently, there are 19 such sites, leading to high estimated cost for Airtel. In this matter, Airtel requested that the State Government may consider supporting through the Gol scheme viz. PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – 'Saubhagya' (PMSBHGY) and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY). This matter shall be examined by MeECL once they receive a formal letter from Airtel.
7. On the matter related to fixed electricity tariff / rates, the CMD, MeECL stated that the concerned consumer / agency may approach the Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MSERC) for reviewing the rates.

Agenda 2: Pending Telecom Towers Permissions

8. It was noted that the IT&C Department, in collaboration with Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (MPSEDC) is in the final stage of rolling-out the Meghalaya Tower App with automated workflows for Telecom tower permissions.
9. The test instance of the Tower App is being made available with effect from 17th December 2021 (today) for testing by the IPs / TSPs and the Nodal Officers of select Districts and Local Authorities. The last date for sharing the inputs, comments and feedback with the IT&C Department is **21st December 2021**, so that the necessary change requests can be shared with MPSEDC by 22nd December 2021.
10. The Chair directed that the TSPs / IPs must expedite the payment of the applicable fees for Telecom tower permissions by following the existing process, either by depositing in the specific account created by the respective District, or in the Head of Account through Challan mode, till the online Meghalaya Tower App is rolled-out.
11. The Chair also directed IT&C Dept. to prepare a Checklist of items that are required by TSPs/IPs before submitting their Applications to the Local Authorities till such time the Meghalaya Tower App becomes live.
12. The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) was requested to share the latest specific site wise details with the respective District Nodal officers, particularly regarding the status of payment of fees. It is imperative that current payment issues and other inconsistencies will get sorted out automatically once the Meghalaya Tower App becomes operational.

13. Based on the inputs by the respective DCs, it was observed that some of the necessary documents as mandated by the Meghalaya Telecom Infrastructure Policy 2018, were found to be not in order by the Local Authorities. In this regard, the Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) was requested to follow-up with the concerned TSPs / IPs to take necessary action and be in close coordination with the respective District Nodal officers.
14. On the matter flagged by Airtel related to **USOF sites 'Lease Agreement'**, the matter was deliberated and it was decided that Airtel needs to take necessary action by suitably defining the **rental** provisions in the Agreement and may also take up the matter with USOF / DoT if necessary.
15. The IT&C Department had requested the Deputy Commissioners for providing of village data related to Lat / Long of 309 inhabited villages (enclosed at **Annexure-II**), and household and population data for 380 uninhabited villages (enclosed at **Annexure-III**), Lat / Long data for 416 additional villages for 4G coverage (enclosed at **Annexure-IV**), and 2G / 3G / 4G coverage data for 1736 villages (enclosed at **Annexure-V**). The respective Deputy Commissioners were directed by the Chair to expedite the furnishing of the village data.

DISTRICT WISE STATUS

East Khasi Hills District:

16. With regard to pending Telecom Infrastructure permissions, District Nodal Officer, East Khasi Hills, informed that there were 54 applications received by the DC office. It was noted that after successful scrutiny of the applications, the East Khasi Hills District Local Authority had communicated to the concerned IPs that payment was yet to be made for 33 sites.
17. Moreover, it was noted that 35 applications pertaining to Roof-Top-Towers (RTT) falling under the jurisdiction of Meghalaya Urban Development Authority (MUDA) were under process. The concerned Nodal officer of ATC is requested to complete the joint inspection formalities along with the MUDA officials to expedite the matter.

West Khasi Hills District:

18. It was noted that the Local Authority, West Khasi Hills District had received 7 applications from Indus Tower and only 1 is pending for approval; 38 from Summit Digital (Reliance Jio) out of which payment from Summit Digital is awaited for all 38 sites; 40 from Bharti Hexacom (Airtel) out of which payment is awaited for 15 sites; and 15 from ATC out of which payment is awaited for all 15 sites.

Eastern West Khasi Hills District

19. It was reported that the Local Authority, Eastern West Khasi Hills District had received 17 applications from Indus Towers.

South West Khasi Hills District

20. It was noted that the Local Authority, South West Khasi Hills has issued permissions in June 2021 for all sites pertaining to ATC. For applications pertaining to Jio, it was noted that the documents were found to be incomplete.

East Jaintia Hills District

21. It was noted that the Local Authority, East Jaintia Hills District had received 27 applications from ATC and permission was already issued to all 27 sites. For applications pertaining to Summit Digital (R Jio) and Indus Tower the scrutiny of applications was in progress.

West Jaintia Hills District

22. It was noted that the Local Authority, West Jaintia Hills District had received 39 applications from ATC for which payment is awaited for all 39 sites; received 52 applications from Summit Digital (R Jio) which is under process; received 9 applications from Bharti Hexacom (Airtel) which is under process.

Ri Bhoi District

23. The Local Authority, Ri Bhoi District was unable to join the VC citing network issues. However, as per the inputs from DIPA, 36 applications from ATC, 24 from Indus Tower and 54 from Summit Digital (R Jio) were submitted to the Local Authority, Ri Bhoi District.

East Garo Hills District

24. The Local Authority, East Garo Hills District informed that 31 applications from ATC, 12 from Indus Tower and 59 from Summit Digital (R Jio) were received by the Local Authority, East Garo Hills District for which payment was awaited for the applications.

West Garo Hills

25. The Local Authority, West Garo Hills District informed that 52 applications from ATC, 41 from Indus Tower and 28 from Summit Digital (R Jio) were received by the Local Authority, West Garo Hills District for which payment was awaited for the applications. The corresponding Bank account is created in ICICI Bank by the Local Authority, West Garo Hills District.

South West Garo Hills

26. The Local Authority, South West Garo Hills District informed that 52 applications from ATC, 41 from Indus Tower and 28 from Summit Digitel (R Jio) were received by the Local Authority, West Garo Hills District for which payment was awaited for the applications. Also, it was noted that the Indemnity Bond was not submitted in 11 applications of ATC. The corresponding Bank account is created in HDFC Bank by the Local Authority, South West Garo Hills District


South Garo Hills District

27. It was informed that 82 applications were received by the Local Authority, South Garo Hills District for which payment was awaited for 11 applications of ATC applications and the remaining applications were found to be with incomplete documents.

North Garo Hills District



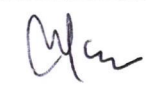


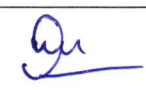
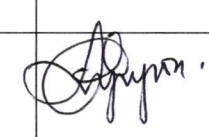
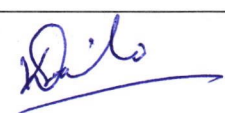

28. It was informed that 46 applications were received by the Local Authority, North Garo Hills District from Bharti Hexacom (Airtel), out of which 24 were found be in order, while 22 applications were found be with incomplete documents and no NOC. Also, the 19 applications received from ATC also were found be with incomplete documents and no NOC. There were no applications received from Indus Towers and R Jio (Summit Digitel).

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.


(R. V. Suchiang)
Chief Secretary
Government of Meghalaya

Attendance: Meeting to discuss matters related to Telecom Services in Meghalaya

Dated: 17-12-2021

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Signature
1	Smti R.V. Suchiang, IAS	Chief Secretary & Chairman, State Broadband Committee(SBC)	
2	Shri D.P. Wahlang, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary & Chairman cum Managing Director, MeECL	
3	Shri M.R. Synrem, IAS	Commissioner & Secretary. IT & C Department	
4	B R M Nongthoh	Town Planning officer, MUDRA	
5	K. L. Nongthoh	Jt. Secy, ITCC	
6	D. Dikhar	SIO - DITC	
7	E. Lyngdoh	PC-SEMT IT&C	
8	K. Saikia	SC-TM, SEMT / IT&C	
9	Manoj Kr Mishra	CEM, SEMT, IT&C	
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