

Draft Bihar Electricity Supply Code (8th Amendment), 2024

No. BERC Case No.-- In exercise of powers conferred under Section 181 (1) and 181 (2) (X) read with Section 50 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and for removal of difficulties of various stakeholders, Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the 8th amendment in Bihar Electricity Supply Code, 2007 which was originally issued vide Notification No. BERC/Reg-6/2006/529 dated 31st December, 2007 and published in the Extraordinary Bihar Gazette on 10th January, 2008.

The Ministry of Power, GOI, New Delhi, is identified certain changes in the Supply Code and other related Regulations for Ease of living. Accordingly, to incorporate those points for identified Ease of living the amendment in Supply Code is necessary. The BERC, in exercise of the powers, and in view of the above, amend the Bihar Electricity Supply Code.

1. 8th Amendment to Bihar Electricity Supply Code 2007 Short title and commencement:

- (i) This code may be called the “Bihar Electricity Supply Code (8th Amendment), 2024
- (ii) It shall extend to the whole State of Bihar.
- (iii) This shall come into force with effect from the date of publication in Bihar Gazette.

2. Amendment in Chapter 4 of the Code:

i) Clause 4.1 shall be modified as under:-

Existing Clause 4.1	Modified Clause 4.1
<p>The Licensee shall on an application by the owner or occupier of any premises, located in his area of supply, give supply of electricity to such premises within one month after receipt of completed application and requisite charges.</p> <p>Provided where such supply requires extension of distribution mains, or commissioning of new sub-stations, the distribution Licensee shall supply the electricity to such premises immediately after such extension or commissioning or within such period as specified by the Commission in clause 4.80 of the code.</p> <p>Provided also in case of application for supply from a village or hamlet or area wherein no provision for supply of electricity exists, the Commission shall extend the time period for provision of supply appropriately on a case-to-case basis.</p>	<p>After submission of application complete in all respects, the distribution licensee shall provide new connection or modify an existing connection within a period not exceeding three days in metropolitan areas, seven days in other municipal areas and fifteen days in rural areas.</p> <p>Provided that where such supply requires extension of distribution mains, or commissioning of new substations, the distribution licensee shall supply the electricity to such premises immediately after such extension or commissioning within a period not exceeding ninety days.</p>

ii) Clause 4.1 shall be modified as under:-

Existing Clause 4.11	Modified Clause 4.11
<p>Application for a new connection of electricity supply or for enhancement/reduction of load shall be made in duplicate in the appropriate prescribed form, copies of which shall be available free of cost from the local office of the licensee. The format of the application forms is provided in Annexure - 1 (LT connection) and Annexure - 2 (HT Connection). The licensee shall post the application forms on its website.</p>	<p>(1) (i) Application for new connection, Enhancement/ Reduction of load, change of name, change of category, shall be made online via web portal of the concerned Discoms. The application may also be made offline, in duplicate in the prescribed form, copies of which shall be available free of cost from the local office of the Licensee. The format of the application forms is provided in Annexure -1(LT connection) and Annexure-2 (HT Connection). The licensee shall post the application forms on its website.</p>

Photocopies of a blank form or form downloaded from the website of the licensee may also be used by the applicant and shall be accepted by the Licensee. Any assistance or information required in filling up the form should be given to the consumer by the licensee.

(ii) The distribution licensee shall prominently display on its website and on the notice board in all its offices, the following; namely:-

(a) detailed procedure for grant of new connection, temporary connection, shifting of meter or, service line, change of consumer category, enhancement of load, reduction of load or change in name, transfer of ownership and shifting of premises etc;

(b) address and telephone numbers of offices where filled-up application forms can be submitted;

(c) address of website for online submission of application form;

(d) complete list of copies of the documents required to be attached with the application;

(e) all applicable charges to be deposited by the applicant.

(2) Application forms for all type of connections as well as modification in existing connection shall be available at all the local offices of the distribution licensee free of cost as well as on its website for free download.

(3) The distribution licensee shall create a web portal and a mobile app for submission of online application forms.

(4) The applicant shall have an option to submit an application form in hard copy form or an electronic means such as online through web portal or mobile app of distribution licensee.

(5) In case hard copy of the application form is submitted, the same shall be scanned and uploaded on the website as soon as it is received and acknowledgement with the registration number for that applicant shall be generated and intimated to the applicant.

(6) In case of online application form through web portal or mobile app of distribution licensee, the acknowledgement with the registration number shall be generated on submission of application.

(7) An application, complete with all the required information, shall be deemed to be received on the date of generation of acknowledgement with registration number. In case of hard copy submission, the acknowledgement with registration number shall be generated within such period as may be specified by the Commission, not exceeding twenty four hours, of receipt of the application, complete with all the required information.

(8) The application tracking mechanism based on the unique registration number shall be provided by the distribution licensee through web-based application or mobile app or through SMS or by

any other mode to monitor the status of processing of the application like receipt of application, site inspection, issuance of demand note, external connection, meter installation and electricity flow.

(9) For new connections up to a load of 10 kW, the application form shall be accompanied with only two mandatory documents-

(a) identity proof (i.e., Passport, Aadhar Card etc.) of the applicant; and

(b) proof of applicant's ownership or occupancy over the premises for which new connection is being sought or in the absence of any proof of ownership or occupancy, any other address proof not given as part of identity proof under (1) above. For new connections beyond the specified load, and modification of existing connection, the Commission shall explicitly specify the documents required to be submitted with the application.

(10) In case, an agreement is required to be executed between distribution licensee and the consumer, the same shall become the part of the application form and there shall not be any requirement of a separate agreement form.

(11) If a distribution licensee fails to supply electricity within the period specified in clause 4.1 & 4.80, it shall be liable to a penalty which shall not exceed one thousand rupees for each day of default.

(12) For electrified areas up to 150 kW distribution licensee shall specify the connection charges within one month for new connection shall be fixed on the basis of the load, category of connection sought and average cost of connection of the distribution licensee so as to avoid site inspection and estimation of demand charges for each and every case individually. The demand charges, in such cases, may be paid at the time of application for new connection.

**Sd/-
Secretary**