

ASSAMPOWERDISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE

The Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL), a successor company of Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB), submitted a Miscellaneous Petition as per provisions of Assam State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations for in principle approval of cost involvement to facilitate payment of electricity bills through digital platforms. The Petition has been admitted by AERC and numbered as 16 of 2017.

Fact of the matter:

1. APDCL has been offering alternate channels of payments through digital modes viz. online payment through APDCL portal etc. since 2012 (previously through "mybijuleebill.com"). Various alternate payment options offered by APDCL are mentioned below:
Online Systems: Online payment at apdcl.gov.in through internet banking or through credit card or debit card, Payment through Mobile Wallets of Vodafone M-Pesa and Airtel Money, Paytm etc., Option of facilitating payment of bills through various e-wallets of is in progress, Payment through myBijulee mobile application.
Offline Systems: By e-Bank transfer via RTGS/NEFT to the consumers who prefers and on approval of the local billing authority.
- Consumers availing the payment through this online portal are charged as per the prevailing rates as under:
Debit Card: 0.25% to 1% of the bill amount depending on bill amount.
Credit Card: 1.10% of bill amount + applicable taxes
Net Banking: Rs.4/- + applicable taxes
- In line with Govt. of India's initiative to promote Digital payment mode under Digital India program, APDCL is willing to attract more consumers to avail payment of energy bills through digital mode.
- Meanwhile, Govt. of India vide No. 1/10/2016/IT Dated 28th September, 2017 has fixed the target of 1.36 crore digital transactions for FY 2017-18 with the various stringent directives.
- As envisaged in the Digital India program, payments in digital mode has many beneficial aspects for consumers as well as utility. Some of the significant ones are outlined below:
 - A) **Direct benefits to the Consumers:**
Free from queue, 24x7 availability of payment channel, Cashbacks and reward points offered on digital payments by different e-wallets provide an incentive to make expenses, Credit cards facilitates users to make payments without enough money in their bank accounts.
 - B) **Benefits to the utility:**
Real time round the clock settlement yielding savings in working capital interest, Free from human intervention results in optimum use of limited human resources, No risk of fake currency as well as safeguarding the money from vulnerability of theft etc., No worry about tending small change, Enables maintaining digital records.
 - C) **It may be noted that all the benefits to the utility will ultimately be passed on to consumers in retail tariff.**
- It is proposed to waive the facilitation charge for all categories of consumers instead of specific groups of consumers.

- However, initially the same will be confined only to digital payments through APDCL portal www.apdcl.gov.in at present. The same will be extended to other mode of digital payments also subsequently.
 - It is to be mentioned here that, the consumer will require to make the upfront payment of energy bills with all charges and allowance as approved by Hon'ble Commission will be adjusted in energy bill for subsequent month.
- In the premises aforesaid, it is prayed before Hon'ble Commission to:
- (i) Approve recovery of the financial involvement to facilitate consumers payment of electricity bills through digital platforms as pass through expenditure in subsequent retail tariff.
 - (ii) Pass any such other order(s) as the Hon'ble Commission deems fit and proper under the circumstances of the case and in the interest of justice.

The copy of the petition may be downloaded from the APDCL website (www.apdcl.org) and AERC website (www.aerc.gov.in). The comments on the petition may be submitted to the Commission with a copy to APDCL on or before 4th December, 2017.

Sd/-
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