



# KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956)

Reg. Office: Vidyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

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## **Abstract**

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for works related to roads including shifting of Utility assets and cutting of roads for laying/ altering/ maintaining power distribution/ transmission infrastructure – Sanctioned – Orders issued

## **CORPORATE OFFICE (SBU-D)**

**B.O.(FTD) No.518/2020 (D(D&IT)/D/AEC/Utility Shifting/413/2020) Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 17/08/2020**

- Read: 1. G.O.(Ms) No. 59/2020/PWD dated 30/07/2020
2. Note No. CEDC/AEE2/SOP – Utility Shifting/2020-21/1129 dated 03/08/2020 of the Chief Engineer (Distribution Central), Ernakulam
3. Note No. D(D&IT)/D/AEC/Utility Shifting/413/2020 dated 11/08/2020 of the Director (Distribution, IT & HRM) to the Full Time Directors (Agenda Item No. 39/8/20)

## **ORDER**

There are complaints from various stake holders regarding non uniformity in estimation practices and procedures for shifting of Utility assets to facilitate widening of roads and for road and berm cutting works for laying and maintaining power distribution assets.

As per the directions of the Chairman and Managing Director in the meeting held on 01/07/2020, a Committee was constituted for discussing the above complaints and to evolve a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for utility shifting. The Committee after discussing the matter, submitted a detailed Standard Operating Procedure as per the note read 2 above for shifting of assets of the utility for facilitating road works as wells as-for road cutting works.

All the LT/HT/EHT lines of Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd across the State are constructed based on the notification dated 21/07/1969 issued by the Government of Kerala, which conferred the Engineers of Kerala State Electricity Board of and above the rank of Assistant Engineers, all the powers that the Telegraph Authority possesses under section 10 to 18 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act 13 of 1885) in the matter of placing telegraph lines and posts for the purposes of a telegraph established and maintained by the Government, for survey and construction of lines for transmission and distribution or use of electrical energy within their respective jurisdictions. The Indian Telegraph Act 1885 confers upon the Telegraph Authority extensive powers to place and maintain lines under, over, above or across, in or up on any immovable property (section 10) and if such works get resisted or obstructed, the District Magistrate shall permit the authority to construct the line as proposed.

As Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd is undertaking construction of a substantial circuit length of transmission and distribution lines as part of Transgrid 2.0 and Dyuthi 2021, possession of powers in terms of sections 10 to 18 of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 is absolutely essential.

Considering the aspects mentioned above, the Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd made a request to the Government as per the decisions of the Full Time Directors for issue of a notification in terms of section 164 of the Electricity Act 2003, conferring upon the Engineers of Kerala State Electricity Board Limited of and above the rank of Assistant Engineers, all the powers that the Telegraph Authority possesses under section 10 to 18 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act 13 of 1885) in the matter of placing telegraph lines and posts for the purposes of a telegraph established and maintained by the Government, for survey and construction of lines for transmission and distribution or use of electrical energy within their respective jurisdictions. It is understood that the request referred above has been processed, subjected to legal scrutiny and that the draft notification has been approved. The only steps pending are the final order and notification in the official gazette. The notification is absolutely essential in securing and safeguarding a predominating right for the Kerala State Electricity Board Limited in constructing and maintaining electricity lines along all terrains including public roads. This notification would enable the Kerala State Electricity Board Limited to exercise a legal right in constructing lines along roads and would facilitate to establish an equitable SOP.

Hence a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is evolved envisaging the scenario where the Kerala State Electricity Board Limited is enjoying unambiguous powers of the Telegraph Authority in placing and maintaining lines, consequent to the notification of the order above. The Committee also prepared a Reconciliation & Certification procedure for utility shifting. The guidelines for preparing estimates for shifting of assets of the Utility for facilitating road works is also prepared and it is annexed to the SOP.

Eventhough the Committee was requested to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure for shifting of Utilities, they also conducted study on the issues of road cutting works and proposed guidelines for the same. The Reconciliation & Certification procedure is proposed for road cutting works as well. There is also a proposal for constructing utility ducts in new roads with road crossings at every 500 meter.

In the meantime, the Government as per G.O read 1 above has issued guidelines to use the online Road Cutting Permission/ Right of Way Permission Portal of PWD for cutting roads, for restoration works etc. as per the fees fixed by the Chief Engineer (Roads) for cutting roads with various surfaces.

Further, there are various issues faced in the field including cutting of berms and pavements and their restoration, is also to be taken up with the Government for obtaining sanction from the authorities of road for smoothly carrying out the road works for laying and shifting of utilities. Also the issues while installing cables using HDD technology is to be addressed for conducting the works without obstructions.

The matter was placed before the Full Time Directors as per note read as 3<sup>d</sup> above.

Having considered the matter in detail, the Full Time Directors in the meeting held on 12/08/2020 resolved to approve the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for shifting of assets of the utility for facilitating roads works along with the guidelines for preparing estimates (shifting of the assets of the utility for facilitating road works) attached as Annexure I for forwarding to the Government for approval.

Further resolved to approve the following suggestions be taken up with the Government for necessary modifications in the SOP of PWD.

1. Reconciliation & Certification procedure for road works to be incorporated as proposed in Annexure II.
2. For works involving erection of poles along berm of any road, along an existing line or for construction of new lines, permission be given to Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd for carrying out the work including restoration of berm. If the berm is formed with concrete, tiles or other such materials, the Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd shall remit supervision charges to the Custodian Agency (CA), based on approved standard rates for final restoration.
3. For works of laying cables by Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd utilising Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technology, excavation charges be levied only for excavated pit portions.
4. While constructing new roads, provisions be given for constructing utility ducts with road crossings at every 500 meter.

Orders are issued accordingly.

By Order of Full Time Directors,  
Sd/-  
Lekha G.  
Company Secretary (In charge)


To

The TA to Director (Distribution, IT & HRM)

Copy to:

The Chief Engineer (IT&CR)  
The Financial Adviser/The Chief Internal Auditor  
The RCAO/The RAO/The LLO  
The TA to Chairman & Managing Director  
The TA to Director (Distribution, IT & HRM / Transmission & System Operation /  
Generation-Electrical & SCM / Generation-Civil / Planning & Safety)  
The PA to Director (Finance)/ CA to Secretary (Administration)/Company Secretary  
The Fair Copy Superintendent/Library/Stock File

Forwarded/By Order

  
Assistant Engineer