

Open House Discussion on draft regulations on Amendment to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Regulations,2007

Date & Time of Open House	07.12.2018 at 11:00
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1. An Open House (“OH”) discussion with Stakeholders was held on 07.12.2018 on draft regulations to amend Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Regulations,2007. Open House discussion was chaired by Chairperson wherein other Board members viz., Member (C&M) and Member (I&T) were also present. List of participants is attached.
2. During the OH discussion, Chairperson asked entities to explain their comments on the draft regulations and highlight additional comments, if any. The entities reiterated most of their comments which were submitted in writing.
3. The entities highlighted the following issues:
 - i. Entities raised the issue that in most of cases the levy of fee has been doubled and in one case, fees has been increased 10 times.

It was clarified that there has been no change in Levy of Fees and Other Charges since 2007 (other than increasing the fee for filing a complaint under sub-section (2) of section 25 of the Act by entities and commercial customer of such entities, which is not been changed in the instant case). Further, the increase has been proposed to meet the expenditure of the Board.

- ii. Entities raised the issue that in line with existing regulation “refund of Other charges paid during construction period as interest free deposit” should be continued.

Further the entities raised the issue that refund of interest free security deposits paid during construction period as per Regulation 4(2)(a) of existing regulation, needs to be dealt in the proposed regulations.

- iii. BPCL raised the issue of the increase in levy of fee and Other Charges be made effective on prospective basis.
- iv. GAIL (India) Limited raised the issue of reasons for the proposed escalations in levy of fee and other charges may be included in the “Explanatory Memorandum”.

The reasons for escalations was explained to the entities that the fees have not been revised in the past 10-11 years. Further, the reasons have already been explained in the “Explanatory Memorandum” in the existing notified regulations, which still hold good.

- v. GSPL raised the issue that Levy of fee proposed for laying spur line should be applicable to the spur line falling outside the tariff zone only.

It was clarified that for the purpose of Other Charges length of Natural Gas Pipeline shall include length of spur lines.

- vi. OPAL raised the issue that transportation charges will increase by 50%.

It was clarified that this issue is not related to the subject of the OH, and requested the entity to go through the proposed regulation and provide comments, if any, after studying the draft regulations.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Participants list

S.No.	Name	Organisation	Designation
1	Ms. Vandana Sharma	PNGRB	Secretary
2	Mr. Arvind Kumar	PNGRB	Additional Adviser
3	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Jain	PNGRB	Joint Adviser
4	Mr. K. Kittappa	PNGRB	Joint Adviser
5	Mr. Anil Kumar Garg	PNGRB	Joint Adviser
6	Mr. S.C. Gupta	PNGRB	Deputy Adviser
7	Ms. Vaishali Khanna	PNGRB	Senior Accounts Officer
8	Ms. Neha Jain	PNGRB	Assistant Consultant
9	Mr. Sanjay Goyal	IOCL	DGM (RA)
10	Mr. P. Suresh	IOCL	CGM (P&C)
11	Mr. R.K. Zutshi	IOCL	GM (Gas Infra.)
12	Mr. Neville	GGL	AVP (C&M)
13	Mr. K.S. Rao	HPCL	CGM-Pipeline Operations
14	Mr. Santosh Sahu	BPCL	Sr. Mgr. Projects, P/L
15	Mr. L.R. Jain	BPCL	CGM Pipeline
16	Mr. N. Dinda	GAIL	DGM
17	Mr. Joy Banerjee	GAIL	CM (RA)
18	Mr. Vivek Singh	GSPL	AM (COMM)
19	Mr. A B Karmakar	OPaL	Head MM