

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the National Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (NEECA) Board

The 6th meeting of National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) Board was on 31st January, 2022 at 9:30 in the Committee Room of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) under the Chairmanship of Syed Asif Hyder Shah, Secretary Power Division/Chairman, NEECA Board. The list of participants is attached at (Annex-1).

2. Secretary, Power Division/Chairman Board welcomed the participants of the 6th meeting of the NEECA Board. After the recitation of the Holy Quran and round of introduction of the participants, the Managing Director NEECA gave a brief introduction about the NEECA, its different initiatives and the scope as per the provisions of the NEECA Act.

3. MD then initiated the agenda of the 6th Board Meeting with the permission of the Chair.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the NEECA Board held on 10th December, 2021

It was apprised to the Board that the Minutes/Decisions of the 5th meeting were circulated to all the members of the NEECA Board and no comments/inputs were received from the Members.

The Chair asked the members who participated in the last NEECA BoD meeting to share their comments and views if any. All members agreed to the decision of 5th meeting minutes.

Decision:

The Board approved the Minutes of the 5th meeting of the NEECA Board.

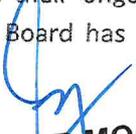
Item No. 2: Pakistan Energy Label Regulations for Fans, AC, Refrigerators, LEDs and Motors

MD NEECA apprised the members that the Energy Efficiency Standard & Labeling (EES&L) programs have significant impacts in terms of availability of higher quality energy efficient products in the market and subsequent reduction in energy consumption.

2. Through star rating regime referred as Pakistan Energy Label, the consumers will get an informed choice to buy most energy efficient products. The Draft Regulations were reviewed in number of Technical Committee meetings and finally were approved on January 5th, 2022 to be presented before the Board.

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3. MD NEECA further informed that CLASP, JICA, UNEP & MoST through PCSIR & PSQCA have technically facilitated in the development of the MEPS and Labeling regimes of the Motors, Fans, ACs, Refrigerators and LED lights respectively.
4. Manager Technical-ECF apprised the Board that the MEPS and the Star Rating Classifications which are an integral part of the PSQCA standards were deliberated in detail with all the relevant stakeholders/associations.
5. The Chair asked whether the regime has to be endorsed by the Cabinet or not? MD NEECA, Manager Technical ECF and the Legal Counsel ECF referred to different sections/clauses of the NEECA Act (Section 20, Section 21, Clause 4(3), Clause 7(u).
6. Representative of the Government of Balochistan appreciated the steps taken by the NEECA and asked question about handling the misuse of the energy labels. MD NEECA responded that the QR Code generated by the Product Registration System (PRS) and its verification through the NEECA PRS App will address this issue.
7. Additional Secretary, Housing & Works suggested that the Board may approve the regulation, and also referred to Law Division for vetting. Deputy Secretary (IF), MOIP also mentioned that the regulation should be vetted by the law division and stakeholder consultations should be carried out especially with the Ministry of Climate Change as they are dealing with the Montreal Protocol which deals with the refrigerants. The representative of the Sindh Energy Department also suggested to the regulation legally vetted by the law division. MT ECF responded that the technical committee has the representatives from the MOIP, MoST, the Provincial Energy Departments which is chaired by the Member Energy (Planning Commission) and reviewed the regulation clause by clause.
8. The Chair expressed his views to let the regulation be reviewed by the Law Division and subsequently presented before the Cabinet. Further, he mentioned that the rules are derived from the Act and consequently the regulations are developed on the basis of the rules. The Chair read out the Clauses 10(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the NEECA Act and suggested to move accordingly.
9. Member Energy Planning Commission shared his views that the regulation draft should be uploaded on the NEECA website for the public comments for two weeks at least and then with necessary amendments be moved to the law division for vetting before presenting to the NEECA Board or Cabinet. MD NEECA informed the NEECA BoD about the commitment of the timeline given to the Development Partners specifically JICA for the approval of the regulations. It was supplemented that as per the commitment with the JICA representatives and enabling them to close their ongoing Project in February 2022, the approval of the regulation from the NEECA Board has been reported to be the last step before its notification in the Gazette.


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10. MD NEECA informed that even after the approval of the regulation and notification, the manufacturers shall still be given a time period of one year to register themselves into the energy labeling regime. The Chair expressed his concerns about the possible legal stays which the manufacturers may take and the political backlash. He further suggested reading the Clauses 10(a), (b), (c), (d) and 7(u) in conjunction with each other.

11. The following decisions were taken:

Decision:

- The Board endorsed the draft Pakistan Energy Label Regulations for Fans, ACs, Refrigerators, LEDs and Motors.
- The Board further directed that after vetting from Law Division, the regulations will be presented in the Cabinet for approval with reference to the Section 10 of the NEECA Act 2016.

Item No. 3: Status of HR Recruitment of NEECA Executive Grades and professional Positions

MD NEECA apprised that 08 positions under the NEG-1 positions i.e. Director General HR & SS, Director General PPIP&R, Director General Legal & Enforcement, Director General EI & F, Director General Technical, Director General Finance, Registrar of the Authority, Internal Auditor were advertised dated 13-06-2021. Out of which 03 positions have been filled and DG HR & SS, DG PPIP&R and DG EI & F have taken the charge. However, the Selection Committee could not find any suitable candidate for DG Legal & Enforcement, DG Technical, DG Finance, Registrar, and Internal Auditor therefore Head Hunting firm is in engagement process, as per the Board approval.

MD NEECA further informed that on the recommendation of HR and Remuneration Committee, the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) was engaged for third party recruitment under the Government-to-Government arrangements to complete the hiring process for NEECA Professional Grade Positions. The hiring process shall be completed by February 2022.

Decision:

The Board noted the progress.

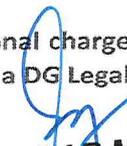
Item No. 4: DG Legal Additional Charge to DG Policy

MD NEECA apprised that DG Legal has not been hired yet and NEECA is contesting number of litigations with reference to Captive Power Plant Audits. To address the legal issues DG Policy should be given the additional charge of DG Legal until the hiring process is completed. DG Policy has the required qualification and bar license to take up these cases.

Decision:

The Board approved to give the additional charge of DG Legal to DG Policy for the period of six months or till the appointment of a DG Legal whichever is earlier.

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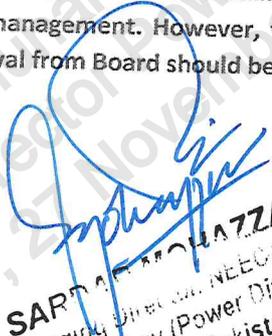

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Item No. 5: Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

MD apprised that it is imperative to develop a synergy with different stakeholders to supplement the initiatives spelled out for operationalization of the policy and actions. The MOUs shall lead towards the effective implementation of envisaged EE&C activities.

Decision:

The Board gave the blanket approval to MD NEECA to sign MOUs with stakeholders at National Level based on internal assessment by the NEECA management. However, to sign international MOUs appropriate channel of MOFA/EAD with approval from Board should be exercised.


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