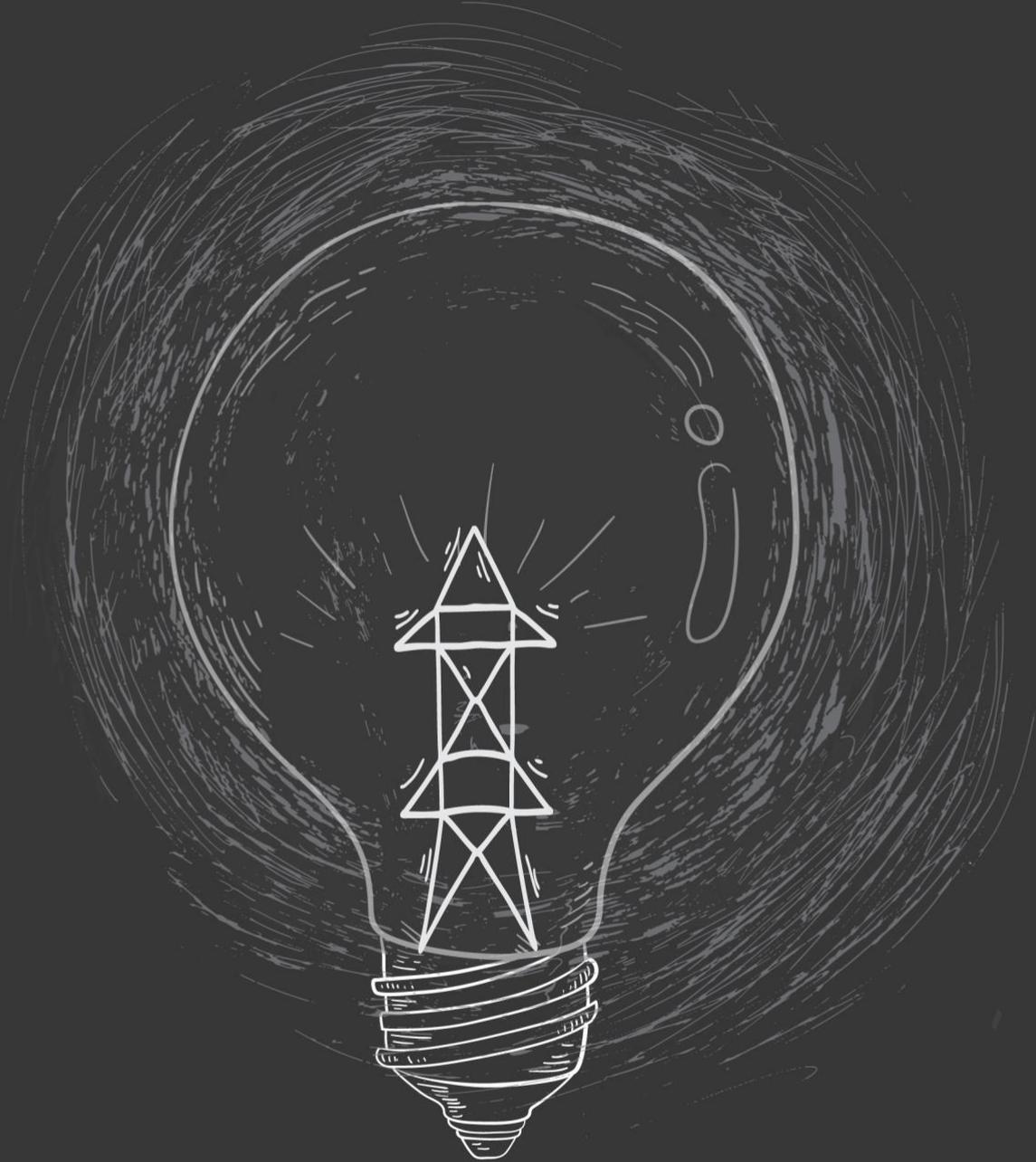


Grid Se Ghar Tak

- an initiative for strengthening civil society participation in power sector



Workshop 1

State's Electricity Sector and 'You'



CENTRE FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & PEOPLE

About the series 'Grid se Ghar tak'

The series is a consumer-centric initiative supported by Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) and facilitated by Centre for Energy, Environment & People (CEEP). It aims to empower individuals and social organisations in Rajasthan to actively participate in shaping the legal, policy, and regulatory landscape for the power sector.

Workshop I: State's Electricity Sector and 'You'

The first in the series, this training workshop offered an introduction to the electricity sector and an overview of the challenges in its operation and planning. It provided a comprehensive overview of electricity concepts and the power sector landscape in India, including policies, key institutions, the role of state regulatory commissions, and various aspects of power sector planning and citizen engagement.

The workshop was conducted in a hybrid mode, with 19 persons present at RERC headquarters in Jaipur and 27 joining virtually. The list of participants is provided in the Annexure of the report. The agenda for the workshop is provided in the Table below.

DATE & TIME: 11:00 AM – 01:15 PM, February 17, 2023			
VENUE: Conference Hall, 4th Floor, Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission, Jaipur			
INAUGURAL SESSION			
11:00-11:05	Welcome remarks	Sh. Simran Grover, Centre for Energy, Environment & People	
11:05-11:15	Program inauguration		
11:15-11:25	Program overview	Sh. Lalit Pandey, Centre for Energy, Environment & People	
WORKSHOP 1 State's Electricity Sector and 'You'			
Time	Topic	Key topics to be covered	Speaker
11:25-11:40	Electricity Concepts	Electricity as an essential service a. Variability and grid management; demand complexities and planning challenges, emerging landscape and challenges b. Key infrastructure elements - Generation, Transmission, Distribution; Planning; Cost correlation with all 3	Sh. Simran Grover, Centre for Energy, Environment & People

Time	Topic	Key topics to be covered	Speaker
11:40-12:00	Power Sector Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Electricity Act 2003: introduce key provisions, objectives, and institutions b. Power sector policy landscape - key policies c. Key institutions and their role d. Power sector investments and recovery; SML forecasting, procurement and contracting mechanism 	Sh. Anshuman Gothwal, Centre for Energy, Environment & People
12:00-12:15	Refreshment Break		
12:15-12:30	Power Sector Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we plan for? 2. How do we plan? - forecasting, regulatory approvals 3. Challenges in planning 4. Implications of planning inefficiencies 	Sh. Simran Grover, Centre for Energy, Environment & People
12:30-12:45	Role of Regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role (as per act) 2. Functions 3. Key rules and regulations 	Sh. Anshuman Gothwal, Centre for Energy, Environment & People
12:45-13:05	Q&A: How can citizens engage with the sector?	Moderator: Sh. Anshuman Gothwal, Centre for Energy, Environment & People	
13:05-13:15	Way Forward and Closing Remarks		

Session I: Electricity Concepts

In the introductory session, the interconnection between electricity and development and the existence of a substantial disparity in per capita energy production between developed and developing nations, estimated at around 3000-4000 kilowatt-hours, were emphasised. The concept of electricity as a commodity was explained, highlighting its dependence on significant public and private investments and adherence to financial and market principles. The societal importance of electricity as a recognised social service was explored, noting its legal designation as an essential service under the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) 1968. We brought to attention the Supreme Court's landmark decision in 2011, which affirmed the recognition of access to electricity as a fundamental right according to the Indian Constitution.

Apart from this, the key elements of electricity generation, transmission, and distribution were presented, along with the significance of effective grid management in ensuring the provision of electricity services to individual households. Challenges related to real-time

balancing, grid management, and the impact of demand-side dynamics arising from fluctuations in consumption patterns, weather conditions, and other relevant factors were also discussed.

Session II: Power Sector Landscapes

The second session commenced with a comprehensive overview of the power sector's value chain, highlighting its unique characteristics. The capital-intensive nature of the industry was discussed, emphasising its concurrent subject status. This creates a distinct business environment for the power sector, which operates within regulated markets.

Detailed insights into the institutional framework of the electricity sector were provided, reflecting the distinctive attributes of electricity. This framework encompasses policymakers, regulators, system operators, generation, transmission, distribution companies, and power markets. A thorough explanation of the Electricity Act of 2003 was then given, which serves as a strong foundation for the growth of the power industry. The Act promotes commercial competition within the sector, safeguards consumer interests, rationalises electricity rates, and establishes key agencies critical to its functioning.

Session III: Power Sector Planning

During the third session, the importance of power sector planning was emphasised, with a focus on ensuring secure, affordable, and sustainable energy for consumers. It was highlighted that effective planning requires consideration of both present efforts and past calculations to anticipate future demand. The adoption of prudent planning practices was emphasised to ensure the availability of clean, sustainable, and affordable energy in the long term.

The current power planning process, operating within the framework defined by the Electricity Act of 2003, was discussed. At the national level, the responsibility for formulating the National Electricity Plan and conducting the Electric Power Survey lies with the Central Electricity Authority. Similarly, in the state of Rajasthan, the Energy Assessment Committee develops the state-level plan. Challenges faced during the planning phase, such as uncertainty in demand, fuel supply issues, execution inefficiencies, and the impact of extreme events, were underscored. The adverse consequences of planning inefficiencies, including elevated electricity tariff costs, compromised supply quality, hindrances to development goals, and implications for distribution companies were also highlighted.

Session IV: Role of Regulator

During the workshop's final session, the necessity and significance of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) were highlighted along with the powers and functions vested in the state commission, which encompass crucial responsibilities such as determining prudent tariffs, ensuring transparency in electricity transactions, resolving disputes between licensees and generating companies, and establishing and enforcing standards about service quality, continuity, and reliability. We further delved into the consumer-oriented regulations

notified by RERC. Lastly, the importance of increased public participation in the commission's public hearings to strengthen the power sector further was underscored.

Glimpses of the training workshop



About CEEP

Centre for Energy, Environment & People (CEEP) is a Jaipur-based human-centric research and policy advocacy initiative driving critical research and fostering democratic coalitions for low carbon transition and climate justice.

We work at the intersection of energy, environment and people to enable institutional response, investments and political shift towards clean energy and sustainable practices. As an institution, we prioritise addressing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities faced by disadvantaged individuals and groups through inclusive and representative policy action.

Annexure: List of Participants of the Workshop

Name	Designation and Organisation	Place
Arvind Rai	Rudra	Karauli
Balmukunda Sanadmya	Samta Power	Jaipur
Banshi Lal	Gram Chetna Kendra	Kheri Milak, Renwal
Dheeraj	Aatmnirbhar	Jaipur
Dheeraj Sharma	SRKPS	Jaipur
Gopal Ram Verma	Samajik Nyai Evam Vikas Samiti	Neemali, Bharatpur
Balmukund Sanadhya	Samta Power	Jaipur
Hari Prasad Yogi	C.G.R.F	Swai Madhopur
Jitendra Dabaria	Mandalbhim	Jaipur
Kamal K Solanki	Advocate	Sawai Madhopur
Kanhiya Lal	C.G.R.F	Sawai Madhopur
Mohit Maheshwari	Aatmnirbhar	Jaipur
Nagendra Jha	RERC	Jaipur
Paresh Gaur	RERC	Jaipur
Pradyuman Singh	Journalism	Jaipur
Prasun Mathpal	CeCoEdeCon	Jaipur
Rahul Gupta	SRKPS	Jaipur
Rakesh Kumar Parmar	Samajik Vikas Foundation	Atarsuma, Dholpur
Rakesh Sharma		Jaipur
Suleman Sheikh	Gramin Manan Kalyan Sikshan Sanhsthan	Kachroda, Phulera, Jaipur

Note: The workshop was streamed live on Zoom. A total of 27 participants joined from different parts of Rajasthan.