



24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Sub: Ensuring reliability of the All India electricity grid in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak**

Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) through its five Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) and the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) has taken all steps to maintain reliability of the electricity grid in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The first internal advisory to employees in respect of sanitization and social distancing protocols was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. All work related travel and training programs, meetings, conferences and workshops scheduled have been deferred since then. A second set of detailed guidelines dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was issued covering the following broad areas:

- (i) General sanitization & social distancing protocols
- (ii) Ensuring continuity of LDC operations, particularly the control centres
- (iii) Impact on reliability of electricity grid due to COVID-19 and measures to minimize the same

Safety of the employees and their families, the society at large, business continuity and reliability of the electricity grid were the issues covered in this detailed guidelines. These guidelines were also circulated to the State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs) in the country. An emergency meeting of the Forum Of Load Despatchers (FOLD) was convened on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 attended by nearly thirty five (35) Load Despatch Centres through Video Conferencing (VC). All the Load Despatch Centres (at the state level as well as POSOCO) remain committed and fully geared up to handle this new challenge. All the LDCs are following the various guidelines issued by the Government of India. At POSOCO, more than 50% of the staff tasked with off-line functions are off-site and Working From Home (WFH).

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), POSOCO has also written to the heads of major generation and transmission utilities, both at the State and Central level, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 with the request to flag any issue impacting reliable operations of the generation and transmission facilities in the country. A high level team within POSOCO is monitoring the situation on daily basis in real time and taking the necessary actions. As of now, no bottle necks are being faced or envisaged.

POSOCO would like to assure all stakeholders that it stands committed to ensure reliable operations of the electricity grid during these testing times for everyone. Electricity demand is expected to fall sharply in the coming days. The 'Janta curfew' on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 (Sunday) had seen between 10-15% reduction in the power demand as compared to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (previous Sunday) for different hours of the day. As more parts of the country go under lockdown, further reduction is expected.

POSOCO seeks the kind co-operation of all stakeholders in meeting this challenge.