NEECA SIMPLIFIES EV CHARGING STATION APPROVALS, REGISTRATION PROCESS

Dr Sardar Mohazzam
Managing Director NEECA

NEECA MD Dr Sardar Mohazzam says electricity tariff for EV charging stations has been reduced by 45 per cent; states our fan replacement programme is ready for launch and will soon be unveiled by the Prime Minister; hopes together, we can reduce wastage, cut costs, and build a sustainable energy future for Pakistan

Mustafa Tahir

Dr Sardar Mohazzam, Managing Director of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), spoke to Energy Update about the Authority's recent reforms, sectoral interventions, and upcoming energy efficiency initiatives. He highlighted that the once lengthy and complicated procedure for obtaining permissions to set up EV charging stations has now been drastically simplified—investors can complete the entire registration process within merely 15 days through a dedicated online portal.

Energy Update: Could you please tell us about the overall strategic plan NEECA has developed, and which sectors are being prioritised under this framework?

Dr Sardar Mohazzam: We have developed a strategic plan for NEECA that defines the priority areas and sectors where the Authority will intervene. Our key focus sectors include residential buildings, transport, industry, agriculture, power, and petroleum. Alongside this, we undertook significant regulatory work for electrical appliances by introducing minimum energy performance standards. We also worked on revising the building code and initiated action plans for these priority sectors. At present, we are moving towards the implementation stage. Importantly, under the directives of the Prime Minister, we revised the building code for energy conservation in partnership with the German government and coordinated with civic and land control agencies, including the CDA, for building code enforcement. We are also closely working with provincial agencies to achieve national energy efficiency and conservation goals.

EU: Energy Update understands that a major breakthrough has been achieved in easing the procedure for EV charging station approvals. Could you elaborate on this?

Dr Mohazzam: Yes, this is a milestone reform. The government has graciously reduced the electricity tariff for EV charging stations by 45 per cent, which makes the business more viable. More importantly, NEECA has simplified the entire registration process for prospective investors. Now, the whole procedure can be completed in just 15 days through an online portal—without the need for applicants to physically visit any government office. This ease of doing business has attracted multiple foreign companies, including from China, the USA, and Europe, to invest in Pakistan's EV charging infrastructure. The upcoming charging facilities will also include battery swapping services for two- and three-wheelers.

EU: What is the current investor response and progress on the establishment of EV charging stations in Pakistan?

Dr Mohazzam: Previously, businesses struggled with low returns on EV charging stations due to the high electricity tariff. But now, with reduced tariffs, profit margins have improved, and investor interest has surged. We are receiving daily applications from new investors. So far, around 84 to 85 prospective investors have already secured provisional approvals and are completing the remaining formalities. Over the next few months, Pakistan will see a significant expansion in its EV charging footprint.

EU:NEECA has also been involved in regulatory reforms for household appliances. Could you highlight some of the Authority's achievements in this area?

Dr Mohazzam: One of our major successes was shutting down the production of conventional incandescent bulbs, which were highly inefficient. Pakistan used to produce 16 to 20 billion of these bulbs annually, each consuming around 100 watts. Through regulations, we encouraged the adoption of energy-efficient alternatives. Additionally, we have introduced new regulatory frameworks for air-conditioners, refrigerators, motors, fans, and LED bulbs. Thanks to these efforts, consumers in Pakistan now have access to far more energy-efficient appliances in the local market.

EU: The upcoming fan replacement programme is being seen as a landmark energy-saving initiative. Can you share details of how this will work and its expected impact?

Dr Mohazzam: Yes, our fan replacement programme is ready for launch and will soon be unveiled by the Prime Minister. The Power Division of the Federal Government will lead the initiative, while banks will mobilise financing for consumers to replace their old fans. After collection, the replaced fans will be sent back to manufacturers for transformation into energy-efficient models. According to survey estimates, there are about 147 million old fans in use across the country, each consuming 100–120 watts. The new energy-efficient fans will consume just 30 watts. With nationwide rollout, we expect savings of 4,000 MW during peak summer demand, which will significantly help Pakistan in managing its seasonal power shortages. Tackling peak demand has always been a top priority for NEECA, and this programme will play a transformative role in energy conservation.

EU: Finally, Dr Mohazzam, what message would you like to give to stakeholders, policymakers, and the public regarding NEECA's vision and future role?

Dr Mohazzam: Our vision is to mainstream energy efficiency and conservation as a national priority, not just a technical matter. Every unit of energy saved contributes to the country's economic stability, environmental sustainability, and energy security. With the support of the government, private sector, and international partners, NEECA is determined to create a culture where energy efficiency becomes part of everyday decision-making—whether in homes, industries, or transport. I urge all stakeholders to actively participate, adopt efficient technologies, and support our initiatives. Together, we can reduce wastage, cut costs, and build a sustainable energy future for Pakistan. ■

330MW HPPs in KP to start production in two years

EU Report

Secretary Energy and Power Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mohammad Zubair has said that work is underway on three hydropower projects in Swat. The projects of 330megawatt capacity will start production in the next two years. He expressed these views during his visit to ongoing hydropower projects including 84MW Matiltan, 88MW Gabral Kalam, 40-kilometer long 132/220kW transmission line project sites and the 36.6MW Daral Khor Hydropower Plant affected by the recent flood.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Provincial Energy Development Organisation (PEDO) Habibullah, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Swat Saleem Jan also accompanied him.

The Secretary said that construction work has also been accelerated on laying a 40-kilometer-long transmission line on the Swat corridor, which will be completed next year, with the completion of which cheap electricity will be sold to the industrial sector of the province. ■

PR saves billions

EU Report

Pakistan Railways has recorded impressive savings—amounting to billions of rupees in electricity costs over the past eight months—thanks to initiatives such as solarisation, meterization, and strict measures to curb electricity pilferage.

These developments were shared during a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi. The meeting was told that Pakistan Railways has achieved notable savings in electricity costs across several divisions over the past eight months.

The Lahore Division saved Rs 416.6 million, while the Mughalpura Workshop recorded savings of Rs 243 million. Quetta Division contributed Rs 38 million, Rawalpindi Division Rs 75 million, Karachi Division Rs 26 million, Sukkur Division Rs 60 million, Multan Division Rs 9.6 million, and Peshawar Division Rs 6.46 million. ■