GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAYS BOARD)

Policy circular No. RB/Elect/TRD 05-2012

New Delhi, dated 06.08.12

Chief Electrical Engineers,
All Indian Electrified Railways

Sub: Grid failures on 30.07.12 & 31.07.12.

Two successive incidences of grid failures on 30.07.12 (Northern grid) & 31.07.12 (Northern, Eastern and NE grids) resulted into wider traffic disruption over the Zonal Railways affected by these failures. To ensure restoration of traction power supply in the least possible time and to minimize the impact of these failures, a series of measures like close co-ordination with Load Dispatch Centers/State Power Utilities/GENCOs were taken for immediate connectivity of railway feeders on revival of grid/feed extension from adjacent TSSs etc.

For dealing with such incidences of grid failures in future to have the least impact on the train operations, Zonal Railways are advised to ensure the following as a matter of guidelines:

- To open a "Grid Disaster Control Centre" temporarily in HQ immediately after Grid failure under the direct supervision of CEE for ensuring restoration of power supply and traffic movement in the shortest possible time. The Centre should be manned round the clock by the officer not below the rank of Sr. Scale and should remain operational till at least 48 hours after restoration of all supply points. The officer shall co-ordinate with all the Divisions and should work as per the directions of CEE/CEDE.

- CEE should monitor and supervise the overall restoration process.

- CEDE should immediately proceed to NRLDC/SLDCs/RLDCs or in the Control room as per the direction of CEE. He should closely monitor the availability of power supply in the Grid on real time basis in the Load Dispatch Centre and liaise with the authorities present therein. He should ensure that the railway feeder is connected immediately as soon as the grid supply is available. Load Dispatch Centers should also be impressed upon to obtain the feed from adjacent Regional/Central grids, wherever possible, and extend the feed to Railways network on the highest priority. In case of limited availability of power supply in the Grid, he should also plan to prioritize restoring Railways feeder in such a manner that OHE supply is available to the maximum extent in consultation with the supply authorities. In case CEDE is not able to reach NRLDC/SLDCs/RLDCs, a JAG/Sr. Scale officer should be deputed to ensure compliance of these activities.

- Sr.DEEs/DEEs(TrD) should immediately reach to their respective TPC/Control room and should remain there till restoration of all powe
supply and traffic movement. They should contact all concerned supply authorities for early restoration. They should chalk out an action plan adaptable to the changing situation to obtain alternate source of power supply, wherever possible, and extend the supply either through OHE or through transmission lines as the case may be to ensure availability of supply for minimizing the impact besides monitoring overall restoration operation in their Division/Sub-division.

- SSEs/SEs should be deputed to the GSSs of State Power Utilities at the backend to ensure connectivity to TSSs immediately after revival of power supply at that GSS.

- Efforts may also be made to man the feeding posts for ensuring quick feed extension in case of communication or SCADA failure.

- To follow existing instructions laid down in para 20518 and 20519 of ACTM related to failures of grid supply and prolonged power supply failure.

- To co-ordinate with NTPC/GENCOs for quick restoration of their power plants and its connectivity with Railways direct transmission lines (presently in the case of NCR).

- To prepare a detailed power supply diagram duly indicating the name of the GSSs and further back up supply. Such diagrams shall be displayed at the central location in TPC. A copy of these diagrams should also remain readily available with CEDE and all concerned Divisional officers including TPCs.

- To maintain a list of contact numbers of all concerned officials of NRLDC/SLDCs/RLDCs, State Power Utilities, NTPC, GENCOs etc. which should be updated periodically. The list thus prepared should be kept with CEDE, all concerned Divisional Officers, TPCs, Control Rooms and other important locations for easy access. The CEDE and concerned Divisional Officers should also liaise and interact with such officials regularly at their level.

- The progress of restoration of power supply points should be communicated by CEDE to Director Electrical Engg. (PS), Railway Board at a regular interval of 30 minutes till completion of restoration.

- Augmentation of IR’s EHV transmission network, as a part of long term strategy, with direct connectivity to IR’s own captive power plants/Grid network and any other measures as deemed fit by the Zonal Railway to minimize the impact of grid failures.

You are, accordingly, advised to chalk out a detailed action plan to deal with such situations in future keeping in view the above guidelines, other codified provisions, local conditions etc. A copy of the action plan thus chalked out shall be sent to Board’s office for reference and record.

This issues with the approval of Board (ML).

(S.K. Saxena)
Exe.Dir.Elect.Energy(Mgt.)
Railway Board