

Note on the Commissioning of 160MVA new Transformer at Salakati

As a part of the massive augmentation plan initiated by AEGCL for strengthening the state grid, a new transformer with the rating of 220/132kv, 160MVA at Salakati grid substation will be commissioned on 11/07/2021. Earlier the transformation at Salakati from 220 kv to 132 kv was through two transformers – one 160 MVA and the other one 100MVA. Now the 100 MVA transformer will be replaced by a new 160 MVA transformer. Thus the total transformation capacity from 220 kv to 132 kv at Salakati will be increased by a quantum of 60 MVA. i.e. There will be two 160 MVA transformers at Salakati. The addition of this capacity will vastly improve the power position in 8 grid substations of AEGCL thereby catering to the electricity need of 7 districts of Lower Assam.

To facilitate the above commissioning programme, there is a need to implement a lot of reconnection works at the switchyard of Salakati grid substation. Further, to take the new transformer into service, a number of pre-commissioning tests need to be carried out to fully protect the transformer from any fault and possible damage. As such the old 100 MVA transformer has been disconnected from service at 6 am today (10/07/2021). After carrying out all associated electrical works, the new 160MVA transformer is expected to be charged on “no load” by the evening today. After keeping the transformer on “no load” for a specific mandatory period, the transformer will be loaded in the morning tomorrow (11/07/2021).

Thus for nearly 24 hours only one transformer of 160 MVA will be available for service at Salakati. This will result in 15/20 MW load shedding during off-peak hours, and 40/50 MW load shedding during the peak load hours. To mitigate the suffering of the affected people, AEGCL is trying to maximize the import from Bhutan at its Rangia grid sub-station.

Hopefully, there will be no load restriction from tomorrow onward in lower Assam.