

IN THE PAKISTAN INFORMATION COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

Appeal No. 1561-12/2021

Muhammad Zulkaif

Vs

Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Ltd.

Fawad Malik: Information Commissioner

**A. APPEAL**

1. Mr. Muhammad Zulkaif filed an application before the General Manager, Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Ltd., Gulberg III, Lahore under the Right of Access to the Information Act, 2017. Through his application dated 01-12-2021, he has sought the following information and record:
  - a. *“Certified copy of ban imposed by the government of Pakistan for processing of new domestic gas connection.*
  - b. *Certified copies of normal demand notices issued to the applicant during October and November 2021.*
  - c. *Copy of the policy and notification for waiting period of demand notices after the submission of application for the normal and urgent connection.*
  - d. *Copy of policy/notification for waiting period of gas connection after submission of demand notification.*
  - e. *Copies of urgent demand notices issued to the applicant during the period of October and November, 2021”.*
2. Feeling aggrieved for the non-provision of the requested information he filed appeal before Pakistan Commission on Access to Information, Islamabad, complaining therein that the information and record has not been provided within period stipulated under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

## B. PROCEEDINGS

3. Notice of the Commission was responded by the GM (BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RETAIL) vide his letter dated 21-03-2022. The reply is reproduced as under:
  - a. *“Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) Govt. of Pakistan has imposed a ban on processing of new domestic gas connection since 12.11.2021 due to stringent demand and supply position.*
  - b. *Approximately 60,000 demand Notices were issued from 01.10.201 to 11.02.2021 (till imposition of ban)*
  - c. *The waiting period of demand notices varies from region to region and sub region depending upon the number of pendency of applications, quota of gas connections, etc. The waiting period of each region is displayed on [www.sngpl.com.pk](http://www.sngpl.com.pk). You may view the list from our website. The issuance of demand notice is issued to feasible application where all pre-requisites such as existence of distribution network, documentation etc are fulfilled.*
  - d. *The waiting period of gas connection after payment of demand notice of normal domestic gas connection varies from region to region and sub region, depending upon the total number of such cases, quota of gas connection, capacity and availability of material etc.*
  - e. *Approximately 700 urgent fee bills were issued from 01.10.201 to 11-02-2022 (till imposition of ban).”*
4. The appellant feeling dissatisfied with the reply has submitted the following objections:
  - a. *“He did not provide the copy of the Ban on Sui Gas connection.*
  - b. *He did not provide the policy of SNGPL of our region for installing the connection from the date of application. He did not give the information of relevant portion of Website to search out the period of Sui Gas Connection.*
  - c. *He did not provide the copy of the policy of duration of domestic connection, after submit of demand notice“.*
5. The first objection raised by the appellant regarding the non-provision of copy of the ban on Sui Gas connection is not sustainable. The respondent (SNGPL) in the reply clearly mentions that the ban was imposed by the Ministry of Energy (petroleum Division) hence the SNGPL is not the custodian to the said notification. Only the public body having the custody of the original record can affix the certificate to the effect that the

information is correct or, as the case may be, copy is a true copy of the original record.

6. The objection raised by the appellant pertaining to query number 3 and 4 is also validly replied by the SNGPL. It is apprised that waiting period of demand notices and of gas connection after payment of demand notice of normal domestic gas connection varies from region to region and sub region depending upon the number of pendency of applications, quota of gas connections, etc. The waiting period of each region is displayed on [www.sngpl.com.pk](http://www.sngpl.com.pk). The Commission after going to the application, the reply submitted by the SNGPL and the objections raised by the appellant is of considered view that the SNGPL has provided of the permissible information and record under the Act to the appellant. The objections raised by the appellant are without force and are not sustainable.

#### **D. ORDER**

7. The application is disposed of.

Mohammad Azam  
Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik  
Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah  
Information Commissioner

Announced on 16.06.2022

Certified that this order consists of 03 pages, each page has been read and signed