



In the Pakistan Information Commission, Islamabad
Appeal No 940-03/21

Mian Suhail Hussain

(Appellant)

Vs.

Sui Southern Gas Company Limited

(Respondent)

ORDER

Date: May 30, 2022

Zahid Abdullah: Information Commissioner

A. The Appeal

1. The Appellant filed an appeal, dated January 20, 2021 to the Commission, stating that he submitted an information request to the Managing Director, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited., Karachi on March 08, 2021 under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 but did not receive any response from the public body.

2. The information sought by the Appellant is as follows:

1. Names of Customers on SSGC Network using NG for Captive Power Plans and the NG Capacity allowed.

2. Names of Customers on SSGC Network allowed use of NG for Boilers and general usage in factory

Our request for the for the files was in line with the Article 3 of Rights of Information Act 2017 read with Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and as the requested information has not been provided till date, we are invoking the Article 17 read with Article 25 of the Right of Information Act 2017”.

B Proceedings

3 The commission held hearing on *May 12, 2022 vide letter dated April 19, 2022.*

4 The Respondent submitted following response:

“The contents of appeal filed by GRESHAM’s EASTERN Private Limited along with the relevant provision of the Right of Access to Information Act. 2017 (act) has been perused through and it is observed that the relevant provision of Act. Exempts a public body from the disclosure of certain information /record which is reproduced hereunder

Quote.

16 (g) Information may be exempted if-

(i) The information was obtained from a third party and on its communication it would constitute an actionable breach of confidence; or

Un-quote

We are of the opinion that SSGC is not obligated to provide the name of customers on SSGC network using NG for Captive Power Plants and name of Customer using Boilers on NG in the factory, However, SSGC can provide general data entailing total number of customers using NG for Captive Power plants and similar info for Customers using NG for boilers which is reproduced hereunder.

Summary of industrial Customers and Consumption

Category	Karachi		Sindh		Baluchistan		Total	
	Customers	MMCFD	Customers	MMCFD	Customers	MMCFD	Customers	MMCFD
Captive power	706	120	114	59	37	12	857	190
General Industry	4,461	124	245	14	140	5	2,846	143
Total	3,167	244	359	73	177	17	3,703	333

C. Discussion and Commission's View on Relevant Issues

- 5 This commission holds that the requested information about “Names of Customers on SSGC Network using NG for Captive Power Plans and the NG Capacity allowed” along with “Names of Customers on SSGC Network allowed use of NG for Boilers and general usage in factory” is not hit by any of the exemption clauses of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 as the disclosure of requested information is not likely to cause harm to the legitimate commercial interests of the companies.
- 6 This commission is of the view that the disclosure of the requested information is warranted under Section 5 (1) (e) and Section 6 (c) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.
- 7 This commission also believes that the disclosure of the requested information will help achieve stated objectives of the Act enunciated in its Preamble which are as under:
 - a. Making government more accountable to citizens’;
 - b. Greater level of participation of citizens in the affairs of the government’;
 - c. ‘Reducing corruption and inefficiency’;
 - d. Promoting sound economic growth’; and
 - e. Promoting good governance and respect for human rights.

D. Order

- 8 Appeal is allowed. Managing Director, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited is directed to provide the Appellant information requested in para 2 of this Order within 7 working days of the receipt of this Order, with intimation to this office.
- 9 Copies of this Order be sent to the Respondent and the Appellant for information and necessary action.

Mohammad Azam

Chief Information Commissioner

Fawad Malik

Information Commissioner

Zahid Abdullah

Information Commissioner

Announced on: May 30, 2022

This order consists of 2 (two) pages, each page has been read and signed.