



SIKKIM STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following guidelines for implementation of Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering framework under Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) These Guidelines may be called the Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2023.
- (2) These Guidelines shall extend to the whole state of Sikkim.
- (3) These Guidelines shall come into force from the date of issue.

2. Definition

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (1) "Group Net Metering" means an arrangement whereby surplus energy generated/injected from a Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid through Net Meter and the exported energy is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of the same consumer located within the same Distribution Licensee's area of supply;
- (2) "Virtual Net Metering" means an arrangement whereby entire energy

generated/injected from a Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid from renewable energy meter/ gross meter and the energy exported is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of participating consumers located within the same Distribution Licensee's area of supply;

- (3) Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021 means the Regulations issued by the Commission during the FY 2020-21 for implementation of Net Metering framework under Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021;
- (4) All other words and expressions used in these guidelines although not specifically defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, as amended from time to time.

3. General & Applicability

- (1) Group Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for all consumers within the State.
- (2) Virtual Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for residential consumers, Group housing societies, offices of Government /Local Authorities, Hospitals, Schools, other Institutions run or managed by Charitable Institutions, non-profit Organizations /Trust which are not covered under the category of domestic consumers and Renewable Energy Generators.
- (3) The annual generation of Renewable Energy System or Renewable Energy System with Battery Energy Storage System may be capped as per the normative Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) or Plant Load Factor (PLF) as decided by the Commission from time to time for the respective Renewable Energy Technology.
- (4) The enhancement of line capacity in terms of Regulation 5(4) of the SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, for Renewable Energy System of capacity higher than the sanctioned load of the consumer shall be used only for calculation of Service Line cum Development (SLD) charges and not for levying corresponding additional fixed charges.
- (5) The Distribution Licensee shall facilitate, develop/carryout such Service Line cum Development (SLD) and network augmentation towards Renewable Energy projects, the cost for which shall be borne by such consumer(s)/ developer(s). However, if the Distribution Licensee considers/intends to develop/carryout such

SLD and network augmentation and bear the capital expenditure, the same shall be passed through in the ARR for such schemes implemented subject to prudence check by the Commission.

Provided that the land/space required, if any, for such SLD and network augmentation shall be provided by the respective consumer(s)/ developer(s) at their own cost.

- (6) The capacity of the Renewable Energy System under Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering framework to be installed by any Renewable Energy Generator shall not be less than 1 kilo Watt peak (KWp) and shall not exceed 500 kilo Watt peak (KWp).
- (7) The Distribution Licensee shall carry out detailed technical study for impact of renewable energy system installed under SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, on distribution system in respect of grid voltage & frequency imbalance, harmonics and technical losses etc. in its area of supply and submit the report to the Commission within four months from the date of issue of these guidelines.

4. Available Capacity at Distribution Transformer level

Distribution Transformer level capacity to be offered for connecting Renewable Energy System for Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering shall be as per Regulation 5(2) of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.

5. Procedure for Application and Registration

- (1) The consumer(s)/ applicant(s) shall submit an application for Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering in the format prescribed by the Distribution Licensee along with a non-refundable fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees one Thousand only) to the concerned Distribution Licensee for feasibility analysis. The consumer can download the application form from the website of the Distribution Licensee.
- (2) The Distribution Licensees shall allow connectivity of Renewable Energy System with the distribution system and process the application under Group Net metering or Virtual Net Metering as per the provisions laid down under Regulation 5(5) and Regulation 5(6) of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021. The procedure for connectivity of Renewable Energy System for Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering shall be three tier process, which is as follows:
 - i) Feasibility Analysis,
 - ii) Registration

iii) Connection Agreement.

- (3) The procedure for connectivity for Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering shall be as per Regulation 11 (1) of the SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.

6. Interconnectivity, Standards and Safety

The right of the Distribution Licensee to disconnect the Renewable Energy system shall be as per Regulations 8(4) of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.

7. Metering Arrangement

- (1) Distribution Licensee shall install Renewable Energy meter(s) at Generation point(s) which shall facilitate remote meter reading as per Regulation 9 of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.
- (2) During installation of the Net Meter, if modifications to the existing consumer meter is required to be done, then the cost of the new Net Meter and difference in cost of the existing meter and cost of modifications shall be borne by the consumer.

8. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under Group Net Metering Framework

- (1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Group Net Metering shall be as per SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.
- (2) In addition to the provision under Regulation 12(8) of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, it is further provided that:
 - a. Where the export of units during any billing period exceeds the import of units at the connection where Renewable Energy system is located, such surplus units injected into the grid shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer. The sequence of priority for adjustment shall be deemed to begin with the service connection where the Renewable Energy System is located.
 - b. The priority list for adjustment of the balance surplus energy against other electricity connection(s) may be revised by the consumer once in every financial year with an advance notice of two months.
 - c. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours,

etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the consumer where the Renewable Energy System is located and any surplus units injected shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off peak time block for Time of Day (ToD) consumers and normal time block for Non-ToD consumer.

- d. Where during any billing period the export of units either in Non-ToD Tariff or ToD Tariff exceeds the import of units by the electricity service connection(s), such surplus units injected by the consumer shall be carried forward to the next billing period as energy credit and shown as energy exported by the consumer for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period in the sequence indicated in the priority list.
- e. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant rebate/surcharge percentage of ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year. Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block for ToD consumers and normal time block for non-ToD consumer.

9. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under Virtual Net Metering Framework: -

- (1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Virtual Net Metering shall be as per SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.
- (2) In addition to the provision under Regulation 12(8) of SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, it is further provided that:
 - a. The energy generated from Renewable Energy System shall be credited in the monthly electricity bill of each participating consumer(s) as per the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/MoU entered by the consumer(s).
 - b. The consumer(s) shall have the option to change the share of credit of electricity from Renewable Energy System subject to the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/ MoU entered by the consumer(s) once in the financial year with an advance notice of two months.
 - c. Where the service connection of any participating consumer(s) is disconnected due to any reason under any law for the time being in force, the unadjusted

units/ remaining credits of that consumer shall be paid by the Distribution Licensee at the end of the financial year.

- d. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the participating consumer(s). Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block.
- e. Where the units credited during any billing period of any participating consumer exceeds the import of units by that consumer, such surplus credited units shall be carried forward in the next billing period as energy credits for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period of each participating consumer(s).
- f. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant rebate/surcharge percentage of ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year.

10. Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy

Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy shall be as per the SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021 as amended from time to time.

11. Theft and Tempering of Meter(s)

Theft of electricity and tampering of meter(s) shall be as per SSERC (Electricity Supply Code) Regulations, 2012.

12. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute in billing shall be as per the SSERC (Redressal of grievances of consumers and establishment of forum and Electricity Ombudsman) Regulations, 2012 as amended from time to time.

13. Applicability of other charges

The Renewable Energy System commissioned till 31st March 2023 under SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021, shall be exempted during its useful life from payment of wheeling charge, banking charge, cross subsidy charge and any other charge(s).

14. Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)

The quantum of electricity generated under SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021 shall qualify towards compliance of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for Distribution Licensee if Renewable Energy Generator is not an obligated entity.

15. Eligibility to Participate under Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism.

Eligibility to Participate under Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism shall be as per SSERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2021.

16. Powers to relax

The Commission may from time to time add, vary, alter, suspend, modify, amend or repeal any of the provisions of these guidelines.

17. Powers to amend

The Commission may from time to time issue such directions/ guidelines/ orders as it may consider deemed fit/ appropriate for the implementation of these Guidelines.

By Order of the Commission.

Sd/-
(Karma D. Youtso),SCS
Secretary
Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission