



**ORDER
OF THE
WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. OA-367/21-22**

IN REGARD TO THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (WBSEDCL) FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONNECTION PROCEDURES FOR SOLAR PV GENERATING SYSTEM UNDER NET METERING OR NET BILLING ARRANGEMENT UNDER WBSEDCL PROCEDURE – C (2021) IN TERMS OF REGULATION 16.9 OF THE WEST BENGAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (COGENERATION AND GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY) REGULATIONS, 2013, AS AMENDED

PRESENT:

SRI SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA, CHAIRPERSON

SRI DURGADAS GOSWAMI, MEMBER

SRI PULAK KUMAR TEWARI, MEMBER

DATE: 01.12.2021



Approval of the connection procedures for Solar PV Generating System under Net Metering or Net Billing Arrangement under WBSEDCL Procedure – C (2021) in terms of regulation 16.9 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy) Regulations, 2013, as amended



FACTS IN BRIEF:

- 1.0 The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (in short 'WBSEDCL') has submitted an application on 31.03.2021 for approval of connection procedures for Solar PV Generating System under Net Metering or Net Billing Arrangement under WBSEDCL Procedure – C (2021) in terms of Regulation 16.9 of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Cogeneration and Generation of Electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (in short 'RE 1st Amendment Regulations'). The Commission admitted the application in Case No. OA – 367/21-22.
- 2.0 The application of WBSEDCL inter-alia stated the following:
 - 2.1 WBSEDCL has prepared a procedure to be termed as Procedure – C (2021) for receiving and disposal of the application for connectivity of Solar PV of the eligible consumers under net-metering and net-billing mode of connections, in terms of regulation 16.9 of the RE 1st Amendment Regulations.
 - 2.2 WBSEDCL has submitted the procedure for approval of the Commission and prayed to consider the following matters:
 - (i) Allow WBSEDCL to provide connectivity of Solar PV under Net Metering/ Billing arrangement on 'first-come-first served' basis up to 50 MWp annually, which would be reviewed considering the impact of infirm Solar Power into the system.
 - (ii) Allow relaxation of paragraph (c) of clause (v) of regulation 6.1 regarding the upper limit of installed capacity of solar PV as well as exemption of application fees in respect of Government schemes or schemes prepared in line with Government scheme i.e., 'KUSUM' etc.
 - (iii) WBSEDCL submitted that no generation meter is required under the Principal Regulations prior to 1st Amendment. Thus, as per the order dated 19.03.2021 of the Commission, no generation meters is/will be installed to the consumers applying for net metering upto 30.06.2021 following the provisions of Principal Regulations. Further, most of such net-metering arrangement is done in Government Schools or Establishments by installing Solar PV under Government funded scheme.



In view of the above, WBSEDCL proposed to install Generation meter without cost realization in respect of the above stated consumers and allow to consider the cost incurred for the purpose in the ARR of WBSEDCL.

- (iv) WBSEDCL also submitted that procurement of meters along with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) with RS485 (or higher) communication port as per RE Regulations requires time. Further, WBSEDCL is also taking programme to procure Smart meter in its licensed area. Thus, WBSEDCL may be allowed to proceed for effecting Solar PV connections under net metering or net billing mode as per approved procedure with its existing meters till the time Smart Meter/ Meter with AMI with RS485 communication port is available. WBSEDCL also submitted that the existing meters will be replaced on availability of the same.

In view of the above, WBSEDCL also prayed for providing Generation meters on cost realization basis from the consumers in order to ensure change of Generation meters in future and also continued service through smooth replacement of meter in case of defect avoiding discontinuity of net metering/ billing on account of defect of meters supplied by the consumers.

- (v) WBSEDCL submitted that the expenditure incurred on account of physical meter reading or through Modem and SIM card via MDAS system shall be considered in the ARR of WBSEDCL.
- (vi) WBSEDCL also prayed for allowing two (2) months' time to modify their software and to implement the said Procedure – C (2021) from the date of approval of the Commission so that procedure can be implemented from the 1st Date of the month after 2 months from the date of approval of the procedure.

3.0 The Commission directed WBSEDCL to publish the gist of their application as approved by the Commission inviting suggestions, objections or comments from the stakeholders in respect of the procedure. WBSEDCL, accordingly, published the gist of the application in (i) the "Bartaman", (ii) "The Telegraph", (iii) the "Anandabazar Patrika" and (iv) the "Aajkal" on 07.09.2021 inviting suggestions and objections on their petition within 14 days (including the date of publication) of publication of the notice in Newspaper. No suggestions, objections or comments have been received by the Commission within the stipulated time-period.



OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMISSION:

- 4.0 In terms of regulation 16.9 of the RE 1st Amendment Regulations notified on 22.12.2020, Distribution Licensees were required to submit a detailed procedure within 30 days for receiving and disposal of applications for connectivity of the solar PV generating system of the eligible consumers and submit it before the Commission for approval. The Commission had extended the last date of submission by the distribution licensee upto 31.03.2021 based on the prayers of the Distribution Licensees.
- 5.0 The Commission observes that, subsequently on 31.12.2020, the Ministry of Power, Government of India has notified Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 wherein certain procedural guidelines and timeframe have been proposed to facilitate setting up of Solar PV system at the consumer premises.
- 6.0 Thus, the Commission finds it suitable to analyze the detailed procedure (PROCEDURES – C) submitted by WBSEDCL in light of the provisions of RE 1st Amendment Regulations along with the broad procedural guidelines proposed in the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 and observes the followings:
- a) In clause 3.2 of the procedure, WBSEDCL proposed that data communication system for real time monitoring is required for installation of the solar PV capacity of 1.5 MWp and above. However, the Commission observes that the same being not in consonance with any regulation framed by the Commission, should be deleted.
 - b) In clause 6.2 of the procedure, WBSEDCL proposed application fees of Rs. 250 + GST for single phase L&MV consumers, Rs. 500 + GST for three phase L&MV consumers and Rs. 2000 + GST for HV & EHV consumers. The Commission finds it suitable to make a simple and uniform application fees structure among the licensees across the State. Accordingly, the application fee for all L&MV consumers is allowed as Rs. 500 + applicable GST and for all HV&EHV consumers as Rs. 2000 + applicable GST.
 - c) In clause 6.4 of the procedure, WBSEDCL inter-alia submitted that the application for net-metering or net-billing shall be accepted only if all dues in respect of such