



NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY FEDERATION OF INDIA

Regd. No. 362 / IV of 8 May, 2013

Ref: - NSEFI/CTU/2020-21/3
Date: 16th July, 2020

To,
Shri Subir Sen
The Chief Operating Officer (CTU Planning)
Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
Saudamini, Plot No. 02, Sector-29,
Gurgaon (Haryana) – 122001

Sub: Request for extension of LTA operationalisation timelines in line to the SCOD of the projects revised under Force Majeure events by SECI/NTPC and Utilities

Ref:

1. MNRE OM dated 20.03.2020
2. MNRE OM dated 20.04.2020
3. MNRE OM dated 30.06.2020

Dear Sir,

Greetings from National Solar Energy Federation of India. The National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) is an umbrella organization of all solar energy stakeholders of India. This apex solar organization works in the area of policy advocacy and is a national platform for addressing all issues connected with solar energy growth in India. It consists of leading International, National and regional companies and includes Solar Developers, Manufacturers, EPC Contractors, Rooftop Installers, System Integrators, and Balance of plant suppliers and manufacturers, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and works in a complementary manner with the Central and State Governments for achieving India's national solar target of 100 GW by 2022.

With the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) throughout the globe, it has been declared as a global emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Feb'20. In this regard, Government of India had imposed a complete nationwide lockdown since 22.03.2020 and the same still continues as the situation is worsening day by day. Project development of various under constructional



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projects is still in a standstill situation since the imposition of the lockdown which has added to the challenges of time bound completion of the projects.

In this regard, hon'ble MNRE vide its OM had given Lockdown + 30 days extension to all the nationwide projects being implemented on account of disruption of supply chain. Additionally, the procuring parties like SECI/NTPC/ State Discoms have also provided their support to the developers in terms of extension in the project completion timelines.

Further, as per clause 11.2 of the Detailed Procedure for "Grant of Connectivity to projects based on Renewable Sources" the developers are bound to complete their transmission line and bay works within 24 months from the date of intimation of bay allocation. In case of any non-compliance by the developers, PGCIL can revoke the grid connectivity. As you would appreciate, the reasons for such delay are not at all attributable to the developers. Such Force Majeure events are beyond the control of the developers. It is pertinent here to mention that there are projects wherein the timeline of commissioning of the projects is already set as 24 months from the effective date and the actual project timelines have been revised beyond 24 months after the lockdown hit on the projects due to outbreak of COVID-19 virus.

In addition to the above stated challenges, the revised SCOD timelines have gone way beyond the timelines mentioned for LTA operationalisation. Despite occurrence of such Force Majeure events, the RE developers are being asked to pay transmission charges along with opening of LC, prior to the commissioning of the project, irrespective of any fault of RE Developer.

In view of the above stated challenges faced by the RE developers, we would like to request the following:

- 1. It is requested that such force majeure events shall be considered, while defining / evaluating the timelines for construction of dedicated lines and a suitable extension be given to such developers to complete the dedicated transmission line(s) and pooling sub-station(s) and extension of MTOA/LTOA in line with extension of SCOD.**
- 2. It is requested that as the RE projects are exempted from payment of transmission charges, there should not any implication of transmission charges and requirement of opening of LC, for any delay in commissioning of project due to Force Majeure events, specifically in such cases where necessary extension has already been granted for project SCOD by the bidding agencies.**



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3. A clear time frame of two months should be provided to the Generator for completion of inter-connection with the CTU, after the operationalization of LTA, for completion of necessary formalities.

We shall be happy to coordinate a meeting with our member companies, if so required, to discuss above requests and provide you further details.



16/7/2020



Subrahmanyam Pulipaka

Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:

- Shri R K Singh, Hon Minister of State(I/C), Power, New and Renewable Energy
- Mr Sanjiv Nandan Sahai, Secretary, Ministry of Power
- Mr Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Mr. Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Joint Secretary (Solar), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy