

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Invoicing w.r.t. Renewable Energy (RE) supplied by Renewable Energy Generating Stations in view of the situation prevailing due to the second wave of COVID-19.

1. Reference is invited to this Ministry's O.M. No. 283/20/2020-GRID SOLAR dated 01.04.2020, wherein, considering the then prevailing lockdown due to COVID-19, submission of hard copy of invoice/bill for monthly energy supplied by RE power projects was waived off for such period of lockdown and alternate mechanisms were advised.
2. Representations have again been received in the Ministry for seeking similar relief on the grounds that there has been resurgence of COVID-19, leading to several States/UTs issuing instructions restricting activity.
3. The aforesaid representations have been carefully examined in the Ministry. It is noted that while there are no Central Government instructions for a countrywide lockdown, since beginning of April 2021, several States/UTs have taken various measures like night curfew, imposition of section 144, weekend lockdown etc., which may have affected invoicing w.r.t. Renewable Energy Generating Stations.
4. Accordingly, as a measure of relief to RE projects, it has been decided that, for RE projects being implemented through MNRE designated implementing agencies, from 1st April 2021 the requirement of submission of physical hard copies is waived off and the implementing agencies will accept soft copies of invoices. This arrangement shall continue for a period to be decided in due course depending on the COVID-19 related developments that take place in the coming weeks.
5. During this period, in cases involving Joint Meter Reading (JMR) where signing of JMR is difficult, soft copies of invoices based upon the self meter readings by RE power generators, duly substantiated by photographs of the meter reading/ downloaded meter data, may be accepted. In cases where such self-meter reading is also not possible, or as an alternative, implementing agencies may choose to pay on the basis of invoice for the same month of the previous year or invoice for the previous month, if it is lower. This shall however be subject to subsequent truing up based on actual meter reading.
6. Once the period mentioned in paragraph 4 above is over, normal invoicing shall be resumed, and within 15 days of the last date of such period, RE power projects shall submit hard copies of invoices for this period for necessary adjustment, if any, in the subsequent bill.
7. The other agencies, especially the end-procurers of implementing agencies are also requested to follow the above mechanism for its effective implementation.
8. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (NRE & Power).



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To:

1. CMD, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
2. CMD, NTPC Limited
3. CMD, NHPC Limited

Copy to:

1. Addl. Chief Secretaries/ Pr. Secretaries/ Secretaries of Power/ Energy / Renewable Energy Departments of Governments/ Administrations of all States/ UTs
2. Managing Directors of all DISCOMs
3. NIC, MNRE, for uploading on MNRE website for dissemination of information

Copy for internal circulation to:

PS to Hon'ble Minister (NRE & Power) / Sr. PPS to Secretary, MNRE / Sr. PPS to AS/ JS (AKS)/ JS (BPY) / JS (DDJ)/ JS&FA / All Group Heads