



applicant have been cleared. The Commission observes that, the mechanism of recovery of different kinds of dues from a consumer and consequential actions are guided by the Electricity Supply Code notified under section 50 of the Electricity Act 2003. Thus, the proposed additional condition needs to be deleted.

- d) WBSEDCL submitted different timelines for allowing connection under Net Metering or Net Billing Arrangement which has been broadly described below:
- (i) Duly filled in application form along with other documents shall have to submitted at the concerned office of WBSEDCL or through online with the application fee.
 - (ii) WBSEDCL shall handover a signed and dated receipt to the applicant with proper official seal for offline submission. In case of online submission, a system generated receipt for application will be provided.
 - (iii) Thereafter, an inspection at the premises to which net-metering/ net-billing is required shall be carried out by WBSEDCL within 15 days from the date of receipt of the application. WBSEDCL has proposed that the inspection report shall provide Distribution Transformer (DTR) capacity constraint, if any or any alternation of service required.
 - (iv) Following this, WBSEDCL shall issue a quotation indicating meter cost, testing fees, cost for alteration of service, if any and **intimation for “Go-ahead” clearance** within 7 days from the date of inspection. In case of inability of WBSEDCL to provide Net Metering or Net Billing Arrangement due to non-feasibility, WBSEDCL shall inform the consumer through a letter within 7 days from date of inspection.
 - (v) The quotation shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance of such quotation if not extended based on the prayer of the consumer. Consumer shall make payment of the quotation amount and signed agreement form within the validity period. In case payment is not



made within the validity period, the application shall be treated as cancelled and the application fees shall be forfeited.

- (vi) The consumers shall have to install the Solar Plant within 180 days from the date of "Go-ahead" clearance and shall submit Installation / Work Completion Report of Solar Plant, Certificate of Fitness and Clearance from Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Government of West Bengal as per provisions of the Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2010 (in short 'CEA Safety Regulations), as amended from time to time
 - (vii) On receiving the Work Completion Report, inspection and testing of consumer installation shall be done within 10 days from the date of receipt of Report. If installation is not found to be proper for grid synchronization, WBSEDCL shall inform the same to the applicant within 5 days from the date of inspection.
 - (viii) Installation of meter and grid synchronization shall be done within 10 days from the date of successful connectivity inspection.
- e) The Commission observes that the timelines and the steps proposed by WBSEDCL in their detailed procedures as mentioned in paragraph 6 (d) above needs to be modified as below for lending better support to the consumer and for aligning the same with the timeframe suggested in the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. Accordingly, the Commission directs the followings:
- (i) WBSEDCL shall create an online portal for receiving applications from consumers for installation, interconnection and metering of roof-top solar PV system and update the same on a regular basis.
 - (ii) WBSEDCL shall ensure that the application is complete in all respect and can be submitted both through online and offline modes. If any hardcopy has been submitted, WBSEDCL shall ensure that the same shall be uploaded in their online portal with a unique registration number along with time and date stamp.



In case of online application, there will be a system generated acknowledgement with unique registration number. In this regard, WBSEDCL shall maintain adequate facilities in their concerned office to assist the consumers (hereinafter referred as 'applicant') with the online system.

- (iii) An online application tracking mechanism based on the unique registration number shall be provided by WBSEDCL through web-based application or any other mode to monitor the status of processing of the application like receipt of application, site inspection, meter installation and commissioning, etc. by the applicant.
- (iv) WBSEDCL shall ensure that the process of technical feasibility study, generation of quotation and intimation of "Go-ahead" clearance shall be completed within twenty (20) days from the date of submission of application by the consumers. WBSEDCL shall also provide a copy of the agreement Form along with the "Go-ahead" clearance. The agreement format shall include specific details of technical parameters required to be confirmed by the grid connected Solar PV system. WBSEDCL shall provide an advance notice, not less than three days, to the applicant intimating the date of inspection of its premises. In addition to the cost of meters and cost of alteration of service, if any, the quotation amount shall also include cost of testing regarding fitness certificate in case the applicant requests WBSEDCL to carry out the fitness test. WBSEDCL shall intimate the applicant regarding non-feasibility, if any, based on technical study report within seven (7) days from the date of inspection.
- (v) The applicant shall submit the signed agreement and pay the quotation amount to WBSEDCL within ninety (90) days from the date of quotation. On request from the applicant WBSEDCL, may extend the period for maximum thirty (30) days. The application will be cancelled if the quotation money is not paid or the signed agreement copy complete in all respect is not submitted even within the extended time period. In such case the application fees shall be forfeited.



- (vi) Applicant shall submit the work completion report along with clearance from the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Government of West Bengal as per provisions of the CEA Safety Regulations within one-eighty (180) days from the date of issuance of “Go-ahead” clearance.

Provided that, for applicants connected at the supply voltage below the notified voltage, self-certification as per the CEA Safety Regulations as amended from time to time is sufficient. WBSEDCL shall provide a proforma of self-declaration by the consumers in line with Annexure-B of the West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of Licensees Relating to Consumer Services) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2019.

Provided further that, in case the applicant fails to submit the work completion report within the specified time-period, the application shall be cancelled by WBSEDCL after giving a notice period of thirty (30) days. In terms of the notice applicant may request for one-time extension of time for a maximum period of 90 days. In case the application is cancelled even after such extended period, if any, the application fees shall be forfeited. The quotation amount after adjusting any expenditure already incurred by WBSEDCL shall be refunded without any interest.

- (vii) As soon as the installation is completed, the applicants shall either opt for fitness test on their own in presence of authorized representative of WBSEDCL or request WBSEDCL to carry out such test in terms of clause (i) of regulation 7.2 of RE 1st Amendment Regulations and intimate WBSEDCL accordingly. In both the cases, WBSEDCL shall carry out the fitness test or send its authorized representative, as the case may be within ten (10) days of receipt of such intimation after giving an advance notice not less than three (3) days.
- (viii) In case WBSEDCL carries out the testing and finds the system in order, it shall provide a copy of fitness certificate to the applicant within five (5) days from the date of such testing. In case the testing is done by the applicant, in presence of authorized representative of WBSEDCL, the applicant shall submit the



fitness certificate to WBSEDCL within five (5) days from the date of such testing. If any deficiency is observed during testing, the applicant shall cure the deficiencies and further apply for fitness test along with required charges of testing, if any.

- (ix) Within fifteen (15) days from the date of submission of the the fitness certificate by the applicant, WBSEDCL shall complete all formalities including final inspection, if required, signing of agreement, alteration of connection, installation of meters and synchronizing the solar system with the grid.

7.0 Regarding other general submissions made by WBSEDCL in their petition, the Commission observes the followings:

- (a) Regarding WBSEDCL's submission for allowing Net Metering/ Billing arrangement on 'first come first served' basis up to 50 MWp annually with periodic review, the Commission does not agree to any annual capping of RE capacity addition particularly in view of the fact that so far West Bengal has added only a modest quantity of solar capacity. However, WBSEDCL shall provide connectivity on 'first come first served' basis only.
- (b) Regarding relaxation proposed by WBSEDCL for Government schemes, the Commission observes that these schemes are taken up by concerned authority to promote renewables and to support the end consumers. Thus, in case of Government Schemes or Schemes prepared in line with Government Scheme, provisions allowed in the schemes may be adopted. The Commission has already taken similar view regarding KUSUM scheme of Government of India in Order dated 24.08.2021 in Case No. SM – 27/21 – 22.
- (c) Regarding proposed metering arrangement specified in paragraph 2.2 (iii) above, the same shall be as per the provision of the Principal RE Regulations prior to the First Amendment.



- (d) In the interest of smooth and expeditious implementation of net-metering/ net-billing, the Commission agrees with the proposal of WBSEDCL as detailed in paragraph 2.2 (iv) above.
- (e) The meter reading expenses, etc. are to be considered as per provisions of the Tariff Regulations.

8.0 The Commission further observes that WBSEDCL, for implementation and upgradation of software, has sought a time period of two months. The Commission directs WBSEDCL to ensure completion of the required software upgradation to facilitate the net-metering and net-billing arrangement from 1st January, 2022.

9.0 The Commission also observes that the solar energy generated by roof top solar PV of the consumers connected to net metering / net billing arrangement shall be considered for fulfilling the Renewable Purchase Obligation of the distribution licensees. Thus, proper meter reading and record of such generation is to be ascertained by the distribution licensees as per the provisions of RE 1st Amendment Regulations.

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

10.0 In view of the above, the Commission directs WBSEDCL to modify their proposed connection procedures [Procedure – C (2021)] including the model agreement in line with the observations made in paragraph 6 above and submit within seven (7) days from the date of issuance of this order before the Commission for approval.

11.0 The Commission also directs WBSEDCL to prominently display the followings in its website and all its offices:

- (i) detailed standardized procedure for installation and commissioning of roof top solar system along with formats and model agreements;
- (ii) a single point of contact to facilitate the consumers in installation of roof top solar system from the stage of submission of application form to successful commissioning;



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



- (iii) address and telephone numbers of offices where filled-up application forms can be submitted;
- (iv) complete list of documents required to be furnished along with such applications;
- (v) applicable charges to be deposited by the applicant.

12.0 A copy of the order shall be posted in the website of the Commission.

13.0 WBSEDCL and concerned entities shall download the copy of the order from the website of the Commission and act on it. Certified copy of the order, if applied for, be given to the parties on completion of formalities laid down in West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2013, as amended and on submission of necessary fees.

Sd/-
(PULAK KUMAR TEWARI)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(DURGADAS GOSWAMI)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(SUTIRTHA BHATTACHARYA)
CHAIRPERSON

Dated: 01.12.2021

Sd/-
SECRETARY