

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Essential operation of renewable power generation utilities (Solar Power Plants, Wind Power Plants, Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Plants, Small Hydro Power Plants, Biomass/Biogas based Power Plants, etc.) and permissions required for movement of personnel and goods for such operation in view of restrictions being imposed due to rising cases of COVID-19

Ref: MNRE's D. O. Letter No. 283/18/2020-GRID Solar dated 26.03.2020 to State/ UT authorities

During the imposition of nation-wide lockdown due to COVID-19 in March 2020, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), vide its above referred D.O. Letter, addressed to State authorities, had conveyed to such authorities that Power Generation (including Renewable Power Generation) is an essential service for securing smooth and uninterrupted power flow across and within states. It was further conveyed that operation of Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS) is critical for maintaining power supply across the country and MNRE had requested support of such authorities in facilitating/ensuring uninterrupted movement of personnel, goods and services required for operation of Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS).

2. In view of the recent rise in cases of COVID-19, it is likely that restrictions on movement of personnel and goods would be reimposed in some places. This Ministry would thus again request the addressees to facilitate/ensure uninterrupted movement of personnel, goods and services required for operation of Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS), as was requested vide the aforesaid D.O. letter dated 26.03.2020 (copy enclosed).

3. Additionally, it is also requested that the functioning of corporate offices of renewable energy generating stations may also be allowed, with safeguards as appropriate, as these offices carry out off-field crucial processes / operations like forecasting, scheduling, planning, remote monitoring, supervision and control which are critical for smooth operation of Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS).

4. These issues with the approval of Secretary, MNRE.



(Mohd Azmal Mansoori)

Scientist-B

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To:

1. Chief Secretaries of all States/ UTs,
2. Secretaries (Power/ Energy/ Renewable Energy) of all States/ UTs,
3. All District Magistrates of all States/ UTs,
4. All District Superintendents of Police all States/ UTs,
5. All Police Commissioners of all States/ UTs,
6. All Municipal Commissioners of all cities,
7. All heads of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of all States/ UTs.

Copy to following with instructions to ensure the necessary preventive measures/ equipment/ amenities for protection from COVID-19 infection of the employees and workforce deployed for operation and maintenance works.

1. MD, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
2. CMD, NTPC Limited
3. CMD, NHPC Limited
4. Renewable Power Developer Associations
5. All IPPs generating renewable power
6. Copy to NIC with a request to host on the website of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for information of all the concerned.

Copy for internal circulation:

Sr. PPS to Secretary, MNRE / JS (VK)/ JS (DDJ)/ JS&FA / All Group Heads and Division Heads in MNRE

AMITESH KUMAR SINHA, IRAS

**संयुक्त सचिव
JOINT SECRETARY**



सत्यमेव जयते

**भारत सरकार
Government of India
नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय
Ministry of New & Renewable
Energy
ब्लॉक संख्या 14, केंद्रीय कार्यालय परिसर,
लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110003
Block No. 14, C.G.O. Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003**

D. O. No. 283/18/2020-GRID SOLAR

Date: 26th March, 2020

To,

1. Chief Secretaries of all States/ UTs,
2. Secretaries (Power/ Energy/ Renewable Energy) of all States/ UTs,
3. All District Magistrates of all States/ UTs,
4. All District Superintendents of Police all States/ UTs,
5. All Police Commissioners of all States/ UTs,
6. All Municipal Commissioners of all cities,
7. All heads of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of all States/ UTs.

Subject: Essential operation of renewable power generation utilities (Solar Power Plants, Wind Power Plants, Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Plants, Small Hydro Power Plants, Biomass/Biogas based Power Plants, etc.) and permission for material movement needed by them during the nation-wide lockdown for COVID-19 outbreak.

Reference is invited to Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 24.03.2020 (copy enclosed) regarding lock-down in all parts of the Country for a period of 21 days with effect from 25.03.2020 to contain COVID-19 in the Country. As per the Guidelines enclosed with the above Order, all offices of Government of India, its Autonomous and Sub-ordinate offices and Public Corporation shall remain closed except certain essential services including power generation and transmission units.

2. Power Generation (including Renewable Power Generation) is an essential service for securing smooth and uninterrupted power flow across and within states. In the current scenario of COVID-19 outbreak and nationwide lockdown announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister, there will be need to ensure uninterrupted power generation (including generation from Renewable Energy (RE) Power Plants).

Amish
26/03/20

3. Renewable Power Generation Plants, whether inter-state or intra-state, supplying renewable power to State DISCOMs through Central Power Companies like Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) and NTPC Limited (NTPC), and other interstate Renewable Power Generation Plants, including Independent Power Plants (IPPs) generating renewable energy, hereinafter referred to as **"Renewable Energy Generating Stations (REGS)"** include Solar Power Plants, Wind Power Plants, Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Plants, Small Hydro Power Plants, Biomass/Biogas based Power Plants, etc. and supply inter-state/intra-state electricity to grid. These "REGS" generate electricity and supply the same to grid even in situations when the conventional power plants may not be running at optimal levels due to logistics constraints w.r.t. supply of fuels like coal, natural gas, diesel, etc. Thus, operation of "REGS" is critical for maintaining power supply across the country.

4. In order to provide uninterrupted operations of "REGS" the following support is requested from your office:


- a) Permission for "REGS" staff, associated workforce and vehicles to move around and movement of material and field engineers at "REGS" sites, substations, transmission lines and towers, etc. with minimum manpower.
- b) Allowing minimum staff, required to work for the "REGS" and offices for ensuring uninterrupted renewable power generation.
- c) Waiver from section 144, Nationwide Lockdown, Curfew, or any other limitation on number of people to gather in locations like "REGS" sites, substations, transmission lines and towers, etc. and other related locations where it may be required for operation and maintenance activities of renewable power generation and associated equipment.
- d) Availability of Batteries/Energy Storage Systems, Electrical Equipment, Maintenance equipment, Tractors/Trucks and other required Tools and Plants for maintenance activities.
- e) Allow round the clock permission to mobilize field staff to be able to reach and access electrical installations of "REGS".

5. Considering the importance of continuity of RE power supply, it is requested that above mentioned permissions may be granted to "REGS" officers and staff and their vendors all over India for smooth operation and maintenance of "REGS".

6. It is also requested to issue the necessary permission / passes as required for movement of employees and associated workforce on production of official ID Cards / authorization letter from "REGS" officials.


26/03/20

7. The State Governments may also issue the similar instructions/permission/ passes/facilitations in respect of State Renewable Power Generating Stations (State GenCos) and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) (generating renewable energy) which supply renewable power within their respective States.


26/03/20

(Amitesh Kumar Sinha)


Joint Secretary

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Copy to following with instructions to ensure the necessary preventive measures/ equipment/ amenities for safeguard from infection of Corona Virus to their employees and workforce deployed for operation and maintenance works.

1. Secretaries (Power/ Energy/ Renewable Energy) of all States/ UTs, with a request for similar action in respect of the State Renewable Power Generating Companies/Independent Power Producers (IPPs) (generating renewable energy) which supply power within their respective States
2. CMD, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)
3. CMD, NTPC Limited
4. Renewable Power Developer Associations
5. All IPPs generating renewable power
6. Copy to NIC with a request to host on the website of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy for information of all the concerned.


26/03/20

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