

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

Petition No. 1931 of 2021.

In the matter of:

Petition seeking approval and necessary directions of the Commission with regard to Green Energy Credit Scheme launched by GIFT PCL for its consumers.

Petitioner : GIFT Power Company Limited

Represented by : Nobody was present.

CORAM:

Anil Mukim, Chairman

Mehul M. Gandhi, Member

S. R. Pandey, Member

Date: 04/06/2022.

ORDER

1. This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner GIFT Power Company Limited (GIFT PCL), for approval and necessary directions of the Commission with regard to Green Energy Credit Scheme for its consumers *inter alia* seeking following prayers:

(a) To admit the present petition for further necessary process;

(b) To approve the Green Energy Credit Scheme launched by the Petitioner GIFT PCL for its consumers as proposed in the Petition;

(c) To allow additions/alterations/changes/modifications to the application at a future date;

(d) To allow any other relief, order or direction, which the Commission deems fit to be issued;

(e) To condone any inadvertent omissions/errors/shortcomings and permit the Petitioner to add/change/modify/alter this filing and make further

submissions as may be required at a future date.

2. Facts mentioned in the Petition in brief are as stated below:
 - 2.1. GIFT Power Company Limited is a 100% subsidiary company of Gujarat International Finance Tec-city Company Limited (GIFTCL) incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act 1956 and is a distribution licensee for the supply of electricity in the GIFT City area. The Commission granted the license for distribution of electricity vide its Order dated 06.03.2013 as per License Application No. 1 of 2012 to the Petitioner for catering the power requirement GIFT City which includes both Special Economic Zone and DTA zone areas in GIFT City.
 - 2.2. GIFT City is planned as a green field project with integrated development that will comprise of over 100 vertical buildings with total Built-up area (BUA) potential of approximately 62 mn. sq. ft. of which 67% will be Commercial, 22% Residential and 11% Social (hospitals, schools etc.).
 - 2.3. The development of GIFT offers a significant opportunity to be a test-bed to drive reforms and innovation in various fields including in delivery systems, local government, physical planning, infrastructure development, environmental protection and so on. Getting these foundation principles right is crucial to plan and execute the development strategies.
 - 2.4. As a part of the stronger Climate Action Plan, Commercial and Industrial (C&I) consumers in India and worldwide are increasingly looking towards renewable energy for various strategic, environmental reasons. GIFT City being a vertically integrated city, there is less scope for occupants/consumers in high-rise buildings to install their own rooftop solar plants.
 - 2.5. Accordingly, GIFTCL recognizes the above fact and orchestrated a model for creation of a common solar program named 'Green Energy Credit (GEC) Scheme for its consumers. Any interested consumer of GIFTCL shall become a Green Energy Partner (GEP) with GIFT Power Company Limited and reap out the benefits of the scheme.

2.6. The salient features of the Green Energy Credit Scheme are summarised as under:

- (a) Common Solar Power Plants shall be set up within GIFT City (licensee area of GIFTPCL).
- (b) Electricity generated by the solar power plants shall be injected into GIFTPCL distribution network.
- (c) Generated Solar power shall be distributed to registered consumers.
- (d) The Consumer does not need to have any roof/terrace/land for solar plant.
- (e) Interested Consumer shall apply for the GEC Scheme by registration and pay the capital cost contribution of solar plant.
- (f) GIFTPCL shall limit the registration for GEC scheme based on contract demand i.e:
 - (i) Commercial and Industrial customer shall be allowed to demand maximum up to 50% of their contract demand (including their own solar plant if applicable).
 - (ii) Residential consumers shall be allowed to demand maximum up to 100% of their contract demand.
- (g) The consumer making capital cost contribution shall be benefitted by way of crediting 100 Units (KWh) per month per KW of registered capacity in every month billing cycle for consecutive 10 years.
- (h) Capital cost of Rs. 40,000 (Rupees Forty thousand) per KW of registered capacity shall be charged to every registered consumer.
- (i) GIFTPCL shall not levy operation and maintenance charges for any consumer.
- (j) If any consumer utilizes less electricity than the monthly credited unit than GIFTPCL shall pay the APPC (Average Pooled Purchase Cost) charge for balance credit of units. The APPC rates are decided by Hon'ble GERC from time to time.
- (k) Credit settlement shall be monthly and will be settled in every bill. No credit shall be carried forward in next billing cycle.
- (l) Registered Consumers shall achieve break-even of Return on Investment in 4 to 5 years with 100% monthly consumption equivalent to GEC credit depending on determined retail tariffs.

- 2.7. In line with its goals to be a model sustainable city, GIFT is keen to harness renewable energy sources to reduce its dependence from conventional sources and keeping in view of the increasing consumer commitment to shift towards renewable energy sources. GIFT PCL floated the scheme to all consumers earlier this year. GIFT PCL informed all the esteemed consumers regarding the scheme and floated specific timelines for getting associated with GIFT PCL.
- 2.8. However, GIFT PCL had received requests from various consumers for extending the last date of registration considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, GIFT PCL had extended last date for consumer registration. Initially while designing the scheme, many consumers have shown interest to get associated with the scheme but due to the global pandemic of Covid-19 and nation-wide imposed lockdown prominent consumers like STT Data Centre, TCS, Bank of America, NSE IPSC Ltd. and other small consumers have delayed their plans of getting associated with the scheme due to delay in demand increase and different business issues in this ongoing pandemic.
- 2.9. Till date, GIFT PCL have received applications for 278.5 KW capacity till date. The details of the consumers registered for the scheme are as follows:

Sr. No.	Registered Consumers	Capacity Requisition (in KW)
1	Tata Chemicals Limited	35
2	Bridge Hotel	135
3	Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission	25
4	Software Technology Parks of India	27.5
5	Afro-Asian Insurance Brokers	1
6	CYBAGE Software Private Limited	55
Total Capacity Registered		278.5 KW

- 2.10. GIFT PCL has planned to set-up Distributed Solar PV Projects across GIFT City which shall be installed on Rooftops and Parking spaces of GIFT Utilities. The electricity generated shall be injected in GIFT PCL's Distribution Network.
- 2.11. The capital cost contribution from registered consumers have been derived after consultation with various vendors and is kept at Rs. 40,000/KW, considering small capacities at distributed locations and difficult terrain. The Cost is less/equivalent to the benchmarking index for FY 2019-20 released by MNRE.

- 2.12. The consumer enrolling into scheme and making capital cost contribution shall be benefitted by way of crediting 100 Units (KWh) per month per KW of registered capacity in every month billing cycle for consecutive 10 years. Every registered consumer shall execute an 'Green Energy Credit Agreement with GIFTPCL, which will be valid for 10 years from the month of First Green Energy Credit. The Draft Green Energy Credit Agreement to be executed with registered consumers is filed with the Petition.
- 2.13. The GEC Model Scheme shall be a win-win situation, as consumers would lead into savings in electricity bills for consecutive 10 years and GIFTPCL shall be able to fulfill its Renewable Purchase Obligation partially in forthcoming years.
- 2.14. GIFTPCL anticipates that a collaborative effort to undertake green energy initiatives and consumer awareness towards renewable energy can build a market confidence and also add momentum in the drive to increase renewable power consumption by C&I consumers and ultimately contribute to achieve India's ambitious target of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.
3. The matter was kept for hearing on 02.06.2022.
4. When the matter was called out, the Petitioner neither remained present nor made any written communication regarding inability to remain present, despite notice. However, the office of the Commission received a letter No. GIFTPCL/ENG/PP/GEP Scheme/2019/96-01 dated 01.06.2022 requesting for withdrawing the present Petition filed by the Petitioner. The relevant portion of letter is reproduced as under:

“.....

This is with reference to the above referred letters, GIFT PCL have filed a petition for approval of Green Energy Credit Scheme before the Hon'ble Commission.

The Green Energy Credit Scheme was designed by GIFT PCL in the year 2020 and it has been observed that large scale market developments with new concepts such as Green Power tariff, Virtual Net Metering were evolved during the last two years (i.e., after filing of the Petition) which would help the Consumers in sourcing the Green Energy and become Carbon Neutral.

In pursuant to the above market developments and as 2 years have already been lapsed, GIFT PCL is willing to withdraw the Petition No. 1931 of 2021 filed for 'Seeking Approval of Green Energy Credit Scheme', as GIFT PCL is willing to adopt new market developments.

*GIFT PCL assures the Hon'ble Commission that, Registration Fess paid by the interested Consumers shall be refunded back to all consumers in mean time.
.....”*

5. Considering the request of withdrawal of Petition made by the Petitioner and taking the aforesaid letter on record, without going further into the said matter, we allow the request made by the Petitioner to withdraw the present Petition subject to assurance given in above referred letter by the Petitioner to refund the registration fees paid by its interested consumers and on refund of said registration fees, the Petitioner is required to file necessary affidavit before the Commission detailing the numbers of consumers, name of the consumer, consumer number, amount of registration fees collected, receipt no., date of receipt, amount refunded, date of refund etc.
6. In view of the above, the present Petition stand disposed of as withdrawn by the Petitioner. No further Order.
7. Order accordingly.

Sd/-
[S. R. Pandey]
Member

Sd/-
[Mehul M. Gandhi]
Member

Sd/-
[Anil Mukim]
Chairman

Place: Gandhinagar.
Date: 04/06/2022.