

ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
BIDYUT NIYAMAK BHAWAN
PLOT No.4, CHUNOKOLI, SAILASHREE VIHAR,
BHUBANESWAR – 751 021
TEL. No. 2721048, 2721049/FAX : 2721053/2721057
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commission in Case No. 35/2022 had directed to initiate Suo Motu proceeding for developing a Standard Operating Procedure for proper implementation of net-metering/bi-directional metering/gross metering /group net-metering/virtual net-metering and their connectivity order as amended upto 05.05.2022 with the consultation of the public. Accordingly, the Director (RA) of the Commission has initiated a proceeding with filing of a petition under Regulation 9(3)&(4) of the OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004 which is available in Commission's website i.e. www.orierc.org. The interested Members of Stakeholders are requested to file their suggestions for developing Standard Operating Procedure or for further amendment to properly implement net-metering/bi-directional metering/gross metering /group net-metering/virtual net-metering and their connectivity order as amended upto 05.05.2022 with a copy to the incumbent DISCOMs of their area of residence within 29.09.2022.

By Order of the Commission

SECRETARY

ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
BIDYUT NIYAMAK BHAWAN
PLOT No.4, CHUNOKOLI, SAILASHREE VIHAR,
BHUBANESWAR – 751 021

Case No. 35/2022

Director (Regulatory Affairs), OERC
Vrs.

..... Designated Petitioner

DoE, GoO & Others

..... Respondents

In the matter of: Pursuant to Order dated 16.08.2022 of the Commission passed in the above noted case to initiate Suo Motu proceeding under Regulation 9(3)&(4) of the OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004

And

In the matter of: An Application seeking direction of the Commission to the Department of Energy, Govt. of Odisha, GRIDCO Ltd, DISCOMs of Odisha & OREDA for preparing a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) as well as streamlining process and procedure for Solar Net-metering, flawless Solar billing, quick disbursement of subsidy for roof-top Solar projects to be adopted anywhere in Odisha with hassle-free procedure.

And

In the matter of:

Director (Regulatory Affairs), OERC Designated Petitioner
Vrs.

1. The Principal Secretary,
Department of Energy, Government of Odisha,
Secretariat Building, Bhubaneswar-751001.
2. The Managing Director, GRIDCO Ltd.,
Janapath, Bhubaneswar-751022.
3. The Chief Executive Officer
OREDA, S-59, Mancheswar Industrial Estate,
Bhubaneswar-751010.
4. The Chief Executive Officer, TPCODL
2nd Floor, IDCO Towers, Janapath,
Bhubaneswar-751022.
5. The Chief Executive Officer, TPWODL,
At/Po : Burla, Dist : Sambalpur-768017.
6. The Chief Executive Officer, TPNODL,
At/Po : Janugang, Dist : Balasore-756019.
7. The Chief Executive Officer, TPSODL,
At/Po : Courtpetta, Dist : Berhampur-760004.

8. Shri Chandrasekhar Mishra,
Son of Shri Sankar San Mishra,
resident of 1543/2808, Khirod-Basanti Niwas,
Road No.5, Jagannath Nagar, Bhubaneswar-25.
9. Sri Prabhakar Dora, Advocate,
Vidya Nagar, 3rd Line, Co-Operative Colony,
Rayagada, Dist. Rayagada-765001.

..... Respondents

Most Respectfully sheweth:

1. That the Commission is mandated to promote Co-generation and Generation of electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the Grid and sale of electricity to any person under Section 86 (1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003.
2. That the Commission keeping in view the above provision had issued order No.OERC-Engg.02/2010/ (Vol-III)/ 1597(A) dated 26-11-2014 relating to Net-metering/ Bi-directional metering for solar generation project including its connectivity for Government/ PSU owned and other buildings which has been amended several times the latest being on 17.01.2018.
3. That the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India vide its letter dated 30.01.2022 has requested all State Electricity Regulatory Commissions/ Joint Electricity Regulatory Commissions to issue guidelines facilitating Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for promotion of Renewable Energy.
4. That the Ministry of Power, Government of India vide its Notification dated 28.06.2021 has made amendment to the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 and has capped the maximum Net Metering capacity of a Prosumer upto five hundred kilowatt or upto the sanctioned load, whichever is lower.
5. That considering the notification of Ministry of Power and advisory of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, as well as suggestions from various stakeholders, the Commission had further amended the previous Order and issued an order on Net Metering/Bi-Directional Metering/Gross Metering/Group Net Metering/ Virtual Net Metering and their connectivity with respect to Solar PV Projects vide its order no.468 dt.05.05.2022.
6. That the Commission had issued the above orders anticipating that the Solar Energy Net Metering Order will create an enabling environment whereby all categories of electricity

consumers including government departments, educational institutions, hospitals, industries, commercial establishments and residential consumers will be able to make a contribution to a green and sustainable Odisha and the realization of the solar energy targets of the state.

7. That one namely Sri Chandrasekhar Mishra, Publisher of a Renewable Energy magazine has approached the Commission on various issues faced by the prosumers for installation of rooftop solar PV projects in the state of Odisha and requested for framing of an Unified Standard Operating Procedure for issuance of No Objection Certificate and smooth implementation of Net Metering by distribution licensees in Case No. 35/2022.
8. That the Commission has disposed of the case with observation that the case is not maintainable in view of restrictive scope of Section 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003. However, the Commission feels it expedient to initiate action Suo Motu on the subject matter keeping in view the power of the Commission under Regulation 9 (3)& (4) of the OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004.
9. That the Commission has directed the Director (RA) of the Commission to change the nomenclature of that proceeding in Case No. 35/2022 by converting the same to a Suo Motu proceeding under Regulation 9(3)&(4) of the OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004 and issue Public Notice inviting suggestions/ objections from the stakeholders/ institutions/ individuals.
10. That the Commission has directed the Director (RA) to indicate the last date of filing of suggestions/objections by the public and to put up the case thereafter for fixing the date of hearing. Registry should issue the notice to the parties those who will file their objections/suggestions with reference to the public notice along with the Petitioner and Respondents in the present case.
11. That there is no clear cut guidelines or Standard Operating Procedure for solar net metering and the issues & challenges faced by the on-grid rooftop solar Industries in the State of Odisha and such a question, comes under the jurisdiction of the Commission for issuance of appropriate direction.
12. Accordingly, the nomenclature of proceeding in case No. 35/2022 is changed to a Suo-Motu proceeding under Regulation 9(3) & (4) of the OERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2004. Public Notice inviting suggestions/objections from the stakeholders / institutions/individuals on net-metering/bi-directional metering/gross metering /group

net-metering/virtual net-metering and their connectivity order of the Commission as amended upto 05.05.2022 are invited within one month from the date of issuance of Public Notice. Consequent to which the Commission may bring about standard operating procedure or any other thing required to operationalise the above order to the benefit of the public.

PRAYERS

In view of the above facts and circumstances stated above, the petitioner therefore prays to the Commission to be pleased to admit this Suo Motu application and after hearing the parties issue suitable directions/guidelines on Standard Operating Procedure for solar net metering/bi-directional metering/gross metering /group net-metering/virtual net-metering order and address the issues & challenges faced by the solar on-grid Prosumers in the State of Odisha.

By the Petitioner

Date: 29.08.2022

Place: Bhubaneswar

Director (Regulatory Affairs)

Encl: Solar net metering/bi-directional metering/gross metering /group net-metering/virtual net-metering order as amended upto 05.05.2022.

ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PLOT NO.4, CHUNOKOLI, SAILASHREE VIHAR,
BHUBANESWAR - 751021

ORDER

No. OERC-Engg. 02/2010/(Vol-IV)/1131 Dated :19.08.2016 as amended up to 17.01.2018

ON NET METERING/BI-DIRECTIONAL METERING & THEIR CONNECTIVITY
WITH RESPECT TO SOLAR PV PROJECTS

1. Preamble:

- (i) The Government of Odisha has been earnestly exploring different sources of clean energy to meet its increasing energy requirements, diversify sources of energy, and address potential climate change issues. The state of Odisha has fairly good potential for solar power generation with 280-300 days of sunshine in a year and Global Horizontal Irradiance of about 4.5-5.0 kWh/m²/day. Setting up of large solar power projects require huge land space whereas availability of land is a major constraint in major cities of Odisha. The prevailing scenario of declining trend in solar tariff and increasing retail tariff across consumer categories like residential, commercial and industrial consumers would encourage consumers to install solar systems. Therefore, generation from solar is set to witness appreciable scaling of capacities in Odisha in years to come.
- (ii) The Commission is mandated to promote Co-generation and Generation of electricity from Renewable Sources of Energy by providing suitable measures for connectivity with the Grid and sale of electricity to any person under Section 86 (e) of the Electricity Act, 2003. Keeping this in view, the Commission had issued order No. OERC-Engg.02/2010/ (Vol-III)/ dated 26-11-2014 and two amendments thereon on 18-05-2015 and 16-09-2015 relating to Net-metering/ Bi-directional metering for solar generation project including its LT connectivity for Government/ PSU owned and other buildings.
- (iii) In the meantime, the Commission has received several suggestions for effective implementation of the said Order, which is based on the Net Metering

of the “prosumers”. This needs revision of the order on several aspects. Therefore, the Commission orders as follows:

- (iv) The Commission recognises that distributed solar energy generation contributes to a significant reduction in transmission and distribution losses since the solar energy generated is consumed locally.
- (v) The Commission is committed to creating a regulatory framework that enables the realisation of the above mentioned targets with a significant contribution from the electricity consumer segment.
- (vi) This Order on Solar Energy Net Metering includes new provisions and revisions of earlier solar energy net metering provisions of which some of the highlights are described below:
 - (a) This Order applies to all solar power systems that are connected to the distribution system through an electrical service connection. The solar power system may be roof-mounted, ground-mounted, installed on an elevated structure or otherwise for captive use.
 - (b) In this Order the Commission has raised the cumulative solar energy capacity at distribution transformer level from the earlier 30% of transformer capacity to 75% of transformer capacity. The view of the Commission is that since the solar energy capacity for each consumer has been limited to the sanctioned or contracted load of the service connection, there is an adequate capacity capping mechanism which will ensure that the distribution transformer will not get overloaded even if all consumers who are connected to a distribution transformer install solar PV capacity of 100% of their sanctioned load. This view is reinforced after taking into account the experience of DISCOMs. It is also a fact that most of the solar energy generated by a consumer is self-consumed or consumed in the immediate neighborhood. The Commission may however increase/decrease the level of penetration and issue renewable energy penetration limits at overall grid level if required in the future to ensure grid stability.
 - (c) There is no cap on the capacity of solar installation at a particular consumer level as long as it is within the limit of the connected load /

75% of transformer capacity. The earlier restriction of 1 MW solar capacity at a single location is removed.

- (vii) The Commission hopes that with this Solar Energy Net Metering Order an enabling environment is created whereby all categories of electricity consumers including government departments, educational institutions, hospitals, industries, commercial establishments and residential consumers will be able to make a contribution to a green and sustainable Odisha and the realisation of the solar energy targets of the state.

2. Definitions:

- (a) **“Net-Meter”** means a consumer meter which is a bi-directional energy meter for measuring the quanta of electricity flowing in opposite directions and the net quantum of electricity either consumed by the consumer or injected into the distribution system of the licensee in kWh; which shall be an integral part of the net metering system.
- (b) **“Bi-directional Meter”** means a consumer meter for measuring, indicating and recording quanta of electricity flowing in opposite directions (export to the licensee’s distribution system and import by the consumer from distribution system) in Kwh including any other quantity as per the requirement. The net quantum of electricity either injected to the distribution system or imported by the consumer in Kwh is derived by arithmetical means. In case the meter is fixed with HT consumers the power factor will be based on the import of energy only.
- (c) **Eligible consumers for Net-metering/ Bi-directional Metering:** “Eligible Consumer” means a consumer of electricity in the area of supply of the distribution licensee, who uses a solar system installed in the consumer premises, to offset part or all of the consumer's own electrical energy requirements, given that such systems can be self-owned or third party owned. Both the existing and new Solar systems which comply with this order are eligible for Net-metering/ bi-directional metering.
- (d) **“Settlement period for energy accounting”** means the period ending 31st March of the relevant financial year.
- (e) **“Prosumer”** means a Consumer of electricity in the area of supply of the Distribution Licensee, who uses a self-owned or third party-owned Solar