

F.No. 318/13/2022-GCRT
Govt. of India
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

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Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
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Notice

Subject: Inviting comments on draft SOP for implementation of Virtual Net Metering and Group Net Metering.

Most of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC/JERC) have notified regulations for installation of rooftop solar by the consumers in the area of a distribution licensee. These regulations provide net-metering/ net-billing/ gross-metering provision for different category of consumers. The residential consumers can avail the facility of net-metering for installation of rooftop solar within their premises. The Government of India is also providing subsidy up to 40% to residential consumers for this purpose. Most of the rooftop solar installation in residential sector have been installed in urban areas where the households are mainly made of concrete structure having the roof of sufficient strength for installation of solar rooftop. On the contrary, the installation of rooftop in rural area is very limited because the structure of the households are not having sufficient strength to house rooftop solar structure on their roofs, thus depriving them from getting benefit of installation of rooftop solar and contributing towards clean energy initiatives being taken by the Government of India. Another reason for not installation of rooftop solar in rural area is comparatively low electricity tariff and consumers are in lower income group, not having sufficient resources for initial investment of rooftop solar.

In order to facilitate installation of rooftop solar in rural areas in the residential sector, a new approach is required and it is proposed that instead of installation of solar rooftop on individual household it can be aggregated and installed at a single place on land either taken on lease or on panchayat land. Such plants may be installed in RESCO/ CAPEX mode with the facility of net-metering available to the individual household. The solar generation from the plant is proportionately adjusted in the electricity bills of each individual household. This can be termed as Group Net Metering (GNM) or Virtual Net Metering (VNM) as the case may be.