

**MERC (Net Metering for Roof-top Solar Photo Voltaic Systems) Regulations, 2015****CONNECTIVITY FOR 'CHANGE-OVER' CONSUMERS****PRACTICE DIRECTIONS****1. Preamble**

In the overlapping parallel Distribution Licence area of Tata Power Co. Ltd. – Distribution and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. – Distribution, some ('change-over') Consumers who have migrated from their original Licensee to the other Licensee are supplied by the latter (the 'Supply Licensee') through the distribution network of the former (the 'Wires Licensee'). Certain issues have been raised regarding the implementation of the MERC (Net Metering for Roof-top Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Systems) Regulations, 2015 ('Net Metering Regulations') with regard to such change-over Consumers. In exercise of its powers under Regulation 14 and after considering the suggestions of both Licensees, the following Practice Directions are given to address these issues.

**2. Practice Directions****2.1 General Guidelines**

- 2.1.1 In the circumstances set out in the Preamble above, the Supply Licensee serving an Eligible Consumer, as defined in the Net Metering Regulations, shall coordinate with the Wires Licensee with regard to the technical and inter-connection requirements, safety, other clearances and approvals, period of Agreement and termination, access and disconnection envisaged in the Model Net Metering Connection Agreement between such Eligible Consumer and the Supply Licensee, so as to facilitate the establishment of the Net Metering arrangement within the specified time-lines and its smooth operation thereafter.
- 2.1.2 The Eligible Consumer shall be required to interface only with the Supply Licensee.
- 2.1.3 Meter reading, energy accounting and settlement with the Consumer shall be undertaken by the Supply Licensee as per the terms of the Regulations. The Supply Licensee shall pay the Wheeling Charges, as approved by the Commission for a particular financial year and corresponding to the unadjusted net credited Units of electricity at the end of that year, to the Wires Licensee. Such payment will be taken into account by the Commission while determining the respective Aggregate Revenue Requirements.

## **2.2 Application, Registration and Acknowledgement of Receipt**

- 2.2.1 Upon receipt of an Application from an Eligible Consumer in the format specified in the Net Metering Regulations along with the Registration Fee, the Supply Licensee shall register the Application and acknowledge its receipt within three working days; or intimate the Consumer within that time of any deficiency. The Supply Licensee shall also forward a scanned copy of the Application, once it is complete, within 3 working days to the Wires Licensee.
- 2.2.2 The Wires Licensee shall acknowledge the completeness or otherwise of the Application, within 2 working days of its receipt, to the Supply Licensee.

## **2.3 Technical Feasibility Study**

- 2.3.1 The Wires Licensee shall conduct a Technical Feasibility Study as envisaged under the Net Metering Regulations. In case a joint site inspection is required, the Wires Licensee shall intimate the Supply Licensee at least one working day in advance.
- 2.3.2 The Wires Licensee shall complete the Technical Feasibility Study and send its Report to the Supply Licensee within 14 working days of receipt of the completed Application from the latter. The Technical Feasibility Report shall specify the interface/inter-connection point and the metering point. If the Application is proposed to be rejected, the Report shall set out the details as per Regulation 8.3.
- 2.3.3 The Supply Licensee shall convey the approval, with the relevant details, for the installation of the Roof-top Solar PV System to the Consumer within 7 working days of receiving the Technical Feasibility Report, if such installation has been found to be technically feasible. In case the Application is proposed to be rejected, the Supply Licensee shall, within 7 working days of receiving the Technical Feasibility Report, intimate the Consumer to rectify any deficiency, along with suggested remedial measures, within 15 days or such longer period as may be necessary.
- 2.3.4 In case the approval is not granted due to inadequate Distribution Transformer capacity, the Application will be considered by the Wires Licensee, in chronological order of seniority and if the Consumer so opts, after such capacity becomes available.

## **2.4 Work Completion Report**

- 2.4.1 The Consumer shall send the Work Completion Report (WCR), with the relevant details required under the Regulations, to the Supply Licensee within the period of validity of the approval, and request the testing and commissioning of the Roof-top Solar PV System.
- 2.4.2 The Supply Licensee shall forward the WCR to the Wires Licensee by the next working day.

- 2.4.3 The Wires Licensee shall intimate the Supply Licensee of its acceptance of the WCR, or of any deficiencies, within 3 working days of its receipt.
- 2.4.4 After the receipt of WCR approval, the Supply Licensee shall organise a joint site visit for testing and commissioning of the System, The testing and commissioning shall be completed within 7 working days of the WCR approval by the Wires Licensee.

## **2.5 Meter Procurement and Testing, Installation and Synchronization of System**

- 2.5.1 The Consumer may opt for provision of the Net Meter by either the Supply or the Wires Licensee, or may opt to purchase it himself. The Net Meter shall be maintained by the Supply Licensee except where it has been provided by the Wires Licensee, in which case it shall be maintained by the latter.
- 2.5.2 The Distribution Licensee concerned with the Solar Generation Meter, as referred to in the Regulations, shall be the Supply Licensee.
- 2.5.3 Meter testing, installation and synchronization of the System shall be undertaken jointly by the Licensees (with notice of at least one working day by the Wires Licensee to the Supply Licensee), and be completed within 10 working days of its testing and commissioning.
- 2.5.4 The Supply Licensee and Consumer shall enter into a Net Metering Connection Agreement, in the specified format, after the System is installed but before it is synchronized with the distribution network.

## **2.6 Routine check and maintenance**

For any routine check and maintenance of the System, at least one day's notice should be given by the Wires Licensee to the Supply Licensee, who shall participate in any joint site visit that may be requested by the former.

## **2.7 Safety and Security**

- 2.7.1 Regulations 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 of the Net Metering Regulations specify the isolation arrangements required in case Grid power is not available. These arrangements will be tested jointly by both Licensees at the time of testing and commissioning of the System. The Regulations also provide for routine checks and maintenance. Any matter relating to safety and security shall be jointly settled by the Licensees as per the Net Metering Regulations and these Practice Directions.
- 2.7.2 A joint visit shall be requested by the Wires Licensee for any inspection of the Consumer's premises. However, in emergent situations, the Wires Licensee may isolate the Net Metering arrangement and inform the Supply Licensee immediately thereafter.

## **2.8 Mutual Resolution of Differences**

Both Licensees shall endeavour to mutually resolve any differences regarding the implementation or interpretation of the Net Metering Regulations and these Practice Directions.

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