

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION

No. 2521/ADL/KSERC/2015

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram 15th March 2016.

In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of Section 86 read with sub-section (1) of Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Central Act 36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, and after previous publication, the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following regulations, namely:

REGULATIONS

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) These regulations may be called the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force from the date of publication of the same in the Official Gazette.

2. Amendment of regulations.- In the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Regulations, 2014,-

(i). Sub regulation (2) of Regulation 5 with the proviso thereunder shall be substituted with the following, namely:-

“2 (a) The distribution licensee shall give connectivity for the solar energy system of any eligible low tension consumer to a distribution transformer, till the cumulative capacity of the solar energy systems connected to the said transformer reaches fifteen percent of its rated capacity, irrespective of the average load on the said transformer as specified in clause (b) below.

(b) The distribution licensee shall give connectivity for the solar energy system of any eligible low tension consumer to a distribution transformer above fifteen percent of its rated capacity as specified in clause (a) above, till the cumulative capacity of the solar energy systems connected to the said transformer, reaches the average load on the said transformer between 8 AM and 4 PM during the period of seven days succeeding the date of submission of the application form for connecting the solar energy system:

Provided that the distribution licensee may adopt the average load of the distribution transformer assessed between 8 AM and 4 PM within a period of six months prior to the date of submission of the application form, if the licensee is convinced that there has been no considerable change of load on the said transformer after the previous assessment.”.

(ii). Sub regulation (2) of Regulation 6 with the proviso thereunder shall be substituted with the following, namely:-

“(2) The distribution licensee shall give such connectivity to the solar energy system of any eligible consumer, generating electricity at 11000 volts, provided the cumulative capacity of the solar energy systems connected to the distribution feeder under a

particular power transformer in the feeding substation is less than eighty percent of the average load of that feeder as assessed from the data available at the substation, relating to three hundred and sixty five days preceding the date of submission of the application form:

Provided that, in the case of new feeders, the average load of a high tension feeder for a period less than three hundred and sixty five days after its installation may also be considered for the purpose.”

(iii). In Regulation 13, for sub-regulations (1) to (10), the following sub-regulations shall respectively be substituted, namely:-

“(1) The eligible consumer who proposes to install a solar energy system in his premises shall apply in the form in Annexure-I to the local office of the distribution licensee, for permission to connect the solar energy system to the distribution feeder of the licensee along with the application fee as specified in the Schedule to these regulations:

Provided that application fee, once paid, shall not be refundable.

(2) The licensee shall acknowledge the receipt of the application form and shall process it in the chronological order of its receipt.

(3) On receipt of the application form for permission to connect the solar energy system to the feeder from a distribution transformer, the distribution licensee shall, for the purpose of determining the capacity of the solar energy system that can be connected to the feeder, assess the average load on the said transformer as specified in clause (b) of sub-regulation (2) of regulation 5:

Provided that the distribution licensee shall process the application form without waiting for the assessment of average load as specified above, if the cumulative capacity of the solar energy system connected to the said transformer is below fifteen percent of the rated capacity of the said transformer.

(4) In the case of application for connection to high tension feeder, the distribution licensee shall assess the average load of the high tension feeder as specified in sub-regulation (2) of regulation 6.

(5) The distribution licensee shall complete the assessment of the average load as specified in sub-regulation (3) or sub-regulation (4), as the case may be, and intimate the eligible consumer within fifteen days from the date of receipt of the application form, the feasibility or otherwise and the capacity that can be allotted to him for connecting his solar energy system to the low tension or high tension feeder of distribution system, as the case may be:

Provided that, the intimation regarding the feasibility shall be valid only for a period of one month from the date of communication, unless the validity is extended by the distribution licensee.

(6) While intimating the feasibility for connecting the solar energy system as specified in sub-regulation (5), the distribution licensee shall intimate the eligible consumer,-

- (i) the details of documents to be submitted by the eligible consumer along with the scheme for installation of the solar energy system;
- (ii) the capacity that can be allotted to the eligible consumer for the installation of his solar energy system;
- (iii) the technical specifications as well as other particulars of the grid-tied inverter and manually operated isolating switch to be installed by the eligible consumer; and
- (iv) the technical specifications and other particulars of the solar meter and net meter to be installed.

(7) (a) The eligible consumer shall, on receipt of the intimation regarding feasibility and capacity as specified in sub-regulations (5) and (6) above, submit an application in the format specified in Annexure-II for the registration of his scheme for installing the solar energy system, along with the documents and technical specifications as stipulated in sub-regulation (6), indicating specifically therein the capacity of the solar energy system which he proposes to install.

(b) The distribution licensee shall acknowledge the receipt of the scheme for installing solar energy system.

(8) (a) The distribution licensee shall, for the purpose of registering the scheme, determine the fee based on the capacity of the solar energy system to be allotted to the eligible consumer, at the rates as specified in the Schedule.

(b) The distribution licensee shall scrutinise the application and the documents submitted under sub-regulation (7) within a period of three working days and shall intimate the eligible consumer on the next working day,-

(i) the particulars of registration fee to be remitted for the capacity allotted to him; and

(ii) the particulars of defects if any noticed along with the instructions to cure such defects.

(9) (a) The distribution licensee shall, on receipt of the registration fee and on curing defects if any noticed in the application and the documents submitted under sub-regulation (7), register the scheme and assign a registration number.

(b) The registration given under clause (a) above shall be valid for a period of six months from the date of registration, unless the validity period is extended by the distribution licensee under clause (c) below.

(c) The distribution licensee may on application from an eligible consumer, for good and sufficient reasons beyond the control of the applicant, extend the validity of registration for a period not exceeding six months.

(d) The distribution licensee may allot to other applicants in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, such capacity for connectivity of solar energy system, if the eligible consumer whose scheme has been registered does not avail the connectivity within the period of validity of registration.

(e) The distribution licensee may allot to other applicants in accordance with the provisions of these regulations, the balance capacity available for connectivity of solar energy system if the eligible consumer whose scheme has been registered does not avail, within the period of validity of registration, the full capacity allotted to him.

(f) The distribution licensee shall refund to the eligible consumer eighty percent of the registration fee collected by it, if the eligible consumer has installed the solar energy system within the period of validity of the registration.

Explanation : This clause shall apply retrospectively to all the eligible consumers who have already installed the grid interactive distributed solar energy systems.

(g) The distribution licensee may, on receipt of a written request from the eligible consumer before the expiry of the validity of his registration, allow him to withdraw his application, on satisfaction that he is not able to install the solar energy system within the period of validity of the registration, due to reasons beyond his control and in such case, the distribution licensee shall refund eighty percent of the registration fee to the applicant.

(h) The registration fee shall be forfeited, if the applicant fails to install the solar energy system within the period of validity of his registration or to withdraw the application as per clause (g) above.

(10) The applicant shall, within the period of validity of registration, procure solar energy system conforming to the technical specifications and get it installed by a licensed electrical contractor.”.

By order of the Commission,

Santhosh Kumar.K.B
SECRETARY

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission has a statutory duty under Section 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003, to promote renewable energy. As per the directives issued by Government of India, the renewable energy target for the nation till 2022 is 1.75 lakh MW, out of which 1 lakh MW is solar energy. It has been further directed by Government of India that out of the 1 lakh MW solar energy target, 40000 MW should be from solar roof top systems. The target for solar roof top systems assigned to Kerala is 800 MW. Further many consumers who propose to install Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems have brought to the notice of the Commission that the procedure as per regulation 5 of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Regulations, 2014, dealing with the capacity of solar installations that can be connected to a feeder/ transformer based on the load in the feeder/ transformer sometimes hinder the easiness of implementation of solar energy schemes. Hence Commission intends to fix a minimum level of capacity that can be connected to the grid without system studies and ensuring grid security. The licensee need to undertake measurement of load above their level only to find out the capacity that can be connected to the system. Further, the registration fee collected by the distribution licensee under regulation 13 of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Regulations, 2014, is exorbitantly high and that in many other states such as Tamil Nadu the registration fee collected by the distribution licensee is fully refunded as soon as the solar energy system is installed. This issue was discussed in the technical committee constituted for suggesting measures to promote the installation of solar energy systems. The technical committee was also of the view that the registration fee collected by the distribution licensee under the above regulation is much on the higher side and that provisions in sub-regulation (9) of regulation 13 of the Solar Energy Regulations, 2014 to the effect that registration fee is non-refundable is a disincentive to the prosumers. In order to achieve the above targets and to promote installation of solar energy systems including roof top solar energy system the Commission has decided to amend the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Regulations, 2014 suitably to remove all disincentives and difficulties. Accordingly a draft of the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Energy Systems) Amendment Regulations, 2015 has been published for obtaining suggestions and objections from the general public on 29.12.2015. Now the Commission has decided to notify the regulations as finally approved by the Commission.

This notification is intended to achieve the above purpose.