

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,
No. 16 C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 052.

Dated: 06.02.2024

Present

Shri P. Ravi Kumar .. Chairman
Shri M.D. Ravi .. Member

In the matter of metering of LT connections under the KERC (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2022.

The Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 86(1)(e) read with Sections 181, 39(2)(d), 40(c), 42(2, 3), 86(1)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and all other powers enabling in this behalf has issued the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access (GEOA)) Regulations, 2022, in the Karnataka State Gazette on 19th January, 2023, in line with the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 issued by the MoP and duly considering the comments/suggestions/objections/views of the stakeholders. The Regulations came into effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette of Karnataka. Subsequently, the Commission vide its Order dated 09.08.2023, decided to adopt the second amendment to the GEOA Rules issued by MoP, allowing consumers who have contracted demand or sanctioned load of 100 (Hundred) kW or more, either through single connection or through multiple connections aggregating 100 (Hundred) kW or more located in the same electricity division of a distribution licensee, to source power through Green Energy Open Access.

Meanwhile, few Telecom Operators approached the Commission stating that the telecom towers generally have contract demand of 15kVA to 20KVA and are connected to LT network. They submitted that Regulation 15 of the KERC GEOA Regulations specifies that the metering shall be done in accordance with the provisions of CEA Metering Regulations and the meters shall be capable of time differentiated measurements (15 minutes) of necessary parameters having ToD facility. Regulation 15 is enunciated below:



"15. Special Energy Meters

- 1. Metering shall be done in accordance with the provisions of CEA (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 as amended from time to time.*
- 2. The meters shall be capable of time-differentiated measurements (15 minutes) of necessary parameters and shall have ToD facility. These meters shall always be maintained in good condition and shall be open for inspection by any person authorized by the State nodal agency."*

Thus, as per the GEOA Regulations, metering has to be done in accordance with CEA (Installation and operations of Meters) Regulations, 2006 as amended from time to time. CEA Metering Regulations specify that all consumers in areas with communication network, to be supplied electricity with Smart Meters working in prepayment mode, conforming to relevant IS standards. The Telecom Operators have submitted that no smart meters having ABT facilities (and thus, capable of measuring 15 minutes' data), are available in the market to cater to the LT consumers.

In this regard, the Commission conducted a meeting with the metering manufacturers, all the ESCOMs and the Telecom Operators on 8th January, 2024. During the meeting, it was informed that CEA is yet to come up with metering standards for smart meters for LT connections having ABT facility, but meters with TOD facilities are available. Thus, the Commission, in its powers conferred under the Regulation 23 (Power to remove difficulties) of the KERC GEOA Regulations, has decided that till such time the CEA comes up with metering standards for smart meters for LT connections with ABT facility, all the Distribution Licensees shall uniformly specify the technical standards for smart meters for LT connections, keeping in view the relevant IS standards. In the circumstances, the Commission hereby decides to allow the consumers to install smart meters having ToD and communication facilities for LT connections sourcing power under GEOA, relaxing the need for 15-minutes' data.

Further, it was informed that the Distribution Licensees have not finalised the Head-End-System (HES) for communication of data. Thus, the Commission, also hereby decides to direct all the Distribution Licensees to draft a common format in which the data of the LT consumer seeking open access needs to be submitted to them.



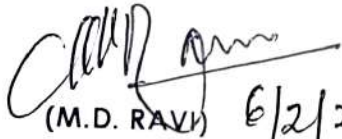
In view of the above, the Commission exercising the powers under the Regulation 23 of the KERC (Terms and Conditions of Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2022. Orders as follows:

ORDER

1. For LT consumers seeking OA under GEOA Regulation 15(2) to the extent of time differentiated measurement of parameters in the meter in 15 minutes' time blocks is waived. However, such meters shall have TOD facilities;
2. The Distribution Licensees shall prescribe a common format in which the meter data of the LT consumer seeking open access shall be submitted to them.

This Order is signed and issued by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission on 6th February, 2024.


(P. RAVI KUMAR)
Chairman


(M.D. RAVI) 6/2/2024
Member