

MINISTRY OF POWER
SHRAM SHAKTI BHAVAN

Minutes of Meeting

Venue: 2nd Floor Conference Hall, Shram Shakti Bhawan

Date and Time: 21th August 2024 at 10:00AM

Subject: Interaction Meeting for discussing the issues concerning Solar Power developers.

1. A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Power). The list of participants is at **Annexure I**.
2. At the outset Secretary (Power) welcomed the participants of the meeting.
3. Representatives from the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) gave a brief presentation, outlining the key issues faced by solar developers that require the Ministry's attention. The issues discussed during the meeting and the resulting action points are as follows:

- i. **Insurance Surety Bonds:** It was requested to accept Insurance Surety Bonds(ISB) as a valid financial instrument for EMD and PBGs. It was also requested that ISB may be replaced with existing instruments in the projects already awarded.

It was decided that TBCB guidelines for procurement of RE power under Section 63 would be amended to recognize Insurance Surety Bonds as valid financial instrument for EMD and PBGs.**(Action: MoP)**

- ii. **States levying Charges on RE projects:** It was informed that States are levying additional charges on RE developers e.g., MP Harit Urja Tax, Tamil Nadu Resource Charges for CTU connected projects. It was requested that MoP may issue directions to States for removal of these charges.

Secretary (Power) stated that the matter has already been taken up by MoP in similar case of imposition of water cess by some States and same is sub Judice in Supreme Court. He suggested NSEFI to take legal opinion regarding broadening of the scope of the dispute by including the matter of all such additional charges by the States. He also suggested NSEFI to become a party in the case. NSEFI stated that it will take legal opinion, consult its members and inform MoP. **(Action: NSEFI)**

- iii. **Delay in Settlement in Change in Law Cases:** It was mentioned that many projects which have been commissioned during the transition periods of Safeguard duty, GST and other change in law events are still struggling to realize the requisite payments.

SECI was advised to expedite resolution of the cases pertaining to them. NSEFI was advised to share the list of pending cases with MoP.

(Action: SECI, NSEFI)

- iv. **Pending PPA signing:** NSEFI highlighted that for a large number of projects, for which bidding was done by REIAs, PPAs have not been signed. It was suggested that MoP may intervene for expeditious signing of PPAs and the DISCOMs may be sensitized for RPO compliance.

It was decided to get details of the capacity due for signing PPAs along with the pendency duration.

(Action: MoP, REIAs)

- v. **Green Energy Open Access:** The issue of delayed OA registration by Grid India resulting in loss of generation was raised. Grid India agreed to take necessary action for resolving the issues. The issue of duplicate levy of charges for open access was also raised. NSEFI was advised to submit details along with calculations to MoP.

(Action: Grid India, NSEFI)

- vi. **ISTS Waiver:** Request for ISTS waiver extension and clarifying the competent authority mentioned in the MoP order dated 09.06.2023 was made.

Secretary (Power) assured that for ISTS waiver in accordance with the orders already issued by MoP, CERC has been requested to make suitable provisions through Order/Regulation. **(Action : CERC)**

- vii. **Treatment of Multi located RE Projects for Captive status:** NSEFI highlighted that instead of considering each RE project individually meeting the 51% electricity consumption requirement to obtain captive status, the cumulative consumption of multi located projects owned by same captive consumer may be considered.

Secretary (Power) clarified that each RE project is treated as a separate commercial entity for purposes such as scheduling, DSM etc. However, the request to consider multi-located projects for assessment of captive status will be reviewed.

(Action: CEA/MOP)

viii. Connectivity Utilization by Affiliates: NSEFI requested that connectivity transfers be allowed within subsidiaries of the parent company. It was decided that MoP would write to CERC in this regard. **(Action: CERC)**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ministry of Power:

1. Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power) - **in Chair**
2. Shri Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary (R&R, Transmission)
3. Dr. D. Sai Baba Joint Secretary (Trans/Coordination)
4. Shri Hemant Kumar Pandey, Chief Engineer (R&R)
5. Shri Suresh Annepu, Director (RCM)
6. Shri Deepak Rao, Director (Trans)
7. Shri Sunil Kumar, Director (NRE)
8. Shri Vishal Kumar, Under Secretary (NRE)
9. Shri Ramkesh Mali, Section Officer (NRE)
10. Shri Surender Kumar, Asst. Section Officer (NRE)

Ministry of New & Renewable Energy:

1. Shri A.S Parira, Scientist-E
2. Shri D. Aravindh M.A, Scientist-D

Central Electricity Authority:

1. Shri Ramesh Kumar, Chief Engineer
2. Shri Ramendra Kumar Yadav, Dy Director

SECI

1. Shri Manas Ranjan Mishra, DGM

CTUIL

1. Shri P.C Garg, COO
2. Shri Ashok Pal, Dy.COO

Power Grid

1. Shri Anoop Singh, CEO PESL,

Grid India Ltd.

1. Shri Prabhakar Porwal, Manager

Industry Representatives

1. Shri Vishal Saxena, AGM, Engie
2. Shri D.V Giri, President, Axis Ltd
3. Shri Dharmendra Gupta, Head Regulatory, O₂ Power
4. Shri Vaibhav Kapoor ,AVP, Aditya Birla Renewables

5. Shri Kunal L. Kaistha, AVP, Serentica Renewables
6. Ms Paramita Sahoo, Head – Policy & Regulations, Tata Power
7. Shri Purender Kumar Chaubey, SVP, Renew
8. Shri Alok Nigam, CEO, UPC Renewables
9. Shri Awnesh Pandey, GM , Hero Future Energy Pvt Ltd
10. Shri Ishan Nagpal , AVP, Sensure Energy
11. Ms Suriya Ansari, Serentica
12. Shri Nitesh Tygi, AGM, Amplus Solar
13. Shri Rinku Yadav , Sr Manager, Ayana Power
14. Shri S. Pulipaka, NSEFI