

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

No. 16 C-1, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 052

Order dated: 12.09.2024

Present:

Shri P. Ravi Kumar	Chairman
Shri H.K. Jagadeesh	Member (Legal)
Shri Jawaid Akhtar	Member

In the matter of:

Net Metering Arrangements for eligible consumers for solar rooftop photovoltaic (SRTPV) plants.

Preamble:

In the Order dated 18.07.2022, it was ordered that the net metering facility for SRTPV (Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic) plants would not be available to consumers who are using power from other sources or captive sources through an open access mechanism. Such consumers have the option to choose between gross metering arrangements or setting up a captive plant for self-consumption.

However, several open access consumers have reported that BESCO issued a circular dated 23.06.2023 that contradicts the above Commission's order, resulting in discrepancies in claiming the shortfalls that imply non-compliance of the Commission's Order. The consumers have requested that the Commission take appropriate actions against BESCO for not adhering to the Order and have requested to issue the procedure to implement the Commission's Order dated 18.07.2022.

In this regard, the Commission notes that the ESCOMs are not permitted to alter the billing arrangement from net metering to gross metering under the existing PPA without adhering to the stipulated terms and conditions of the agreement.

Hence the following Order:

Order

As per PPA terms and conditions, ESCOM shall issue notices to the SRTPV consumers who are in Open Access mechanism, in compliance of the Commission's Order dated 18.07.2022.

- a) If a SRTPV consumer switches from a net metering arrangement to a gross metering arrangement in accordance with the Commission's Order dated 18.07.2022, and carries out the necessary modifications in wiring as recommended by the ESCOMs while ensuring that all the safety measures are followed, the ESCOM shall execute a Supplemental Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) to formalize this change.
1. ESCOM, shall issue monthly electricity bill for the gross-energy exported to the grid on the scheduled date of meter reading.
 2. ESCOM shall pay for the gross energy exported as per the tariff agreed to in the PPA within 30 days of issuance of bill.
 3. The import of energy recorded in the existing bi-directional meter during the billing period for the consumption of electricity shall be billed as per the retail tariff in accordance with the Tariff Orders issued from time to time and shall be deducted out of the amount payable towards gross energy exported.
 4. The ESCOM, shall pay interest per month at the rate as per PPA, in case of any delay in making payment, beyond 30 (thirty) day's period from the date of issue of bill for the gross-energy exported.
- b) If a SRTPV consumer opting for captive plant for self-consumption by installing Reverse Power Relay(RPR) or executing the wheeling agreement as the case may be, the existing PPA under Net metering shall be terminated.

For any deviation in implementation of the Order, the concerned officers will be accountable and the Commission would be constrained to take action, under the provisions of Electricity Act 2003.

This Order is signed and issued by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission on this 12th day of September, 2024.

Sd/-
(P. RAVI KUMAR)
CHAIRMAN

Sd/-
(H.K. JAGADEESH)
MEMBER (LEGAL)

Sd/-
(JAWAID AKHTAR)
MEMBER