CHHATTISGARH STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Vidyut Niyamak Bhawan Irrigation Colony, Shanti Nagar, Raipur

Dated 1st September 2022

Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2022

No./CSERC/2022 In exercise of powers conferred under Regulation 26 of the CSERC (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2019 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission hereby makes the following Guidelines for implementation of Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering framework under CSERC (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

1. Short title and commencement

1.1 These Guidelines may be called the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Group Net Metering and Virtual Net Metering for Renewable Energy) Guidelines, 2022

1.2 These Guidelines shall come into force from the date of publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definition

2.1 In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

a) **"Group Net Metering"** means an arrangement whereby surplus energy generated/injected from a Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid through Net Meter and the exported energy is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of the same consumer located within the same distribution licensee's area of supply;

b) **"Virtual Net Metering"** means an arrangement whereby entire energy generated/injected from a Renewable Energy System or Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) charged through Renewable Energy System is exported to the grid from renewable energy meter/ gross meter and the energy exported is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of participating consumers located within the same distribution licensee's area of supply;

c) **"Eligible Consumer"** means a consumer of electricity in the area of supply of the distribution licensee, who uses a self-owned or third party owned solar power project, to offset part or all of the consumer's own electricity requirements.

2.2 All other words and expressions used in these guidelines although not specifically defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Chhattisgarh State Electricity

Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2019, as amended from time to time. (In short CSERC DRE Regulations,2019).

3. General & Applicability

(1) Group Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for all consumers of Chhattisgarh State.

(2) Virtual Net Metering Framework shall be applicable for residential consumers, Group housing societies, and establishments of Government/Local Authorities.

(3) The capacity of the Renewable Energy System under Group Net Metering or Virtual Net Metering framework to be installed by any Renewable Energy Generator shall not be less than 1 kilo Watt and more than 500 kilo Watt.

(4) The capacity to be installed at any eligible consumer premises shall not exceed the sanctioned load or contract demand of the eligible consumer.

(5) Consumer will generate renewable energy for self-consumption and are allowed to feed the excess energy into the grid, which shall be adjusted under Net-metering as per provisions under CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments as per these guidelines.

(6) The distribution licensee shall carry out network augmentation as per the provisions of Chhattisgarh State Electricity Supply Code, 2011 as amended from time to time and Orders issued there under.

(7) The Distribution licensee shall carry out detailed technical study as per clause 22.1 (d) & (e) of the CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

4. Available Capacity at Distribution Transformer level

The cumulative capacity of distributed renewable energy systems allowed to be interconnected with the distribution network shall not exceed 100% of the respective distribution transformer capacity.

Provided that in case of excess installation, distribution transformer capacity shall be increased to avoid denial of permission for setting up Renewable Energy system.

5. Procedure for Application and Registration

Procedure for Application and Registration shall be as per clause 15 of the CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019.

6. Interconnectivity, Standards and Safety

Interconnection with the grid: technical standards and safety shall be as per provisions in CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments, Chhattisgarh State Electricity Grid Code, 2011 and Chhattisgarh State Electricity Supply Code, 2011 and its subsequent amendments.

7. Metering Arrangement

(1) Net metering arrangement shall be as per clause 11 of the CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019.

(2) Cost of the Net Meter, which is capable of recording both import and export of electricity, shall mean the differential cost between existing consumer meter, if removed and such a new Net Meter is installed to be borne by the consumer.

8. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under Group Net Metering Framework:-

(1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Group Net Metering shall be as per CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

(2) In addition to the provisions in CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments, it is further provided that –

a. Where the export of units during any billing period exceeds the import of units at the connection where Renewable Energy system is located, such surplus units injected into the grid shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer. The sequence of priority for adjustment shall be deemed to begin with the service connection where the Renewable Energy System is located.

b. The priority list for adjustment of the balance surplus energy against other electricity connection(s) may be revised by the consumer once in every financial year with an advance notice of two months.

c. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the consumer where the Renewable Energy System is located and any surplus units injected shall be adjusted against the energy consumed in the monthly bill of service connection(s) in a sequence indicated in the priority list provided by the consumer as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off peak time block for Time of Day (ToD) consumers and normal time block for Non-ToD consumer.

d. Where during any billing period the export of units either in Non-ToD Tariff or ToD Tariff exceeds the import of units by the electricity service connection(s), such surplus units injected by the consumer shall be carried forward to the next billing period as energy credit and shown as energy exported by the consumer for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period in the sequence indicated in the priority list.

e. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant rebate/surcharge percentage of ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year. Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the off-peak time block for ToD consumers and normal time block for Non ToD consumer.

9. Procedure for billing and energy accounting under Virtual Net Metering Framework:-

(1) The procedure for billing and Energy accounting of electricity connection(s) under Virtual Net Metering shall be as per CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

(2) In addition to the provisions in CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments, it is further provided that –

a. The energy generated from Renewable Energy System shall be credited in the monthly electricity bill of each participating consumer(s) as per the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/ MoU entered by the consumer(s)

b. The consumer(s) shall have the option to change the share of credit of electricity from Renewable Energy System subject to the ratio of procurement from Renewable Energy System indicated under the agreement/ MoU entered by the consumer(s) once in the financial year with an advance notice of two months

c. Where the service connection of any participating consumer(s) is disconnected due to any reason under any law for the time being in force, the unadjusted units/ remaining credits of that consumer shall be paid by the distribution licensee at the end of the financial year.

d. The electricity consumption in any time block (e.g., peak hours, off-peak hours, etc.) shall be first compensated with the electricity generation in the similar time blocks in the same billing cycle of the participating consumer(s). Any surplus generation over consumption in any time block in a billing cycle shall be accounted as if the surplus generation/ Energy Credits occurred during the offpeak time block.

e. Where the units credited during any billing period of any participating consumer exceeds the import of units by that consumer, such surplus credited units shall be carried forward in the next billing period as energy credits for adjustment against the energy consumed in subsequent billing periods within the settlement period of each participating consumer(s).

f. For the purpose of carry forward of surplus or set off of energy credits, the energy units shall be moderated as per the relevant rebate/surcharge percentage of ToD tariff applicable for the relevant year.

10. Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy

Tariff at the end of financial year for surplus energy shall be as per clause 21.7 of the CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

11. Theft and Tempering of Meter(s)

Theft of electricity and tampering of meter(s) shall be as per the provisions in clause 11 of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Supply Code, 2011 and its subsequent amendments.

12. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute in billing shall be governed as per the provisions in Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Redressal of grievances of consumers) Regulations, 2011 as amended from time to time.

13. Applicability of other charges

The Renewable Energy system set up under group net metering and virtual net metering arrangement shall be exempted from all wheeling, cross subsidy, transmission and distribution and banking charges and surcharges.

14. Renewable Purchase Obligation

The quantum of distributed renewable energy generation as recorded by the generation meter shall be accounted by the distribution licensee towards compliance of its Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) as stipulated in CSERC DRE Regulations, 2019 and its subsequent amendments.

Provided that in case the renewable energy system is set up by an obligated entity, entire renewable energy generated by these renewable energy systems shall be accounted for RPO compliance by the obligated entity.

15. Eligibility to participate under Renewable Energy Certificate mechanism

The issuance of Renewable Energy Certificate shall be as per the eligibility criteria specified under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for recognition and issuance of Renewable Energy Certificate for Renewable Energy Generation) Regulations, 2010 and subsequent amendments thereof.

16. Power to relax

The Commission may by general or special order, for reasons to be recorded in writing, and after giving an opportunity of hearing to the parties likely to be affected, may relax any of the provisions of these Guidelines on its own motion or on an application made before it by an interested person.

17. Power to amend

The Commission may from time to time add, vary, alter, suspend, modify, amend or repeal any provisions of these guidelines.

By Order of the Commission

(S.P. Shukla)
Secretary