

F. No. 283/54/2018-GRID SOLAR Part (1)

भारत सरकार / Government of India

नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय / Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

ग्रिड सौर ऊर्जा प्रभाग / Grid Solar Power Division

Block No. 14, C.G.O. Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 28th October, 2020.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Sub: Minutes of Meeting held on 14.10.2020, under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, MNRE, to discuss / review the issues associated with "Approved List of Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019" – Reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith an approved copy of minutes of the subject meeting, for information and necessary action(s), if any.

S. Suman
28/10/2020

(Shiva Suman)

Dy. Director

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To

1. Shri. Aniruddha Kumar, Additional Secretary, MNRE.
2. Shri. Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Joint Secretary, MNRE.
3. Shri. Bhanu Pratap Yadav, Joint Secretary, MNRE.
4. The Director General, National Institute for Solar Energy (NISE), Gwal Pahari, Gurugram – Faridabad Highway, Gurugram, Haryana.
5. Shri. Manoj Mathur, Director (Solar), SECI.
6. Shri. Shekhar Dutt, Director General, SPDA.
7. Shri. Ashwani Sehgal, Secretary, ISMA
8. Shri. Hitesh Doshi, Chairman, AISIA

CC: Sr. PPS to Secretary / Sr. PPS to Addl. Secretary / Sr. PPS to JS (AKS) / Dir (RG)

No.	Description	Domestic	Foreign	Total
1	No. of applications received and capacity	4	7	11000
2	Inspection Completed	3	3	1780
3	Report submitted to	2	2	1480

Minutes of the meeting dated 14.10.2020 held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, MNRE to discuss / review the issues associated with “Approved List of Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019”.

1. A meeting of Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) Review Committee was held on 14.10.2020 at 10:30 AM under the Chairmanship of Sh. Aniruddha Kumar, Addl. Secretary, MNRE.
2. The following Committee members and representatives of industry participated in the said meeting:
 - i. Sh. Aniruddha Kumar, Addl. Secretary, MNRE – In Chair
 - ii. Sh. Bhanu Pratap Yadav; Jt. Secretary, MNRE
 - iii. Sh. Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Jt. Secretary, MNRE
 - iv. Sh. Arun Kumar Tripathi, DG, NISE
 - v. Sh. Manoj Mathur, Director (Solar), SECI
 - vi. Sh. Ashwani Sehgal, Secretary, ISMA
 - vii. Sh. Hitesh Doshi, Chairman, AISIA
 - viii. Sh. Shekhar Dutt, Director General, SPDA
3. The brief of the discussions of the said meeting is as follows:

3.1 Director General, NISE informed the status of applications received from Solar PV Module manufacturers and Solar PV Cell manufacturers for enlistment in ALMM as under:

a. Solar PV Modules:

S. No.	Description	Domestic		Foreign		Total	
		No.	MW	No.	MW	No.	MW
1	No. of applications received and capacity	27	7500	7	11784	34	19284
2	Inspection Completed	10	5260	-	-	10	5260
3	Report submitted to MNRE	2	2070	-	-	2	2070

b. Solar PV Cells:

S. No.	Description	Domestic		Foreign		Total	
		No.	MW	No.	MW	No.	MW
1	No. of applications received and capacity	4	2000	5	9300	9	11300
2	Inspection Completed	3	1780	-	-	3	1780
3	Report submitted to MNRE	2	1480	-	-	2	1480

S. Suma
28/10/2020

- 3.2 DG, NISE also mentioned that the procedure for enlistment of foreign manufacturers in ALMM involves preliminary inspection, submission of documents and subsequent final inspection, thereby entailing a minimum period of 1.5 – 2 years. Considering the difficulties due to ongoing pandemic i.e. COVID – 19, the enlistment of such companies may get further delayed.
- 3.3 It was also informed that NISE is carrying out inspections of domestic applicants and expect to complete the inspections of all applicants within the timelines specified by the ALMM Review Committee i.e. 15.11.2020.
4. JS (Wind), MNRE suggested that an online portal may be developed for the processing of application and updation of ALMM list on monthly basis. He also informed that for Revised List of Models and Manufacturers (RLMM) of wind, there is a Committee in MNRE headed by JS (Wind), MNRE to consider the recommendations on enlistment and a similar Committee may be formed for ALMM in solar.
5. The representative of AISIA and ISMA, informed that
- 5.1 The present installed domestic manufacturing capacity of solar PV modules is around 15 – 16 GW and the same for Solar PV cells is around 2.5-3 GW. However, around 9 – 10 GW of solar PV modules manufacturing capacity and around 2 – 2.5 GW of solar PV cells manufacturing capacity are only functional. Further, capacity addition for both. Solar PV cell manufacturing as well as Solar PV module is under progress in the country. An additional capacity of 500 MW of Solar PV cell manufacturing capacity and around 10 GW of Solar PV module manufacturing capacity is envisaged in the country by the end of FY 2020-21 itself.
- 5.2 Considering the limited domestic solar PV cell manufacturing capacity at present and the large time involved in enlistment of foreign solar PV cell manufacturers, the enforcement of ALMM for Solar PV Cell may be delayed for some time, while that of Solar PV module may be done at the earliest. However, in order to encourage investment in domestic solar PV cell manufacturing, a clear date for enforcement of ALMM for Solar PV cells may be announced well in advance to give clear visibility.
- 5.3 Presently, China has monopoly in silicon wafer production, with almost 98 % of the world's production of such wafers. Thus, while augmenting the investment in Solar PV cell manufacturing it is imperative to take steps for backward integration, by way of incentivising domestic production of silicon wafers, so that the dependency of India on one country can be minimized.
6. The representative of SPDA suggested that ALMM for Solar PV cells may be enforced only when enough capacity has been enlisted so as to have enough competition and surety of prices. He also suggested to include an officer from BIS in the inspection team for improving the quality of inspections.
7. The committee also deliberated upon the requirement of solar PV cells and modules in the country considering various schemes / programmes of MNRE, other tenders being conducted and the shift in project commissioning timelines due to disruption on account of COVID-19 pandemic. It was estimated that the requirement of solar PV cells and modules would be as under:

Estimated Requirement (MW)						
S. No.	Year	Roof Top	PM Kusum	CPSU	Other Tenders	Total
1	2020-21	500	600	0	0	1100
2	2021-22	2000	5300	2000	0	9300
3	2022-23	2000	12000	5000	15000	34000
4	2023-24	3000	10900	5000	16000	34900
5	2024-25	4000	2000	0	16000	22000
	Total	11500	30800	12000	47000	101300

8. After detailed discussions, the Committee observed that:

8.1 As per the decision of MNRE vide OM F.No. 283/54/2018-Grid Solar dated 30.06.2020, "ALMM Order" will only apply to those bids which are held 30 days after the ALMM is finalized and published.

8.2 After completion of ongoing inspections by NISE, sufficient capacity of solar PV module manufacturing facilities would be available for the bids that will be floated one month after the enlistment under ALMM list. Further, the country will have additional manufacturing capacity of Solar PV Module in few months' time. Thus, NISE shall expedite and complete the inspections as per the timelines decided in the last meeting.

8.3 The Committee noted that the existing applications for enlistment under the category of solar cells are very limited and inspection of foreign facilities will take 1.5 to 2 years time; therefore, ALMM list for solar cells may not be published along with modules. The Committee may review the progress again after six months.

8.4 The Committee agreed with the suggestions of JS (Wind), MNRE regarding the development of online portal for receiving and processing of applications under ALMM and formulating internal Committee within MNRE for considering the recommendations of NISE on ALMM enlistment. Accordingly, NISE was directed to take necessary steps for development of online portal at the earliest.

8.5 The Committee also decided that action may be initiated on all decisions that were taken in earlier meetings.

9. The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

S. S. Kumar
28/10/2020