



SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

910, 9th Floor, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001

Phone: +91-8750394442, Email: spda@solarpda.com

Website: www.solarpda.com

SPDA/PG/2021/293

March 22, 2021

To,

Shri Subhash Dumbare, IAS

Director General

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA)

Pune, Maharashtra

Subject: Request for Extension in timelines for Project Registration in the former 2015- 2016 New and Renewable Energy Policy due to sudden restrictions in the state in view of COVID-19.

- Ref: 1. Govt. Resolution No. : अणक-2020 / Q.No.137/Energy-7**
- 2. New and Renewable Energy Sources of 20th July 2015 and Policy of 2016 dated 11 February 2016**
- 3. Government of Maharashtra Order No. DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-1, dated 15.03.2021**

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Solar Power Developers Association.

We are an independent industry association, committed to promoting the solar sector in India. We provide a neutral platform for policy advocacy, discussions, and examination of issues critical to the development of the solar sector and are well recognized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (GoI). SPDA represents around 50-member companies from the solar sector providing their assistance in policy evolution and a healthier investment climate for renewable energy projects and services. The member companies of SPDA includes all the large players who have actively contributed with more than 75% of total capacity operation in India.

At the outset, we would like to thank Maharashtra Energy Development Agency ("MEDA") and Government of Maharashtra ("GoM") for releasing much awaited State Renewable Energy Policy 2020 and promoting RE projects in the state. Maharashtra state has been blessed with huge RE potential and the policy rightly provides the enabling provisions to harness RE potential and develop RE projects in the state.

We welcome and support the state RE policy 2020, however, we seek your kind support in one of the provisions regarding project registration in the former policy 2015- 2016. As per the RE Policy 2020 issued by Government of Maharashtra on December 31, 2020, project owners can register their projects under the erstwhile policy of 2015 and 2016 within 3 months from the date of the issuance of the new policy, which is on or before 31st March 2021. The relevant provision of the RE policy 2020 is reproduced below:

"Duration of implementation of policy and transition period of previous policy

Shall be applicable from the date of publication of the policy till 31st March 2025.

With this policy the integrated policy – 2015 on transmission allied electricity generation projects from New and Renewable Energy Sources of 20th July 2015 and Policy of 2016



SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

910, 9th Floor, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001

Phone: +91-8750394442, Email: spda@solarpda.com

Website: www.solarpda.com

dated 11 February 2016 towards non-transmission electricity generation projects from New and Renewable Energy Sources are being superseded.

However, non-conventional energy projects for which registration letter has been issued during the policy period of 2015 and 2016, or within the next three months after the announcement of the policy, the project owner will be allowed to register projects under the respective 2015 and 2016 policy. The benefit of the incentives mentioned in the policy relating to such projects will be admissible if the project is implemented within one year from the date of promulgation of the new policy.”

We would like to bring to your kind attention that in light of recent surge in COVID-19 cases across the state of Maharashtra, restrictions have been re-imposed and lockdown has been implemented in various districts across Maharashtra. More than 15000 cases are being reported on a daily basis from the state. Taking cognizance of this sudden rise in COVID-19 cases, Government of Maharashtra (“GoM”) has issued an order on 15.03.2021 acknowledging threat of COVID-19 virus and imposing restrictions in the state till 31.03.2021. This has also been categorized as a second wave of COVID by the Central Government. This has consequentially adversely affected the project assessment and other activities required for project registration and hence our member companies are struggling in getting their project registered till 31.03.2021 the sunset date for such registration.

Some of the difficulties faced by our member companies are as follows:

To obtain grid connectivity at MSETCL substation which requires technical feasibility to be conducted on site and involves multiple coordination with the zonal office and head office in Mumbai

There have been glitches in the government server which has led to delay in registry of the required project land and due to shortage of manpower on account of COVID, such glitches are taking time to be resolved

Further, project registration requires the documents to be completed as per the above 2 points in addition with other documents such as solvency certificate and some undertakings.

The above mentioned factors have resulted in significant delay and consequently it has become difficult for developers to get their projects registered within 3 months’ period (1st Jan- 31st March 2021) as mentioned in the 2020 energy policy. You will appreciate that such situations are beyond anyone’s control and therefore require kind consideration from MEDA.

Request:

In view of the above genuine difficulties, we request you to kindly extend the time period of 03 months which is expiring on 31.03.2021, by a further period of atleast 06 months , i.e., until 30th September 2021 for developers to get their project registered under the erstwhile policy 2015- 2016.

We look forward to your kind support and cooperation.



SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

910, 9th Floor, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001

Phone: +91-8750394442, Email: spda@solarpda.com

Website: www.solarpda.com

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely

Praveen Golash
Joint Secretary -SPDA