

## Agenda for monthly meeting of Solar Power Developers with Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India

Month	Jan 2021
Location	Web-conference

### Part-I: New Issues

S.No	Issue Description	Presenter
1.	<p><b>Nudging MNRE to enable location-specific/ state-specific bids for better distribution of RE resource development.</b></p> <p>There are 14 transmission packages under TBCB bidding at present. Of which only 4 have witnessed bid submission. For the rest, Long term transmission customers (LTTCs) are not there so the traction is weak.</p> <p>MNRE requested to consider State specific bids (like recent wind tender launched on Dec 21) to nudge in enabling better distribution of RE resource development.</p>	Naveen Singh
2.	<p><b>Update on 7.5 GW bundled (generation &amp; transmission) tender in Leh and Kargil released by SECI.</b></p> <p>This is currently on hold as CTU is carrying out a study to assess the potential in the region, post which, a revised RfP may be released.</p> <p>SPDA seeks information regarding-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Progress status on the decision for unbundling, clarity on expected timelines and sequence planned to release tenders for generation &amp; transmission.</li> <li>b. Also, whether there will be amendments released in this regard or will it be a fresh tender issued for both generation and transmission?</li> </ol>	
3.	<p><b>Understanding timelines of generation and transmission system envisaged for the regions of Koppal, Gadag &amp; Bidar in Karnataka.</b></p> <p>The transmission bids are underway although the LTA has not been granted in these regions. A tender of 2.5 GW is coming up in Koppal which has been currently delayed.</p> <p>SPDA seeks information from MNRE to understand the timelines in this regard.</p>	Kishor Nair
4.	<p><b>Regulatory &amp; Market preparedness for Standalone Storage projects by SECI discussed during the RE Connect.</b></p> <p>SPDA seeks clarity on potential business models and the possibility of value stacking related to Storage assets.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Challenge in steel procurement for installation of solar plant for module mounting structure (MMS)</b></p>	Surajit Chanda

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	SPDA would like to intimate MNRE for possible monopolization due to due to shortage of steel supply for domestic manufacturers & high volatility in price fluctuation in the last six months.	
6.	<p><b>Request to MNRE for issuing directive on deviation that are taken standard bidding guidelines by Private Discoms which make some developer uncompetitive.</b></p> <p>This is to bring uniformity for Private Discoms to adhere Centre's guideline and an order/ directive needs to be issued to reduce any future deviation.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Issues with KERC order regarding Safeguard Duty Change in Law that needs to be considered.</b></p> <p>a. Safeguard duty claims on higher DC capacity installed over and above PPA quantum rejected by KERC.  b. As per the directions from the Hon'ble KERC to ESCOMs mentioned in the KERC order, SPDA would like to rectify the flaw in the methodology of payment calculation for tariff increment on Safeguard Duty.</p>	Sumant Sinha
8.	<p><b>Request for clarification order regarding blanket timeline extension in Scheduled Commissioning Date of RE projects beyond 5 months considering disruption due to COVID-19.</b></p>	Ranjit Gupta
9.	<p><b>Suggestions on the guidelines and the bid documents for RE Thermal tender w.r.t. Escalation Indices and treatment of storage assets.</b></p> <p>The RTC tender has been further extended from 11th Jan 2021 to 1st Feb 2021.</p>	Renew Power

## Part-II: Status update on past issues

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1.	<p><b>Non-opening of LCs by State Discoms</b></p> <p>In August 2019, MNRE notified that power dispatch will not happen if LC is not opened. However, some state like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka are to yet to open LC.</p> <p><i>SPDA has sent letter for MNRE's intervention to expedite the matter. Status is currently pending.</i></p>
2.	<p><b>a. Delay in PSA signing for auctioned projects.</b></p> <p>Auctioned projects of around 18 GW capacity currently do not have signed PPA due to delay in PSA signing. <i>SPDA requested MNRE to discuss this with State Discoms to expedite signing of PSAs.</i></p> <p><b>b. Indefinite delays in taking approvals for procurement of power, PSA, Trading margin by State Discoms (End Procurers) from their State Commissions.</b></p> <p><i>In this regard, SPDA sent a representation letter to MNRE for project capacity more than 5000 MW where PSA/PPA signed but are facing delays due to pending power procurement and tariff approval from their State Commissions.</i></p>
3.	<p><b>Delay in signing of Lease Agreement of SPDs with Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (Solar Park Developers)</b></p> <p>a. SPDs are executing Solar power projects in Raghnesda Solar park, Gujarat under the auction conducted by GUVNL . Successful bidders signed PPA with GUVNL in Aug 2019 and implementation Support Agreement (ISA) with GPCL (the nominated solar park developer for the projects) Oct 2019. The land was handed over to SPDs by GPCL in Nov 2019 under the advance possession route.</p> <p>b. SPDA shared with MNRE that as a requirement for financial institutions, one of the major condition precedent is the signing of Lease Agreement with GPCL, which is pending as the lease agreement between GPCL and the Revenue Department of Govt. of Gujarat has not been signed yet.</p> <p><u>Current Status:</u> SPDs requested MNRE's intervention to expedite this process.</p>
4.	<p><b>a. Amendment in the BOM approval procedure</b></p> <p>Approval of BOM by MNRE for CCDC requires possession of 100% land. As SBG guideline have been relaxed for land documentation, BOM approval procedure should be changed.</p> <p><i>SPDA representation is being currently examined by MNRE to streamline the online portal process.</i></p> <p><b>b. Amendment in BOM Procedure to enable C&amp;I projects for RPO obligated entities to access ISTS connectivity.</b></p> <p>Connectivity Procedure allows only LOAs issued by SECI/NTPC/REIAs. PPAs signed with RPO obligated entities C&amp;I developers should be allowed.</p> <p><b>c. Revision of quantity of tracker for solar projects.</b></p> <p>Quantity of tracker for solar projects needs to be revised upwards as current norm of 43 MT/MW AC side is not enough and it should be 43 MT/MW on DC side.</p>

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7.	<p><b>NGT order on CTU substations in Fatehgarh area, Rajasthan will impact readiness of evacuation system and commissioning schedule.</b></p> <p>a. A petition was filed in the NGT Delhi, alleging that Fatehgarh-II ISRS substation and the transmission lines by PGCIL are being setup on a deemed forest land.</p> <p>b. In this regard, a representation letter was sent to MNRE for their intervention w.r.t the NGT order which is expected to impact a total of 5GW of proposed Solar projects.</p> <p>MNRE expected to intervene by issuing necessary advice to PGCIL and concerned authorities that any development in the NGT case may not jeopardize the planned solar capacity.</p>
8.	<p><b>Delay in proceedings of SGD/GST matters.</b></p> <p>a. The matters are pending before regulators for close to 2 years in few cases from the time of filing.</p> <p>b. Request to push States/ERCs to prioritize hearings for SGD and GST matters.</p> <p><i>SPDs further requested MNRE to intervene to resolve disbursement of at least first installment stuck in this matter.</i></p>
9.	<p><b>Minimum Land requirement to be reduced for New Technology to fulfil FC conditions.</b></p> <p>As per RfS the land requirement is 1.5 Hectare per MW but with advancement in technologies especially with Mono PERC the land requirement has come down significantly. Therefore, MNRE to advise SECI for lowering down land as a compliance condition at the time of financial closure.</p> <p><i>SPDA Representation letter has been sent to Sec MNRE and is currently being examined.</i></p>
10.	<p><b>Lack of clarity/visibility reg. available of connectivity and proposed locations of new sub stations.</b></p> <p>a. There is a need to have firm commissioning schedule of transmission system to meet the bidding plan.</p> <p>b. While there has been significant improvement in the SECI-PGCIL coordination and information dissemination, yet some issues remain causing lag in connectivity.</p> <p><i>SPDA requested Standing Committee meeting to be held on monthly basis.</i></p>
11.	<p><b>Setting up of committee in CEA to investigate RE curtailment across the country.</b></p>

