

Statement of Objects and Reasons

**Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid
Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015 (First
Amendment), 2017**

**Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission
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Date: 11th July, 2017

CORAM

**Shri Naba Kr. Das Chairperson
Shri Dipak Chakravarty, Member
Shri Subhash Ch. Das, Member**

Statement of reasons for Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015 (First Amendment), 2017

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS & REASONS

1. Introduction:

- 1.1.** The National Electricity Policy notified by the Central Government mandates promotion of renewable technology on sustainable basis. Among the various renewable sources, the solar power offers clean, climate-friendly, abundant and inexhaustible energy resource; and whereas there is a large potential available for generating power using unutilized space on rooftops and wastelands around buildings, installation of rooftop Solar PV projects by the consumers would enhance grid stability and reduce distribution losses and also result in saving in electricity bills of the consumer and sale of surplus power to the distribution licensee through net metering;
- 1.2.** The Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission, recognized the need for a net metering based regulations, for rooftop Solar PV projects, to address the regulatory domain for implementation of grid connected net metering based rooftop Solar projects; The Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred as “the Commission”) notified the AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015, (hereinafter referred as “the Principal Regulations, 2015”); which were published in the ASSAM GAZETTE, dated 2nd MAY, 2015.
- 1.3.** NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 181, read with sections 61, 66, 86(1)(e) and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Act 36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission after previous publication, makes the following Regulations for the Grid Interactive Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems.

2. PUBLICATION OF DRAFT REGULATIONS:

The above draft amendment regulations were also hosted on the Commission website www.aerc.gov.in The Commission also issued a Public Notice on date 10.05.2017 in the following newspapers:

- 1.** The Assam Tribune,

2. The Sentinel,
3. Amar Asom,
4. Asomiya Pratidin,
5. Purbanchal Prahari and
6. Dainik Jugasankha”

Inviting objections or suggestions on the above draft amendment regulations clearly stating that the regulations will be taken into consideration after the expiry of twenty one (21) days from the date of notification together with any objections or suggestions which may within the aforesaid period be received in respect thereto.

3. OBJECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In response to the newspaper notification, given to the draft amendment regulations, comments/suggestions were received from APDCL.

Subsequently, public hearing was held on 12.06.2017 to hear views of all the stakeholders and consumers. The list of participants of the public hearing is as below:

Name & Designation	Organization
Mr. T. N. Dev Choudhury, CGM (Com.)	APDCL
Mr. A K Goswami, GM(Com)	APDCL
Mr Arup Hazarika, GM(NRE)	APDCL
Mr Pradip Goswami, AGM(NRE)	APDCL
Mr. A. N. Dev Choudhury, AGM (Com.)	APDCL
Mr. Manas Bhattacharjee,	Tata Power DDL
Mr. Neeraj jain	
Mr. Gunpavit S Sahni	
Mr S Jyoti	

4. Consideration of the views of the Stakeholders and Analysis and findings of the Commission on important issues:

The regulations have been finalized after detailed analysis and due consideration of the various issues raised in the submissions. The analysis of the issues and findings of the Commission thereon are discussed in the subsequent paragraphs:

4.1 Comments Received from:

a) APDCL

APDCL submitted the following comments:

1. There is ambiguity in the proposed Regulation 7.3 and prayed the limits should be separately mentioned for LT & HT category of consumers in the following way:

- For LT category of consumers the limit may be 20% of the peak capacity of the distribution transformer (DT) and shall not be more than 80% of the sanctioned connected load/contract demand of the consumer
 - For HT category of consumers the limit may be 20% of the peak capacity of the 33/11 kV Sub-station and shall not be more than 80% of the Transformer at consumer premise
2. Under Para 4, the words “Wheeling and Open Access” may be inserted at the end of the para.
 3. In the principle Regulations under Regulation 14.6, “as amended from time to time: may be inserted after the Para.

Commission’s Decision:

The suggestion of APDCL with regard to specifying separate limit for LT & HT category of consumers under Regulation 7.3 is accepted and accordingly relevant clause are modified.

With regard to APDCL’s comment on inserting “Wheeling and Open Access” may be inserted at the end of the para 4, it may be noted that the Regulation 12 of the principle Regulation already provides relevant provision for “Wheeling and Open Access”, hence, no change is required in this regard.

The third comment of APDCL with regard to Regulation 14.6 is accepted and accordingly clause is modified.

- b) During the Hearing, the representative from Tata Power DDL and the vendors of Solar Roof top system were also present. They mainly requested the commission to allow Solar Rooftop installation upto 100% of the sanctioned connected load/contract demand of the consumer. They also requested the Commission that a clause should be inserted saying no permission from GMDA will be required for installation of Solar panels.

Commission’s Decision:

The commission mentioned that restriction on contract demand is being modified from the existing limit after proper consultation and considering the aspect of technical safety of the Grid. The limit may be amended in future in case the relevant situations changes.

Further, with regard to insertion of clause related to GMDA permission, it may be noted that the Commission has no jurisdiction related to civil structure, building construction etc. and AERC (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015 (First Amendment), 2017 is for solar Rooftop installation in the State of Assam. Therefore, the proposal for having clause related to no requirement of GMDA permission is not accepted.

5. The regulation have been finalized after detailed analysis and due consideration of the various issues raised in the submissions.
6. Further, any typographical errors pointed out by various stakeholders or noticed in the draft regulations have also been corrected.

7. At the end, Commission would like to thank all the stakeholders/objectors for sharing their views/suggestions on the Draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Solar PV Systems) Regulations, 2015 (First Amendment), 2017
8. The Commission after taking into consideration the facts as set out in preceding Para orders that the proposed amendment published in draft form be now finalized and notified in the Official Gazette after incorporating the modification/changes as discussed in the foregoing paragraphs.

(Subhash Ch. Das)
Member
AERC

(Dipak Chakravarty)
Member
AERC

(Naba Kumar Das)
Chairperson
AERC