M.P.No. 13 of 2020

As per the direction of the Hon’ble TNERC on 09.06.2020 in M.P.No.13 of 2020, the comments of stakeholders are invited on or before 25.06.2020 in M.P.No.13 of 2020 to the Chief Engineer/ Commercial, 2nd floor, Western wing, NPKRR Malligai, 144 Anna salai, Chennai- 600 002 (email id:cecoml@tnebnet.org).

Sd/-11.06.2020
Chief Engineer/Commercial.
BEFORE THE HONOURABLE TAMILNADU ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, CHENNAI

M.P. No.13 of 2020

In the matter of: Adoption of the procedure for assessment of billing of both import and export energy in case where there is 'no bi-directional meter' or bi-directional meter is defective for the LT Solar Rooftop services and to make necessary provision in Clause 11 of Chapter 2 in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code.

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited,
Represented by the Chief Engineer/Commercial,
No. 144 Anna Salai,
Chennai 600 002.

…………… Petitioner

Vs

Nil …………… Respondent

PETITION FILED UNDER SECTION 50 AND 86 (k) OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 AND SEC 16(i) OF TNERC CONDUCT OF BUSINESS REGULATIONS, 2004

I, U.S. Pongiannan son of (Late) Thiru K. Subhana Gownder, Hindu, aged about 57 years employed as the Chief Engineer/Commercial in Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) and having office at 144, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I respectfully submit that I am the Chief Engineer/Commercial and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case and I am authorized to file the present petition before this Hon'ble Commission on behalf of TANGEDCO.

2. It is respectfully submit that this petition seeks approval for adopting the procedure for assessment of both import and export of energy for billing purpose in LT Solar Rooftop services when there is no bi-directional meter or defective bi-directional meter in Solar Net meter and net feed-in Services under Tamil Nadu Solar Policy 2012 and Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019 and subsequent Policies, if any in future and to make necessary provisions in Clause 11 of Chapter 2 in Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code.
3. It is respectfully submit that Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, a Strategic Plan for Infrastructure Development in Tamil Nadu includes a solar energy target of 5,000MW. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) proposed a solar energy target for the year 2022 of 9,000 MW for Tamil Nadu. Recently, Tamil Nadu Government came out with Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy, 2019 to promote Solar Energy generation in the State to achieve installed the solar energy generation capacity of 9,000 MW by 2023. Out of this, 40% is earmarked for consumer category solar energy systems.

4. It is respectfully submit that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Phase-2 of Grid Connected Roof top solar programme for achieving cumulative capacity of 40 Giga Watts (GW) from Rooftop Solar projects by 2022 through a total Central Financial support of Rs.11,814 Crore. This scheme is proposed to be implemented through the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) with Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to residential sector and incentives to DISCOMs – for initial 18 GW Capacity. The main objective of Phase-2 of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme is to bring DISCOMs in the forefront as key drivers for rapid development of RTS in promoting them in the Residential, Institutional, Social, Government, Commercial and Industrial Sectors.

5. It is respectfully submit that TANGEDCO has proposed to participate in phase-2 of Grid connected Rooftop solar for achieving aggregate capacity requirement of Rooftop Solar for Tamil Nadu under the subsidy programme for residential sector for the year 2019-20 for 5 MW. Also, it is proposed to avail incentive from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for achievements above the cumulative Roof top Solar capacity installed at the end of 31.03.2019 which is 45.42 MW.

6. It is respectfully submitted that in this scenario of necessity in implementation of Solar Rooftop Systems, large number of solar developers and consumers are approaching TANGEDCO for installation of Solar Rooftop plants. Accordingly, a procedure need to be evolved for assessment of import and export of energy for billing purpose in LT Solar Rooftop Services during the defective period of bi-directional meters.

7. It is respectfully submit that the Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code, Clause 11 of Chapter 2 has the following provision in respect of Assessment of billing in cases where there is no meter or meter is defective.
"Chapter 2: ELECTRICITY CHARAGES - BILLING AND RECOVERY

Clause 11: Assessment of billing in cases where there is no meter or meter is defective:

(1) Where supply to the consumer is given without a meter or where the meter fixed is found defective or to have ceased to function and no theft of energy or violation is suspected, the quantity of electricity supplied during the period when the meter was not installed or the meter installed was defective, shall be assessed as mentioned hereunder.

(2) The quantity of electricity, supplied during the period in question shall be determined by taking the average of the electricity supplied during the preceding four months in respect of both High Tension service connections and Low Tension service connections provided that the conditions in regard to use of electricity during the said four months were not different from those which prevailed during the period in question.

(3) In respect of High Tension service connections, where the meter fixed for measuring the maximum Demand becomes defective, the Maximum Demand shall be assessed by computation on the basis of the average of the recorded demand during the previous four months.

(4) Where the meter becomes defective immediately after the service connection is effected, the quantum of electricity supplied during the period in question is to be determined by taking the average of the electricity supplied during the succeeding four months periods after installation of a correct meter, provided the conditions in regard to the use of electricity in respect of such Low Tension service connections are not different. The consumer shall be charged monthly minimum provisionally for defective period and after assessment the actual charges will be recovered after adjusting the amount collected provisionally.

(5) If the conditions in regard to use of electricity during the periods as mentioned above were different, assessment shall be made on the basis of any consecutive four months period during the preceding twelve months when the conditions of working were similar to those in the period covered by the billing.

(6) Where it is not possible to select a set of four months, the quantity of electricity supplied will be assessed in the case of Low Tension service connections by the Engineer in charge of the distribution and in the case of High Tension service connections by the next higher level officer on the basis of the connected load and the hours of usage of electricity by the consumer.

(7) In case the consumer does not agree with the assessment made by the Engineer or the higher-level officer as the case may be, the matter may be referred to the next higher-level officer of the Licensee. In case the consumer is still not satisfied, the consumer is at liberty to approach the respective Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum of the Licensee."
8. It is respectfully submit that provision for assessment of both imported and exported energy in case of defective bi-directional meter or no bi-directional meter in LT Solar Rooftop services need to be included in Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code.

9. It is respectfully submit that in cases where there is no bi-directional meter or bi-directional meter is defective in LT Solar Rooftop services, the procedure is proposed for assessment of billing of import energy and export energy.

Assessment of billing in cases where there is no bi-directional meter or bi-directional meter is defective in LT Solar Rooftop services.

(A) For import of energy.

(i) Where supply to the consumer is given without a bi-directional meter or where the bi-directional meter fixed is found defective or to have ceased to function and no theft of energy or violation is suspected, the quantum of electricity imported during the period when the bi-directional meter was not installed or the bi-directional meter installed was defective, shall be assessed in line with the existing provision of Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code for non solar services mentioned above which is detailed below:

(a) The quantum of electricity imported during the period in question shall be determined by taking the average of the electricity imported during the preceding four months provided that the conditions in regard to use of electricity during the said four months were not different from those which prevailed during the period in question.

(b) Where the bi-directional meter becomes defective immediately after the service connection is effected, the quantum of electricity imported during the period in question is to be determined by taking the average of the electricity imported during the succeeding four months period after installation of a correct bi-directional meter, provided the conditions in regard to the use of electricity are not different. The consumer shall be charged monthly minimum provisionally for defective period and after assessment the actual charges will be recovered after adjusting the amount collected provisionally.

(c) If the conditions in regard to use of electricity during the periods as mentioned above were different, assessment shall be made on the basis of any consecutive four months period during the preceding twelve months when the conditions of working were similar to those in the period covered by the billing.
(d) Where it is not possible to select a set of four months, the quantum of electricity imported will be assessed by the Engineer in charge of the distribution.

(ii) In case the consumer does not agree with the assessment made by the Engineer or the higher level officer as the case may be, the matter may be referred to the next higher-level officer of the Licensee. In case the consumer is still not satisfied, the solar consumer is at liberty to approach the respective Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum of the Licensee.

(B) For export of energy.

(i) For services wherein bi-directional meter becomes defective after previous assessments for a minimum period of 4 months:

The quantum of export energy in units during the period in question shall be determined by taking the average of the exported energy during the preceding four months period.

(ii) For services wherein the bi-directional meter becomes defective immediately after the service connection is effected:

(Heading stands corrected as per I.A in M.P. No. 13 of 2020).

The quantum of energy exported to grid during the period in question is to be determined by taking the average of the export energy during the succeeding four months periods after installation of a correct bi-directional meter. Till such time, the consumer shall be charged provisionally for the defective period by assessing the quantum of export energy as follows:

Let the installed solar plant capacity : 1 KW
The Capacity Utilisation Factor (CUF) of Solar plant : 19%

Maximum energy that would be generated by a 1 KW solar plant in a day : 1 x \( \frac{19}{100} \times 24 \) = 4.56 Units/day
Or say 4 Units/day

Taking generation as 4 Units/day/KW and assuming that 50% of the generation is consumed by the consumer in a day, the export energy may be taken as 2 Units/day/KW.

The total energy exported during the period of defective bi-directional meter or no bi-directional meter = 2 x (defective period in days) x (Installed capacity of the solar power plant in KW) Units.
On fixing the correct bi-directional meter and assessment observed for four months, the provisional assessment made already may be reworked and demand notice may be raised after adjusting the amount collected provisionally.

(iii) Tamil Nadu has reasonably high solar insolation of 4.5 to 6 KW/Sq.m. with around 300 clear sunny days in a year. Though the solar energy generation cannot be predicted and it differs every day, the average generation in every month will be almost similar. Hence, generation of electricity during different period will not vary much.

(iv) In case the solar net bi-directional meter service consumer does not agree with the assessment made by the Engineer or the higher level officer as the case may be, the matter may be referred to the next higher-level officer of the Licensee. In case the consumer is still not satisfied, the consumer is at liberty to approach the respective Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum of the Licensee.

Under the said circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Commission may be pleased to pass an appropriate order to adopt the above procedures mentioned in Para (9.0) above for assessment of billing of both import and export energy in cases where there is no bi-directional meter or bi-directional meter is defective for the LT solar Rooftop services and necessary provision in Tamil Nadu Electricity Supply Code in Clause 11 of Chapter 2.

The petitioner pays a fee of Rs 10,000/- as per the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission – Fees and Fines Regulation, 2004.

Before me,

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this the 3rd day of March 2020 and signed his name in my presence.

Sd/-
Advocate, Chennai

Sd/- 11.06.2020
Chief Engineer/Commercial.