

F. No. 283/18/2020-GRID SOLAR
भारत सरकार / Government of India
नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय/ Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
ग्रिड सौर ऊर्जा प्रभाग / Grid Solar Power Division

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

Dated: 12th May, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Time-extension in Scheduled Commissioning Date of Renewable Energy (RE) Projects considering disruption due to the second surge of COVID-19

1. Reference is invited to this Ministry's O.M. No. 283/18/2020-GRID SOLAR dated 13.08.2020, providing for a blanket time-extension of 5 (five) months for Renewable Energy (RE) projects on account of COVID-19 and the associated lockdown. Vide subsequent clarifications of even no. dated 09.02.2021 and 30.03.2021 it was communicated that further time-extension beyond 5 (five) months can be granted by implementing agencies in exceptional cases. However, for any time-extension totalling beyond 6 (six) months, a reference shall be made to MNRE.

2. Representations have again been received in the Ministry for seeking time-extension on the grounds that there has been resurgence of COVID-19, leading to several States/UTs issuing instructions restricting mobility of people.

3. In partial modification to MNRE's earlier O.M. dated 30th March 2021, the total time-extension on account of first wave of COVID-19 shall be restricted to 6 (six) months, including the 5 (five) months blanket time-extension already granted by MNRE. No further time-extension shall be considered on this account.

4. Requests for time-extension on account of resurgence of COVID-19 and subsequent issuance of instructions by States/UTs restricting mobility of people have been carefully examined in the Ministry. It is noted that while there are no Central Government instructions for a countrywide lockdown, since beginning of April 2021 several States/UTs have taken various measures like night curfew, imposition of section 144, weekend lockdown, etc which may have affected RE projects. As a measure of relief to RE projects so that they can deal with difficulties arising out of the restrictions imposed on account of the second COVID-19 surge, it has been decided that RE projects, being implemented through Implementing Agencies designated by the MNRE or under various schemes of the MNRE, having their Scheduled Commissioning Date (SCD) on or after 1st April 2021 will be eligible to claim time-extension for completion of their project activities, provided such time-extensions are not used as a ground for claiming termination of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or for claiming any increase in the project cost. The actual quantum of time-extension shall be decided in due course depending on the COVID-19 related developments that take place in the coming weeks.

5. In view of above, the undersigned is directed to state that:

- a) RE projects, being implemented through Implementing Agencies designated by the MNRE or under various schemes of the MNRE, having their Scheduled Commissioning Date (SCD) on or after 1st April 2021 after considering the time extension mentioned at Para-3 above, can apply to the concerned implementing agency for claiming time-extension in project commissioning.

- b) While applying for such time-extension, RE developers shall undertake that the time-extension shall not be used as a ground for claiming termination of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or for claiming any increase in the project cost, including Interest During Construction (IDC) or upward revision of tariff.
- c) If the conditions above are satisfied, then no other supporting documents will be required for granting time-extension.
- d) On receipt of an application for time-extension, implementing agency shall not initiate any coercive action on the project for recovery of penalty on delayed commissioning, till the time-extension request is decided upon.
- e) Within the extended time provided for commissioning, intermediate milestones of RE projects, scheduled for completion on or after 1st April 2021 after considering the time extension mentioned at Para-3 above, shall also be commensurately extended.
- f) Developers shall pass on the benefit of time-extension to other stakeholders down the value chain including EPC contractors, material/ equipment suppliers, OEMs, etc.

6. As stated earlier, the quantum of time extension to be granted in above manner will be notified separately by the MNRE.

7. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (NRE & Power).

(Sanjay G. Karndhar)
Scientist-D

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To:

1. Chairman & Managing Director, Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), Plate-B, 6th Floor, Tower 2, NBCC Office Block, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023.
2. Chairman & Managing Director, NTPC Limited, NTPC Bhawan, Scope Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
3. Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC Limited, N.H.P.C Office Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad, Haryana.

Copy to:

1. Addl. Chief Secretaries / Pr. Secretaries / Secretaries of Power / Energy / Renewable Energy Departments of State Governments/ UT Govts./ Administrations for considering to issue similar instructions for RE projects under them, based on their specific circumstances.
2. NIC, MNRE, for uploading on MNRE website for dissemination of information.

Copy for internal circulation:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (NRE & Power) / Sr. PPS to Secretary, MNRE / Sr. PPS to AS/ JS (AKS)/ JS (BPY) / JS (DDJ)/ JS&FA / All Group Heads and Division Heads in MNRE