

Before

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Extension of the period of applicability of the benchmark capital cost and levelled generic tariff issued by the Commission for Solar Energy based plants vide Suo-moto Order dated 07.06.2019 in Petition No. 18 of 2019 (Suo-Moto).

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Shri D.P. Gairola Member (Law)

Shri M.K. Jain Member (Technical)

Date of Order: May 11, 2020

The Commission in exercise of power vested in it under Section 61(h), 86(1)(e) read with Section 181(2)(zd) of the Electricity Act, 2003, notified Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Other Terms for Supply of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources and non-fossil fuel based Co-generation Stations) Regulations, 2018 (hereinafter referred as "RE Tariff Regulation, 2018") on 06.09.2018 which came into force from the date of notification and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date of commencement until and unless reviewed earlier or extended by the Commission.

2. Regulation 11 of RE Regulations, 2018 specifies as follows:

"11 Control Period or Review Period

The Control Period or Review Period under these Regulations shall be of five years, of which the first year shall be the financial year 2018-19.

Provided that the benchmark capital cost of Solar PV, Canal Bank & Canal Top Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Municipal Solid Waste based power projects, Refuse Derived based power projects and Grid interactive Rooftop and small solar PV projects may be review annually by the Commission.

Provided that the tariff determination as per these Regulations for the RE projects commissioned during the Control Period, shall continue to be applicable for the entire Tariff Period."

Accordingly, based on the above Regulation, the Commission vide Suo-moto Order dated 07.06.2019 reviewed the benchmark capital cost and levelled generic tariff for the solar energy based power projects commissioned on or after 01.04.2019.

3. It is to be noted that the Commission reviews the benchmark capital cost annually based on the prices of solar panels/modules in the international market and prices of indigenous solar modules. However, Corona Virus (COVID 19) has affected the global supply chain of solar power modules resulted into non-availability of generalised data of module price. Further, in line with the decision of Central Government, the State Government has declared COVID 19 epidemic because of which all construction activities alongwith other commercial activities has been disrupted for the solar power developers. The Central and State Government has further extended the lockdown with certain relaxation and it appears that commercial activities w.r.t. development of solar energy based power projects, may take time to get normalised.
4. Accordingly, the Commission is of the view that the levelled generic tariff issued vide Commission's Suo-moto Order dated 07.06.2019 in Petition No. 18 of 2019 shall continue to remain in force till 30.09.2020. Further, other terms and conditions shall be applicable in accordance with the RE Regulations, 2018.
5. Ordered Accordingly.

(M.K. Jain)
Member (Technical)

(D.P. Gairola)
Member (Law)