

Statement of Reasons for GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

In the matter of:

GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024.

CORAM:

**Anil Mukim, Chairman
Mehul M. Gandhi, Member
S. R. Pandey, Member**

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India (GoI), in exercise of powers conferred by Sub-section (1) read with Sub-section (2) (z) of Section 176 of the Electricity Act, 2003 has notified the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 (here onwards referred to as Principal Rules) on 31.12.2020. Pursuant to these Rules, the Commission has notified Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2022. Subsequently, Ministry of Power, Government of India has notified the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2024 on 22.02.2024 (here onwards referred to as "Amendment Rules 2024") making amendments in certain clauses of the Principal Rules. The State Electricity Regulatory Commissions have been asked to either make new Regulations or amend existing Regulations to align the applicable Regulations with the said Rules vide MoP letter dated 18.01.2021. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to

make amendments in the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 and its subsequent amendments as provided in the Draft Regulations.

The relevant provisions of the Amendment Rules, 2024 read as under:

“.....

5. In the principal rules, in rule 11,-

(i) for sub-rule (7), the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:-

“(7) For installation of roof top solar photo voltaic systems, the technical feasibility study shall be completed within a period of fifteen days and the outcome of the study shall be intimated to the applicant, failing which it shall be presumed that the proposal is technically feasible.

(7A) The applications for roof top solar photo voltaic systems up to 10 kW capacity, complete in all respects shall be deemed to have been accepted without requiring technical feasibility study and any commensurate enhancement of the sanctioned load of the consumer, as may be required, shall be carried out by the distribution licensee.”;

(ii) for sub-rule (8), the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:-

(8) subject to sub-rule (7A), during the time period from the feasibility study or deemed acceptance of the application till the completion of installation, in case, there is any requirement of upgradation of distribution infrastructure like augmentation of service line, distribution transformer capacity, and the like for installation of the required capacity of roof top solar photo voltaic system, the same shall be carried out by the distribution licensee or consumer, as the case may be:

Provided that the cost of strengthening the distribution infrastructure, including distribution transformer, as necessary, to facilitate the installation of roof top solar photovoltaic systems up to a capacity of 5 kW or a higher capacity as prescribed by the State Commission, shall be included in the revenue requirement of the distribution licensee.

(iii) for sub-rule (9), the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:-

“(9) After installation of roof top solar photovoltaic system, the consumer shall submit the installation certificate to such distribution licensee and such distribution licensee shall complete signing of connection agreement, installation of meter and successful commissioning of the roof top solar photovoltaic system within fifteen days from the date of submission of the installation certificate.

(9A) The Formats of connection agreement and installation certificate shall be placed on web-portal of the distribution licensee.”

In exercise of Powers conferred under Sections 61, 66, 86 (1) (e) read with Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Act 36 of 2003) and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Commission published Draft GERC (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as 'Draft Regulations'), in order to align the existing Regulations and amendments thereof, with the above MoP' Rules.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Commission has issued Public Notice on 20.05.2024 in two Gujarati Newspapers and One English Newspaper inviting comments/suggestions from the stakeholders. Further, the copy of Draft Regulations along with Explanatory Memorandum was uploaded on the website of the Commission in downloadable

format and the copy of the same was also forwarded to the Members of State Advisory Committee and Co-ordination Forum for their comments/suggestions.

The list of the Objectors, who have submitted their objections/suggestions on the Draft Regulations is stated at '**Annexure – I**'.

The Commission has conducted Public Hearing on the aforesaid Draft Regulations on 06.06.2024. The list of the Objectors who have submitted their objections/suggestions during the Public Hearing is stated at '**Annexure – II**'.

3. VIEWS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION THEREON:

The Commission has considered the comments/suggestions received from the stakeholders on the Draft Regulations and the decision of the Commission is discussed in later part of this Statement of Reasons (SOR). The Regulations have been finalised after detailed analysis and with due consideration of submissions made by the stakeholders on the provisions of the Draft Regulations.

4. OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAFT REGULATIONS AND FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION THEREON:

3). Amendment in Regulation 5.1 of the Principal Regulations:

The Regulation 5.1 shall be substituted as under:

5.1 The distribution licensee shall update distribution transformer capacity available for connecting Rooftop Solar PV Systems under net metering arrangement on yearly basis and shall provide the information to the Commission.

Provided that the cost of strengthening of distribution infrastructure, including distribution transformer, as necessary, to facilitate the installation

of Rooftop Solar PV System up to 6 KW including subsequent addition aggregating up to 6 KW, shall be included in the Annual Revenue Requirement of Distribution Licensee.

Provided further that for aggregate Rooftop Solar capacity above 6 KW, system strengthening charges shall be recovered by the Distribution Licensee from the applicant of Rooftop Solar system as per the below stipulations:

(a) For LT consumers installing Rooftop Solar PV System above 6 kW up to 100 kW in aggregate:

(i) In respect of State owned Discoms and Torrent Power Limited:

System strengthening charges for Rooftop Solar capacity above 6 kW up to 100 kW shall be recovered from the Applicant by the Distribution Licensee for the Rooftop Solar capacity based on per KW basis charges as applicable for release of new/additional load at Low Tension, being recovered from the applicant by the concerned Distribution Licensee as approved by the Commission from time to time.

Provided that in case of addition of Rooftop Solar capacity resulting into total Rooftop Solar capacity above 6 kW, the system strengthening charges shall be recovered only for additional Rooftop Solar capacity.

(ii) In respect of other Discoms:

In case there is any requirement of upgradation of distribution infrastructures like the augmentation of service line, distribution transformer capacity, and the like for installation of the required capacity of Rooftop Solar PV System, the same shall be carried out by the distribution licensee, the cost of such augmentation shall be borne by the consumer.

Provided that as and when the Commission approves recovery of charges on per kW basis for release of new connection/additional load, the same shall be applicable for recovery of charges towards system strengthening for installation of Rooftop Solar PV system.

(b) For HT consumers installing Rooftop Solar PV System above 6 kW up to 1000 kW in aggregate:

(i) In respect of State owned Discoms:

System strengthening charges for Rooftop Solar capacity above 6 kW up to 1000 kW shall be recovered from the Applicant by the Distribution Licensee for the Rooftop Solar capacity based on per KVA basis charges as applicable for release of new/additional load at High Tension, being recovered from the applicant by the concerned Distribution Licensee as approved by the Commission from time to time.

Provided that in case of addition of Rooftop Solar capacity resulting into total Rooftop Solar capacity above 6 kW, the system strengthening charges shall be recovered only for additional Rooftop Solar capacity.

(ii) In respect of other licensee:

In case there is any requirement of upgradation of distribution infrastructures like the augmentation of service line, and the like for installation of the required capacity of Rooftop Solar PV System, the same shall be carried out by the distribution licensee, the cost of such augmentation shall be borne by the consumer.

Provided that as and when the Commission approves recovery of charges on per kW basis or per KVA basis for release of new connection/additional

load, the same shall be applicable for recovery of charges towards system strengthening for installation of Rooftop Solar PV system.

The capacity of Rooftop Solar PV System to be installed at the premises of any consumer shall not be less than one Kilo Watt (1 kW).

Comments/ Suggestions from the Stakeholders:

1. Some of the Stakeholder have submitted that as per Section 46 of the Electricity Act, 2003, distribution licensee is empowered to recovered all the applicable charge from any person require in supply of electricity. Hence, there can be no exemption on recovery of system strengthening charges from the consumers installing Solar Rooftop Project below 6 KW. It is further submitted that affluent consumers are setting up the Solar rooftop mainly for their commercial gains and are capable of bearing the system strengthening charges. Accordingly, it is submitted that there can be no ground for giving any exemption. If any exemption is granted, the charges which will associated, will have to be borne by the other consumers of the Distribution Licensee resulting into cross subsidisation which is contrary to the intent of the Act.
2. Some of the Stakeholder have suggested that in case of installation of Solar Rooftop Systems up to sanction load of its LT connection with distribution licensee, it is not required for upgradation of electrical infrastructure by the distribution licensee as contracted /sanctioned load has been approved by the distribution licensee with recovery of fixed cost basis charges as approved by the Commission while granting such connection. It is suggested that in case if Solar Rooftop applicant asked to install Solar Rooftop capacity more than the existing

sanctioned/contracted load with the distribution Licensee, than only system strengthening charge is recoverable.

3. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that the Commission cannot differentiate the consumption patterns of the same category of consumers who are using electricity for similar purposes in different areas served by different licensees. There cannot be different yardstick for different licensees. Only because a HT consumer is located in Private Discom area, cannot be asked to bear the expenses pertaining to upgradation of distribution infrastructure whereas the similar HT consumer located in State Discom's area is exempted from paying system strengthening charges up to 6KW.
4. It is suggested that most of the HT consumers by virtue of consumption/load limit fall under category of Designated Consumers and thus, have to meet the targets specified by Ministry of Power, vide its notification dated 20.10.2023 for minimum consumption of non-fossils sources. Therefore, it is mandatory by designated consumers to fulfil the targets of Distributed Renewable Energy consumption. Hence, there is requirement to promote enabling measures and provide regulatory environment to ensure HT consumer are able to meet the specific target. Referring to the aforesaid comments, it is suggested that the Regulation 5.1(b)(ii) may be deleted and Heading of Clause -5.1 (b) (i) to be changed to "In respect of all licensee" in place of "In respect of State owned Discoms".
5. Some of the Objector have submitted that as per provisions of the Regulation 5.1 (a) (i) and 5.1 (b) (i) any Solar Rooftop Project application above 6 KW will have to pay the system strengthening charges irrespective of the fact that system strengthening of electrical

infrastructure is required or not. The proposed provisions defer the principal of recovery of the charges which should reflect the actual cost incurred for augmentation of system.

6. Some of the stakeholder submitted that Rooftop Solar Plant is a Distributed source of generation and not a load. It does not increase the load on the distribution system. Further, the full capacity of the installed Solar Plants hardly reflects on the distribution system being not a continuous injection of surplus Solar generation for longer hours. Hence, the issue of overloading of transformer or electric network requiring system strengthening do not arise. DISCOMs should have sufficient data to establish that the Transformer is getting overloaded because of the Solar Rooftop plants. In absence of such available data and analysis made thereon, it cannot assume for upgradation of Distribution infrastructure like augmentation of service line, distribution capacity of transformer and the like for installation of the required capacity of Rooftop Solar PV System for all Prosumers and therefore the proposed amendment is unsustainable.
7. Some of the stakeholders have submitted that for release of LT new connection/additional load, the Commission has approved the fixed cost recovery methodology for the DISCOM. The component of these charges includes cost of HT line, LT line, Distribution Transformer, augmentation of Distribution Transformer, Service Line and metering cost and therefore the uniform charges of about Rs. 1100 per kW have been approved by the Commission. In case of system strengthening for installation of Solar Rooftop system, no such cost component is involved as solar generation is input energy and not contributing the loading on Distribution Network. Therefore, these charges are totally unjustified.

8. Some of the stakeholders submitted that the per kVA bases charges for HT consumer approved by the Commission is considering overhead HT network up to 5.5 Km Line only. In case of system strengthening for solar generation, there is no requirement for such additional length of line and replacement of conductor. Further, the Distribution Transformer is provided by the HT consumer themselves. Therefore, recovery of additional charges on per kVA basis of installed Solar Rooftop system capacity in the name of system strengthening for injecting solar generation is unjustified.
9. Some of the stakeholders have submitted that if at all any augmentation of Transformer, laying of Distribution Network, is required for any particular HT consumer, such consumer have to bear the system strengthening cost but cannot be imposed such recovery on all the HT consumers requesting the Solar Rooftop PV system up to capacity of 1000 kW as proposed in the draft Regulations.
10. Some of the stakeholders have submitted that the provisions of Regulations 5(a) and 5(b) are contradictory to the provisions of Regulation 7 at Sr. No. 5(g). As per stipulations at Regulation 7 at Sr. No. 5(g), the estimate is recoverable only in case of the works to be carried out for system strengthening and only from such applicants for whom such work is required to be carried out. Further, the per kW basis charges are recovered from each consumer. Therefore, recovery of additional charges on per kW basis for rooftop solar system towards system strengthening as provided under Regulations 5 (a) and 5 (b) do not arise. Such recovery can be made only from those consumers whose connection was released prior to 30.12.2010 i.e., prior to effective date of recovery of per kW basis charges for release of new connection/ additional load. It is very clear that estimate is recoverable in case of the

works to be carried out for system strengthening and only such applicant from whom such work is required to be carried out. In this stipulation , it is submitted that estimate is recoverable only from those prosumers who have not paid the estimate for their connection based on per KW/per KVA charges. The question of additional charges for Rooftop Solar connection for system strengthening does not arise as such consumers have already paid the charges while getting new connections since 30.12.2010.

11. Some of the objectors have submitted that the draft regulation is not clear in as much as it implies that all LT/HT consumers installing solar Rooftop PV system, are required to pay system strengthening charges on per kW / kVA basis charge as applicable for release of new connection/additional load. Whereas, Rules 7A (ii), sub rule 8 of the MoP Rules, 2024 provides that “in case there is any requirement of upgradation of infrastructure like augmentation of service line, Distribution Transformer capacity and like for installation of the required capacity of the solar Rooftop PV system, the same be carried out by the Distribution licensee or consumer as the case may be.” In view of above the system strengthening charges are required to be borne only by a consumer in whose case there is such requirement of up gradation of distribution infrastructure and not by all consumers installing the solar Rooftop PV system above 6 KW.
12. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that DISCOMs at the time of truing up tariff petition are submitting details of CAPEX incurred during the year including details of scheme wise consumer contribution, grant, equity etc. As per the proposed regulation no 5.1 cost of system strengthening in case of aggregate Solar Rooftop installation up to 6 kW shall be included in ARR. It is requested to clarify as to whether any

variation in CAPEX and associated elements on account of such charges being included in ARR shall be considered as uncontrollable factor to DISCOMs.

Commission's decision:

- 1) Some of the objectors have suggested that there cannot be any exemption in recovery of system strengthening charges for consumer installing Rooftop Solar Project upto 6 KW. It is in contradiction to the Section 46 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

We note that Section 46 of Electricity Act, 2003 empowers the distribution licensee to recover the applicable charges from any person who requires or apply for supply of electricity. The said provision is pertaining to the case for supply of electricity as being applied by the consumer. While the proposed amendment in the Regulations based on MoP Rules are with regard to connectivity of Solar Rooftop Projects installed at consumer place. The Rules provides that in case there is requirement for strengthening of distribution network of the licensee, the cost for such works for Solar Rooftop capacity upto 5 KW or the capacity as may be decided by the Commission, is not to be recovered from individual consumers. The Commission has proposed in the amendment Regulations that Rooftop Solar Power plant capacity upto 6 KW set up by the consumer, strengthening of network if required, the same is not recoverable from the individual consumer by the licensee. However, such cost be recovered by the licensee as a part of ARR/ Tariff Petition filed by the licensee before the Commission. Thus, the licensee is not affected in any manner so far as financial aspect is concerned. Further, the purpose of non-recovery of strengthening charge for the consumer setting up of Solar Rooftop Project upto 6

KW is to promote the distributed generation at consumer place and also achieve the target of setting up of Renewable Energy generation fixed by the State as well as Central Government. Hence, the contention of the objector is not accepted.

- 2) Some of the objectors have suggested that in case of Solar Rooftop Project capacity upto sanctioned load of its LT connection with distribution licensee are not liable to pay any system strengthening charge as they are having contracted load/sanctioned load with distribution licensee wherein charges on fixed cost basis already recovered by the licensee as approved by the Commission at the time of release of connection/addition of contract demand.

We note that the proposed amendment in the Regulations are with regard to the setting up of Rooftop Power Projects at consumer premises by the consumer. In such case the consumer is setting up distributed Solar Generating Plant and consuming the electricity generated from such plant at its place and the generated surplus energy is injected into the grid, differently affects the existing system of the distribution licensee, i.e. transformer, distribution lines, switchgear etc. Further, the system developed by the distribution licensee for supply of electricity to consumer is different and distinct from the Solar Rooftop Power Projects inject the surplus energy into the distribution network and its impact on technical parameters of the distribution network are different and distinct. In such a case, if any augmentation or strengthening of distribution system is required, the distribution licensee is eligible to recover such charges from the applicant. Hence, it is incorrect to accept that consumer having sanctioned load/contract demand with licensee if set up Rooftop Power Plant upto sanctioned/contract demand, such consumers are not liable to pay system strengthening charges.

3) Some of the objectors have suggested that there cannot be any differentiation on recovery of charges from the consumer in different license area, specifically in respect of consumers located in private distribution licensee area and consumers located in the State owned distribution licensee area. Based on above, it is suggested that proposed Regulation 5.1 (b) (ii) may be deleted and heading of clause 5.1 (b) (i) be change as to “in respect of all licensee” in place of “in respect of State owned Discom”. Further, it is also stated that designated consumer is having responsibility for fulfilment of renewable energy consumption as a part of total consumption as per MoP notification dated 20.10.2023. Accordingly, the objectors have suggested that enabling renewable energy regulatory environment be provided for HT consumers, so as they can achieve their RPO target.

The aforesaid suggestions/objections are not accepted because the Commission has determined and decided the uniform charges payable by the LT/HT consumers, as the case may be, when they apply for new connection/additional demand towards network strengthening charges in case of State owned Distribution Licensees and LT consumers in case of supply area of Torrent Power. Thus, the charges payable by the LT/HT consumers of State owned Distribution Licensees and LT consumers of supply area of Torrent Power, shall be as determined and decided by the Commission in case of consumer setting up Solar Rooftop Project above 6 KW and upto 1000 KW capacity in line with aforesaid decision of the Commission. Further, in case of increase in Solar Rooftop capacity above 6 KW, in that case the system strengthening charge shall be recoverable only for additional Rooftop Solar capacity in excess of 6 KW which is in line with the MoP Rules wherein it is provided that Solar Rooftop

capacity upto 5 KW or the capacity as may be decided by the Commission (which is in this case decided as 6 KW by the Commission), the system strengthening cost is to be included in the ARR of the Distribution Licensees instead of recovering the same from individual consumer.

So far as in the case of other private licensee is concerned, the recovery of uniform charges are not determined by the Commission for LT/HT consumers, as the case may be. In absence of the specified and determined uniform system strengthening charge by the Commission for LT/HT consumer situated in certain private distribution licensee area, the question of recovery of uniform charges towards network strengthening cost does not arise. Therefore, whenever any system strengthening of the distribution licensee network is required, the same need to be recovered from such consumer on actual cost basis if the capacity of Solar Rooftop Project set up by the consumer/prosumer is above 6 KW.

- 4) Some of the objectors have contended that as per the proposed provisions of Regulation 5.1 (a) (i) and 5.1 (b) (i), any application for setting up of Solar Rooftop capacity above 6 KW, shall have to pay uniform system strengthening charges. The recovery of such uniform charges, differ the principle of recovery of charges which should reflect the actual cost incurred by the distribution licensee for augmentation of system, is concerned, we note that in the proposed Regulations providing for recovery of system strengthening charges from the applicant of Solar Rooftop Power Projects, it is specifically stipulated that it shall not require to pay the charges for strengthening of network upto 6 KW with consideration of MoP Rules which provides for non-recovery of strengthening charges upto 5 KW or capacity as may be decided by the Commission from the individual

consumers. The Commission has considered the provisions of MoP rules and observed that as per the provisions of the GERC (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2015 the consumers are eligible to get single phase supply upto 6 KW sanction load / contracted capacity. Therefore, to provide the benefit of exemption in recovery of network strengthening charge to the consumers setting up Solar Rooftop Power Project upto 6 KW i.e., small single phase consumers, the Commission has decided that the system strengthening charge shall not be recovered from such individual consumer setting up of Solar Rooftop Project upto 6 KW capacity under net metering provisions, which is consistence with the provisions of MoP Rules. Further, in respect of those consumers, whose Rooftop Solar projects capacity exceeds 6 KW, shall be liable to pay uniform system strengthening charges on per kW basis / KVA basis as applicable for release of LT/HT new connection/additional load to such consumer as approved by the Commission for respective distribution licensees from time to time, irrespective whether system strengthening works is required or not so as to avoid differentiation amongst the consumer/prosumer/generator for payment of system strengthening charges. Thus, the suggestions / objections of the stakeholders in this regard is not acceptable.

It is also necessary to see that the recovery of charges should not be repeated or duplicate if any charges earlier paid by the consumer. and having capacity below 6 KW rooftop projects. In such a case the charges for additional capacity of rooftop projects. Accordingly, the system strengthening charges, in case of the Solar Rooftop capacity enhanced in excess of above 6 KW/KVA be payable by such consumer for towards strengthening of the distribution network charges.

5) Some of the stakeholders have submitted that Rooftop Solar Plant is a Distributed source of generation and not a load. It does not increase the load on the distribution system. Further, the full capacity of the installed Solar Plants hardly reflects on the distribution system being not a continuous injection of surplus Solar generation for longer hours. Hence, the issue of overloading of transformer or electric network requiring system strengthening does not arise. DISCOMs should have sufficient data to establish that the Transformer is getting overloaded because of the Solar Rooftop plants. In absence of such available data and analysis made thereon, it cannot assume for upgradation of Distribution infrastructure like augmentation of service line, distribution capacity of transformer and the like for installation of the required capacity of Rooftop Solar PV System for all Prosumers and therefore the proposed amendment is unsustainable. If the Commission is concerned, we note that the proposed Regulations is with regard to installation of Rooftop Solar projects at consumer premises which work as generator and injection of available surplus power from such generator into the distribution network. The connectivity of Solar Rooftop projects with distribution network and injection of surplus solar energy differently affects the distribution network elements such as lines, transformer/network and network parameters. It is also necessary to see that as per MoP Rules, the consumer installing Solar Rooftop capacity upto 5 kW or the capacity as may be decided by the State Commission, the system strengthening charges are not recovered from the individual consumer. Further, the consumer who desire to set up Solar Rooftop projects capacity above 6 kW, be liable to pay the charges towards upgradation of the distribution system. Accordingly, as recorded in earlier part of this SoR, the consumers desiring to set up Solar Rooftop capacity above 6 kW, shall require to pay system strengthening charges as provided in the draft

regulations. Similarly, in case of enhancement of Solar Rooftop capacity by the consumer which was earlier below 6 kW, in that case also the system strengthening charge is required to pay by such consumer for the Rooftop Solar capacity in excess of 6 kW. Thus, the contentions of the stakeholders are not accepted.

- 6) Some of the stakeholders have submitted that for release of LT new connection/additional load, the Commission has approved the fixed cost recovery methodology for the DISCOMs. The component of these charges includes cost of HT line, LT line, Distribution Transformer, augmentation of Distribution Transformer, Service Line and metering cost and therefore the uniform charges of about Rs. 1100 per kW have been approved by the Commission. In case of system strengthening for installation of Solar Rooftop system, no such cost component is involved as solar generation is input energy and not contributing the loading on Distribution Network.

In context to the above, we note that the aforesaid charges are payable by consumer who set up Rooftop Power Plant at its place of consumption, which is allowed irrespective of its contracted demand / sanction load with distribution licensee. It is not correct to state that in case of grant of connectivity for Solar Rooftop Project and injection of surplus solar energy, various elements of distribution network such as LT/HT line, distribution transformer etc. are not impacted. So far as the consumer setting up the Solar Rooftop Project upto 6KW, it is provided that the system strengthening charges shall not be recovered from the individual consumers. While in case of Solar Rooftop Project capacity above 6 kW, they shall liable to pay system strengthening charge of distribution network at the rate of LT/HT network strengthening charge applicable for grant of new connection

/ additional demand as approved by the Commission from time to time for respective distribution licensees.

- 7) Some of the stakeholders have submitted that per kVA bases charges for HT consumer approved by the Commission is with consideration of overhead HT network up to 5.5 Km Line only. In case of system strengthening for solar generation, there is no requirement for such additional length of line and replacement of conductor. Further, the Distribution Transformer is provided by the HT consumer themselves. Therefore, recovery of additional charges on per kVA basis of installed Solar Rooftop system capacity in the name of system strengthening for injecting solar generation is unjustified.

In context to the above, we note that the levy of proposed charges are with a view to strengthen the existing distribution network and absorb the impact of energy injection from solar rooftop power plant set up at consumer place with respect to technical aspects of the network so as network become capable to carry out grid operation without any adverse impact. The distribution licensee is having obligation to grant connectivity for Solar Rooftop Plant set up under net metering and it requires to comply the same within the stipulated time as specified in the Act, Rules and Regulations framed under it. Further, it is incorrect to state that the licensee should wait till the necessity arise for strengthening of the distribution network and such strengthening works be carryout only on case to case basis as and when required. The Commission has considered it as a part of universal service obligation of the distribution licensee and they are requiring to carryout system strengthening work with consideration of injection of energy from Solar Rooftop Power plant setup under net metering arrangement and also absorb such energy on real time basis

in the distribution network without any adverse impact. Hence, the proposed uniform charges is to be recovered from the consumers who set up rooftop projects as per provisions stipulated under these Regulations. Therefore, the contentions of the objectors are not accepted.

8) Some of the stakeholders have submitted that if at all any augmentation of Transformer, laying of Distribution Network, is required for any particular HT consumer, such consumer have to bear the system strengthening cost but cannot be imposed such recovery on all the HT consumers requesting the Solar Rooftop PV system up to capacity of 1000 kW as proposed in the draft Regulations, is concerned, we note that the proposed amendment is with a view to ensure recovery for system strengthening charges uniformly from all the consumers as and when they desire to set up the Solar Rooftop Power Project for the capacity above 6 kW and upto 1000 kW. The proposed Regulation is with a view to uniformly strengthen the distribution network so as to make it capable of ensuring smooth grid integration of Solar Rooftop Project set up under net metering arrangement. Further it is with a consideration that the distribution system be readily available for all the time to absorb the transaction of energy from solar power plant and consumer shall not require to wait for the strengthening of the distribution licensee network. Therefore, the contentions of the objectors are not accepted.

9) Some of the stakeholders have submitted that the provisions of Regulations 5(a) and 5(b) are contradictory to the provisions of Regulation 7 at Sr. No. 5(g). As per stipulations at Regulation 7 at Sr. No. 5(g), the estimate is recoverable only in case of the works to be carried out for system strengthening and only from such applicants

for whom such work is required to be carried out. Further, the per kW basis charges are recovered from each consumer. Therefore, recovery of additional charges on per kW basis for rooftop solar system towards system strengthening as provided under Regulations 5 (a) and 5 (b) does not arise. Such recovery can be made only from those consumers whose connection was released prior to 30.12.2010 i.e., prior to the effective date of recovery of per kW basis charges for release of new connection/ additional load.

Further, the objector has also stated that it is very clear that estimate is recoverable in case of the works to be carried out for system strengthening and only such applicant from whom such work is required to be carried out. In this stipulation, it is submitted that estimate is recoverable only from those prosumers who have not paid the estimate for their connection based on per KW/per KVA charges. The question of additional charges for Rooftop Solar connection for system strengthening does not arise as such consumers have already paid the charges while getting new connections since 30.12.2010.

The aforesaid objections wherein it is contended by the objectors that the charges are recoverable only in case of strengthening work is required to be carried out is concerned, we note that the charges proposed to be recoverable from all consumers/prosumers who desires to set up Solar Rooftop Project capacity above 6 KW, is with a view to ensure recovery of uniform charges from such consumers for providing connectivity of Rooftop Solar Project within grid under Universal Service Obligation by the licensees as per the provisions of the Act within stipulated timeline. Further, the contention that the charges were recovered on kW/KVA basis by the licensees at the time of release of the connection, hence, further recovery of charges is not

valid, is concerned, we note that the recovery of charges for the release of connections for supply of power to the consumers is different and distinct from the recovery of system strengthening charges as and when any consumer set up Solar Rooftop Power Project and connect with the distribution network of the licensees. The supply of electricity to the consumer network created by the licensees is with consideration of load/demand to be catered by the licensee as per consumer requirement without involvement of simultaneous injection of power from Solar Rooftop Power plant into the distribution network system. It is also fact that the connectivity of Solar Rooftop Power plant impacting the grid which require system study and network strengthening works, if required. Therefore, in order to maintain the uniformity for recovery of network strengthening charges, uniform charges are provided in the draft Regulations. It is incorrect to link the proposed recovery of system strengthening charges with recovery of charges for power supply connection provided by the distribution licensee, may it be provided on or prior to 31.03.2010. Therefore, the contentions of the objectors are not accepted.

- 10) Some of the objectors have submitted that the draft regulations are not clear in as much as it implies that all LT/HT consumers installing solar Rooftop PV system, are required to pay system strengthening charges on per kW / kVA basis as applicable for release of new connection/additional load. Whereas, Rules 7A (ii), sub rule 8 of the MoP Rules, 2024 provides that “in case there is any requirement of upgradation of infrastructure like augmentation of service line, Distribution Transformer capacity and like for installation of the required capacity of the solar Rooftop PV system, the same be carried out by the Distribution licensee or consumer as the case may be.” In

view of above the system strengthening charges are required to be borne only by a consumer in whose case there is such requirement of up gradation of distribution infrastructure and not by all consumers installing the solar Rooftop PV system above 6 KW.

We have considered the above contentions of the stakeholder. It is to clarify that the system strengthening charge be recoverable by distribution licensee from the consumer setting up Solar Rooftop project capacity above 6 kW uniformly from all such consumers as stipulated in the draft Regulations.

The provision made in the Regulations for recovery of network strengthening charges from all consumers who to set up Solar Rooftop Projects above 6 kW is concerned, it is to clarify that the system strengthening charges are payable by such LT/HT consumers as case may be are at uniform rate as applicable for new connection/ additional load and as decided by the Commission from time to time. Thus, the system strengthening charge are payable by the consumers setting up Solar Rooftop capacity above 6 kW. While in case of consumer setting up Solar Rooftop Project upto 6 kW, the system strengthening cost incurred by the licensee shall be included in the ARR / Tariff Petition file by distribution licensee before the Commission. Therefore, the contentions of the objectors are not accepted.

- 11) Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that DISCOMs at the time of truing up tariff petition are submitting details of CAPEX incurred during the year including details of scheme wise consumer contribution, grant, equity etc. As per the proposed regulation no 5.1, cost of system strengthening in case of aggregate Solar Rooftop

installation up to 6 kW shall be included in ARR. It is requested to clarify as to whether any variation in CAPEX and associated elements on account of such charges being included in ARR shall be considered as uncontrollable factor to DISCOMs.

So far as the aforesaid objection / suggestion of the stakeholder which state that the cost incurred by the Distribution licensee for strengthening of distribution network as per the provisions of these Regulations and various CAPEX incurred by the licensee is to be considered as uncontrollable factor, it is to clarify that the treatment for such CAPEX incurred by Distribution Licensee in the ARR/ True Up of the Distribution Licensee, shall be governed by the provisions of prevailing MYT Regulations.

4). Regulation 7 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:

Various activities and different authorities are associated with the Solar Rooftop PV project. It is necessary that the different entities carry out the works within prescribed time limit. Therefore, time frame prescribed in the table below shall be scrupulously followed by the concerned authorities.

Sr. No.	Activity	Sub Activity	Duration in day(s)
1	Registration at GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat	GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat shall issue Registration Certificate.	5 days from receipt of duty completed application
2	Approval from Chief Electrical Inspector	CEI shall approve Single Line Diagram, Earthing Diagram and Wiring Diagram	10 days from receipt of duly completed application
3	Application to Distribution Licensee	Applicant shall submit application in prescribed format along with following compliance and documents to Distribution Licensee	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of Solar Rooftop to be installed (Subject to Regulation 6.2) 	
4	Technical Feasibility Report (TFR)	On Registration with Distribution Licensee, letter to concerned Circle/Division for TFR and informing applicant regarding specifications of CTPT, meter.	3 days from receipt of duly completed application
5	TFR from field	<p>TFR to include following</p> <p>a) Name of Consumer.</p> <p>b) Load details of the building where rooftop is to be installed as under: Name of Division, Sub-Division, Consumer Name, Consumer No., Address, Tariff, Contract Demand/ Load, Connected Load</p> <p>c) Name of 11 KV feeder, Transformer capacity, Solar Rooftop capacity already connected as well as approved/sanctioned on this transformer including this proposed Solar Rooftop capacity whether total Rooftop solar capacity is within the rated capacity of transformer.</p> <p>d) Maximum demand recorded during last one year.</p> <p>e) No dues certificate.</p> <p>f) No legal disputes pending certificate.</p> <p>g) Estimate if any, to be recovered from applicant. Such estimate shall include details of works to be carried out for system strengthening for providing connectivity and evacuation facility of surplus power to be injected by the applicant, if estimate is not</p>	10 Days from the letter of Head Office.

		<i>recovered based on Per KW/Per KVA charges.</i>	
6	<i>Post TFR</i>	<i>On receipt of TFR from field, Head Office shall issue letter to applicant regarding 'In Principle' consent for connectivity, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement within 15 days. OR Issuing estimate subject to Regulation 5.1, to Applicant for system strengthening to be paid within 30 days, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement.</i>	<i>2 days from receipt of TFR from field office</i>
7	<i>Signing of connectivity agreement and issuance of letter to applicant for completion of project work</i>	<i>Case 1 (No system strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 15 days of consent. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months Case 2 (If system strengthening required) On payment of Connectivity Charges and execution of Connectivity Agreement within 30 days along with payment of estimate, if any. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months.</i>	<i>5 days from execution of agreement 5 days from execution of agreement</i>
8	<i>System strengthening by Distribution Licensee</i>	<i>Distribution Licensee to complete the work of system strengthening.</i>	<i>15 days from date of payment of connectivity charges and execution of</i>

			<i>connectivity agreement.</i>
9	<i>Notice to Applicant for commissioning</i>	<i>Issuance of two months' notice to applicant for commissioning of the project on expiry of 6 months project completion period.</i>	<i>Within 5 days on expiry of 6 months</i>
10	<i>In case of non-completion of work by applicant</i>	<i>If no intimation received from Applicant on expiry of 2 months' notice period, application shall be cancelled informing the applicant within 30 days forfeiting all charges paid for Solar Rooftop Project.</i>	<i>Within 5 days on expiry of 2 months</i>
11	<i>On completion of work by Applicant</i>	<p><i>Intimation to Applicant to submit following documents within 3 days: (if not submitted along with intimation of commissioning by applicant)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Ownership of Solar PV system</i> <i>2. Installation charging approval of Chief Electrical Inspector(CEI)</i> <i>3. Meter/CTPT testing certificate from High-tech lab and ERDA.</i> <i>4. All equipment should comply with IEC standards. Applicant to submit relevant IEC certificate/test reports for all equipment's i.e. for modules/SPV/ inverters/ cables/ junction box/ Transformer /RMU/CTPT/meter etc.</i> <i>5. Installation of proper protection system (inverter shall have anti islanding feature) along with second line of protection such as no volt relay, (for Solar PV System above 10 Kw), applicant has to pay connectivity charges and execute connectivity agreement with Distribution Licensee.</i> 	<i>3 days from receipt of completion letter from applicant</i>

		Note: If Applicant is not submitting above documents within 3 days, application shall be cancelled forfeiting all charges paid for Solar Rooftop Project.	
12	Intimation to Field Office	Upon receipt of documents from the Applicant, intimation to Field Office/Sub- division for installation of meter (Solar meter to record total generation and bidirectional/ABT meter for net metering).	2 days from receipt of documents from the applicant
13	Report from field/sub- division	Installation of meter (Solar meter to record total generation and bidirectional/ABT meter for net metering) and intimate to applicant and report to HO	5 days from receipt of letter from HO
14	Intimation to GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat	Distribution Licensee shall intimate to GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat for issuing commissioning certificate	2 days from receipt of letter from Distribution Licensee
15	Issuance of Commissioning Certificate from GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat	GEDA or agency designated by the Government of Gujarat shall visit the site in consultation with Distribution Licensee and applicant and issue Commissioning Certificate	3 days from the receipt of intimation from applicant

Provided that the application for Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic systems upto 10 kW capacity, complete in all respect shall be deemed to have been accepted without requiring technical feasibility study and any commensurate enhancement of the sanction load of the consumer, as may be required, shall be carried out by the Distribution Licensee.

Comments/ Suggestions from the Stakeholders:

1. Some of the Stakeholder have suggested that no technical feasibility is required if installation of Solar Rooftop PV System is granted up to sanction/contracted load with the distribution licensee.
2. Some of the Stakeholder have submitted that timeframe is prescribed in the Regulation 7 for various activities to be performed by respective entities for grant of connectivity for solar rooftop system. It is suggested to incorporate compensation mechanism in the Regulation 7 for consequences of delay in performing various tasks by respective entities after completion of all formalities by the Solar roof top applicant, as per the GERC (Standard of Performance of distribution Licensee) Regulation.
3. Some of the Stakeholder have submitted that as per the stipulation at Sr. No. 5 (f) of Regulation 7, the Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) from field office shall include “No Legal Dispute Pending Certificate”. In this regard, it is submitted that the said stipulation deprives the Applicant from getting approval for installation of solar rooftop system in case of any pending legal dispute with Discom. It is suggested that the stipulation for “No Legal Dispute Pending Certificate” should be with respect to pending legal disputes for premises only and not with respect pending legal dispute with licensee as it is not justified to deny the connectivity for solar rooftop system on account of pending legal dispute with licensee.
4. Some of the Stakeholder has requested to clarify in regards to recovery of charges for enhancement of sanction load of the consumer by Discom for installation of solar rooftop system capacity up to 10 kW and capacity more than 10 kW and procedure thereof as the proposed amendment at Regulation 5.1(a) provides that in respect of small Rooftop Solar PV system up to capacity of 6 KW only the system strengthening charges are to be included in the ARR of Discom.

5. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that as per the Notification No. 02 of 2023, GERC Standard of Performance Regulations, time limit for performing various kind of network augmentation activities are different than the time limit specified in the Regulation 7. Accordingly, it is requested to align the time limit in the Regulation 7 for undertaking network Augmentation activities with provisions of Clause 4.2 (ii) of Notification No. 02 of 2023, GERC Standard of Performance Regulations.
6. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that as per the provisions of the GERC Supply Code Regulations, consumer has option to voluntarily opt for Three Phase connection for sanctioned/ contracted load below 6 kW. Therefore, in cases where there is change in Phase of the connection, Technical Feasibility Report is required to be carried out by the distribution licensee even when the solar rooftop capacity is below 6 kW. Accordingly, it is requested to modify the proviso to Regulation 7 clarifying that Technical Feasibility Report shall be required if there is change in Phase for providing connectivity.
7. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that under Rule 9 and 9 (A) of the MoP Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2024, the procedure for installation of solar rooftop system is simplified for solar rooftop system up to 10 kW providing that the consumer shall submit the installation certificate to concern distribution licensee and such licensee shall complete signing of connection agreement, installation of meter and commissioning of the rooftop solar system within 15 days. It is suggested that the certain activities as stipulated in the Regulation 7 are not required for Solar Rooftop system up to 10kW. Further, under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE) have launched Web Portal wherein documents like consumer bill, Aadhar card are only required for the registration of solar rooftop system. Accordingly,

it is suggested that above provisions may be incorporated in the Regulations for installation of Solar Rooftop capacity up to 10KW as the activities as specified from Sr. 1 to Sr.15 of Regulation 7 shall not be applicable for Rooftop capacity up to 10 kW.

Commission decision:

1. Some of the Stakeholder have suggested that no technical feasibility is required if installation of Solar Rooftop PV System is granted up to sanction/contracted load with the distribution licensee.

The aforesaid objection is concerned, we note that the Rules Notified by the Ministry of Power provided that no technical feasibility study be carried out for the application of Solar Rooftop system upto 10 kW capacity. Further, whether any technical feasibility study is required or not in case of solar rooftop project setup at consumer/ prosumer premises depends upon various network parameters with consideration of impact of injection of solar energy generation in such network. Hence, the objection of the stakeholder contrary to MoP Rules is not accepted.

2. Some of the Stakeholder have submitted that timeframe is prescribed in the Regulation 7 for various activities to be performed by respective entities for grant of connectivity for solar rooftop system. It is suggested to incorporate compensation mechanism in the Regulation 7 for consequences of delay in performing various tasks by respective entities after completion of all formalities by the Solar roof top applicant, as per the GERC (Standard of Performance of distribution Licensee) Regulations.

The Commission has noted the above suggestion of the stakeholder. The Commission notes that the Rules framed by the Ministry of Power vide Notification No. 818 (E) dated 31.12.2020 provides for payment of compensation to consumer/prosumer in case of delay on part of

distribution licensee without just cause for each day of default at the rate specified in the said Rules. The provisions stipulated in the MoP Rules shall be applicable in case of non-compliance of time frame by the licensee.

Accordingly, it is decided to incorporate second proviso to the Regulation 7 in the final Regulations as under:

“Provided further that in case of any delay on the part of distribution licensee without any just cause, the Licensee shall be liable to pay compensation to the consumer at a rate which shall not be less than five hundred rupees per day for each day of default”.

3. Some of the Stakeholder have submitted that as per the stipulation at Sr. No. 5 (f) of Regulation 7, the Technical Feasibility Report (TFR) from field office shall include “No Legal Dispute Pending Certificate”. In this regard, it is submitted that the said stipulation deprives the Applicant from getting approval for installation of solar rooftop system in case of any pending legal dispute with Discom. It is suggested that the stipulation for “No Legal Dispute Pending Certificate” should be with respect to pending legal disputes for premises only and not with respect to pending legal dispute with licensee as it is not justified to deny the connectivity for solar rooftop system on account of pending legal dispute with licensee.

The suggestion of the Stakeholder that the information as part of TFR needs to provide by the field office with regards to “No Legal Dispute Pending” should be limited to pending legal dispute to premises only and not with respect to pending legal disputes with the licensees, is concerned, we note that above clause is generic in nature and difficult to ascertain about the legal disputes which may come in way of allowing approval for Solar Rooftop Project. Hence, we are of the view that the above clause be deleted. The final Regulations is modified accordingly as under:

5	<i>TFR from field</i>	<p><i>TFR to include following</i></p> <p><i>a) Name of Consumer.</i></p> <p><i>b) Load details of the building where rooftop is to be installed as under: Name of Division, Sub-Division, Consumer Name, Consumer No., Address, Tariff, Contract Demand/ Load, Connected Load</i></p> <p><i>c) Name of 11 KV feeder, Transformer capacity, Solar Rooftop capacity already connected as well as approved/sanctioned on this transformer including this proposed Solar Rooftop capacity whether total Rooftop solar capacity is within the rated capacity of transformer.</i></p> <p><i>d) Maximum demand recorded during last one year.</i></p> <p><i>e) No dues certificate.</i></p> <p><i>f) Estimate if any, to be recovered from applicant. Such estimate shall include details of works to be carried out for system strengthening for providing connectivity and evacuation facility of surplus power to be injected by the applicant, if estimate is not recovered based on Per KW/Per KVA charges.</i></p>	<p><i>10 Days from the letter of Head Office.</i></p>
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4. Some of the Stakeholder has requested to clarify in regards to recovery of charges for enhancement of sanction load of the consumer by Discom for installation of solar rooftop system capacity up to 10 kW and capacity more than 10 kW and procedure thereof as the proposed amendment at Regulation 5.1(a) provides that in respect of small Rooftop Solar PV system up to capacity of 6 KW only the system strengthening charges are to be included in the ARR of Discom.

We note that the Commission in proposed Regulations has specified that in case of the consumers/prosumers setting up of Solar Rooftop Power projects upto 6 kW, the system strengthening charges incurred by the licensee shall be included in the ARR of such licensees. Accordingly, in case of LT/HT consumers, are liable to pay the system strengthening charges for aggregate Solar Rooftop project capacity above 6 kW as per the provisions made in these Regulations. Therefore, no further clarification is required.

5. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that as per the Notification No. 02 of 2023, GERC Standard of Performance Regulations, time limit for performing various kind of network augmentation activities are different than the time limit specified in the Regulation 7. Accordingly, it is requested to align the time limit in the Regulation 7 for undertaking network Augmentation activities with provisions of Clause 4.2 (ii) of Notification No. 02 of 2023, GERC Standard of Performance Regulations.

We note that the time limit specified in these Regulations is different and distinct from the time limit specified in the GERC Standard of Performance Regulation for augmentation of distribution network if any required for power supply connection. The time limit specified in these Regulations is with consideration of aligning the time limit specified in MoP Rules for carrying out various activities by Distribution Licensee for granting approval for connectivity of Solar Rooftop Project. Hence, the suggestion of the stockholder is not accepted.

6. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that as per the provisions of the GERC Supply Code Regulations, consumer has option to voluntarily opt for Three Phase connection for sanctioned/ contracted load below 6 kW. Therefore, in cases where there is change in Phase of the connection, study for Technical Feasibility is required to be carried out by the distribution licensee even when the solar rooftop capacity is below 6 kW. Accordingly, it

is requested to modify the proviso to Regulation 7 clarifying that Technical Feasibility Report shall be required if there is change in Phase for providing connectivity.

We note that as per provisions of MoP' Rules, the application for roof top solar PV systems upto 10 KW capacity, complete in all respects shall deem to be accepted without requiring technical feasibility. Hence, any suggestions against the same is not accepted.

7. Some of the Stakeholders have submitted that under Rule 9 and 9 (A) of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2024, the procedure for installation of solar rooftop system is simplified for solar rooftop system up to 10 kW providing that the consumer shall submit the installation certificate to concern distribution licensee and such licensee shall complete signing of connection agreement, installation of meter and commissioning of the rooftop solar system within 15 days. It is suggested that certain activities as stipulated in the Regulation 7 are not required for Solar Rooftop system up to 10 kW. Further, under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE) have launched Web Portal wherein documents like consumer bill, Aadhar card are only required for the registration of solar rooftop system. Accordingly, it is suggested that above provisions may be incorporated in the Regulations for installation of Solar Rooftop capacity above 10 KW as the activities as specified from Sr. 1 to Sr. 15 of Regulation 7 shall not be applicable for Rooftop capacity up to 10 kW.

We note that the suggestion of the objector is already incorporated in the proviso to the Regulation 7 of draft Regulations wherein it is specifically provided that the technical feasibility is not required in case of Solar Rooftop projects capacity upto 10 kW. Hence, the concerns of the Objector are already addressed.

Other Comments/Suggestions

1. Some of the stakeholders have requested to modify the Principal Regulations for increasing the maximum limit for solar rooftop system from 1 MW to 5 MW.
2. Some of the stakeholders have submitted that there is no clarity in the Principal Regulation regarding the mechanism and the treatment, if consumer willing to set up rooftop solar system in its premises and do not opt for net metering benefit. Accordingly, it is requested to clarify in the Principal Regulations that the scope of the Regulations including eligibility, capacity limit and other criteria under the Regulations shall be applicable only for those consumers who intends to install solar rooftop system under the Net Metering arrangement.
3. Some of the stakeholders have referred to Section 86 (1) (e) and Section 9 of the Electricity Act, 2003 to submit that the consumer shall be allowed to set up solar PV system connected behind the consumers meter without any capacity limit for meeting RPO since, such behind meter installations will be under captive mode and not connected to the Grid.
4. Some of the stakeholders have suggested to incorporate the provisions related to delayed payment surcharge in the Principal Regulation in case distribution licensee fails to make payment towards Surplus Injection Charges at the end of financial year on 15th April.
5. Some of the stakeholders have requested to provide clarity regarding solar rooftop capacity to be considered as AC or DC capacity.
6. Some of the stakeholders have requested to amend various provisions of Principal Regulation to align the same with the provisions of GERC green Open Access Regulations and Gujarat RE Policy 2023.

7. Some of the Stakeholders have requested to incorporate provisions in the Principal Regulations that residential consumers shall be allowed to set up Rooftop System irrespective of consumer sanctioned load and incentives under existing schemes can be availed by consumers as per the provisions of the scheme.
8. Some of Stakeholder requested to provide that there shall be no capacity restrictions up to sanctioned load/ contracted demand for installation of solar rooftop system capacity for the captive use and under Third Party Sale within the permissible limit.

Commission's decision:

The aforesaid suggestions of various Stakeholders stated above at Sr. No. 1 to 8 are not considered as the proposed amendment in the Regulations is with regard to align the provisions of Principal Regulations and its amendment from time to time with the provisions of MoP' Amendment Rules, 2024 dated 12.02.2024. Further, no comments have been invited by the Commission on the aforesaid suggestions of the stakeholder as part of Draft Regulations. Hence, the above suggestions are not considered by the Commission.

5. The Commission directs that the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024 be published in the Official Gazette after incorporating the changes as decided and indicated in the foregoing paragraph of this SoR.

Sd/-
[S. R. Pandey]
Member

Sd/-
[Mehul M. Gandhi]
Member

Sd/-
[Anil Mukim]
Chairman

Place: Gandhinagar.
Date: 04/09/2024.

Annexure - I

The Commission has received objections/suggestions from the following stakeholders pursuant to public notices dated 20.05.2024, in the matter of Draft Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024:

Sr. No.	Name of the Objector
1.	Users Welfare Association
2.	Mr. G. R. Darji, Yash Complex Co-Operative Housing Service Society Limited
3.	Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited
4.	Enerzytech Industries Private Limited
5.	Torrent Power Limited
6.	Environomics Projects LLP
7.	ReNew Private Limited
8.	Reliance Industries Limited

Annexure - II

The following stakeholders were present during the hearing on 06.06.2024, in the matter of Draft Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024:

Sr. No.	Name of the Objector
1.	Users Welfare Association
2.	Mr. G. R. Darji, Yash Complex Co-Operative Housing Service Society Limited
3.	Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited
4.	Enerzytech Industries Private Limited
5.	Torrent Power Limited
6.	Environomics Projects LLP
7.	ReNew Private Limited
8.	Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited