

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH**

**Petition No.: 30 of 2018  
Date of Hearing: 19.06.2019  
Dated of Order: 03.07.2019**

In the matter of : Petition filed under Section 86(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 ('Act') read with Regulation 19 of the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic Systems based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2015 seeking relaxation of Regulation 3.2(a) and 8.1 of PSERC Regulations to the effect that there is no cap of 1 MWp on the Rooftop Solar PV Systems as well as there is no restriction of Voltage Level for interconnection purpose; in order to maximize the generation from rooftop space available with the Petitioner to the tune of 08 MWp capacity.

AND

In the matter of: Union of India through General Manager, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala – 144602. ....Petitioner

Versus

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited through its Chairman-cum-Managing Director, The Mall, Patiala-147001.

....Respondent

Present: Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Chairperson  
Sh. S.S. Sarna, Member  
Ms. Anjuli Chandra, Member

For Union of India: Sh. G.S. Sathi, Advocate  
(RCF, Kapurthala) Sh. Ramesh Kumar Jain, Chief Electrical Services, Engg/RCF

For PSPCL: Sh. VPS Kailay, SE/TR-2  
Sh. Mukesh Kumar, Addl, SE, TR-5  
Sh. Ashwani Kumar, Addl, SE, Kapurthala  
Sh. Lovleen Gupta, AEE TR-5  
Sh. Ranjit Singh, Sr. Xen

**ORDER**

The present petition has been filed by Union of India through General Manager, Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, under Section 86 (1)(e) of the

Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 19 of PSERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic Systems based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2015 for relaxing the conditions of maximum capacity of 1 MWp specified in Regulation 3.2(a) for rooftop solar system under net metering and Regulation 8.1 of these Regulations which provides that interconnection with the grid shall conform to CEA (Technical Standards for connectivity of the distributed generation Resources) Regulations, 2013, limiting the connecting voltage to below 33 kV.

1. RCF, Kapurthala is a production unit of Ministry of Railways (MoR) with a connected load of 32822.85 kW and sanctioned contract demand of 24924 kVA fed at 132 kV through two separate feeders. The average monthly consumption is about 25 LU. The petitioner submitted as under:
  - (i) Under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) introduced by MNRE on January, 11, 2010, the Indian Railways resolved to undertake development, operation and maintenance of 50 MW Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV System in Phase-1 and 100 MW in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase through public-private partnership on "Design, Build, Finance, Operation and Transfer mode (DBFOT)" basis.
  - (ii) MoR has allocated a project of 5 MWp capacity Solar Rooftop PV Plant to RCF Kapurthala on Net Metering arrangement under Phase-1 of above mission. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of above mission, Railway Energy Management Company Ltd. (REMCL) was authorized by Railway Board to invite, process & finalize the bids of 100 MWp Rooftop Solar projects for Indian Railways. REMCL awarded LOA dated 23.10.2017 to M/s Azure Power India Pvt Ltd. (APIPL) for various projects with total of 46 MW capacity out of 100 MW capacity of phase-II. This included 3 MWp project of the petitioner on Design, Build, Finance, Operation and Transfer mode (DBFOT).
  - (iii) The application for installation of 8 MWp capacity Rooftop Solar Power Plant under net metering policy was processed online by RCF through PEDDA website on 13.10.2016. The petitioner claimed that on the basis of application and submission of further details with PSPCL, approval for installation of 8 MWp capacity Rooftop SPV Plant under Net Metering was obtained from both PSPCL and PEDDA on 18.01.2017. However the process for installation of

rooftop SPV system was held up due to restriction of 1 MWp capacity under Net Metering.

- (iv) UPERC vide orders dated 01.06.2017 and 18.12.2017 has relaxed the cap of 1 MWp capacity to allow 5 MWp Solar plant under net metering at Ordinance Factory Kanpur and 3.8 MWp Solar plant under net metering at Railway Workshop Jhansi.
- (v) The power generated from Rooftop SPV systems installed at the premises of the petitioner will be much lower than the daily consumption and will be for captive use. The power generated during holidays will be fed into PSPCL system.

The petitioner prayed that an order may be passed for relaxing Regulation 3.2(a) of the PSERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Photo Voltaic Systems based on Net Metering) Regulations, 2015 and/or any other regulations as may be applicable to the effect that there is no cap on the installed capacity of 1MWp on the Rooftop Solar PV Systems in order to maximize the generation of energy from rooftop space and land available with the Petitioner to the tune of 8 MWp capacity. The petitioner also prayed that Regulation 8.1 of PSERC (Grid Interactive Rooftop SPV Systems under Net Metering) Regulations, 2015 may be relaxed to remove the restriction of voltage level for the purpose of interconnection.

- 2. The matter was taken up for hearing on admission on 12.09.2018. The Commission noted that the petitioner as well as PSPCL are commercial ventures and selling of surplus solar power (more than 1 MW) by the petitioner to PSPCL through Net Metering would be detrimental for PSPCL and consumers of Punjab. The Commission in its order dated 17.09.2018 directed the petitioner to explore the option of selling the surplus solar power to PSPCL on gross metering and if both parties agree then they may proceed further as per prevailing rules and regulations. Alternatively, it can sell its power to its parent organization, Indian Railways, which is a deemed licensee in the State of Punjab. The petitioner agreed to have a meeting with PSPCL in this regard. Petitioner was asked to approach the Commission thereafter.

3. The matter was taken up for hearing on admission on 06.02.2019. During hearing, the officer representing the petitioner informed the Commission that as per the policy of Indian Railways, selling surplus solar power is permitted only through net metering. The petitioner further submitted that an application for SPV plant under net metering with capacity of 1 MWp has been submitted to PSPCL but since Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala is being fed at 132 kV, so relaxation of voltage level is required. The officers representing PSPCL submitted that this aspect shall be examined and the petitioner shall be informed under intimation to the Commission within three weeks. The Commission decided to take up the matter for further hearing after receiving the above information from PSPCL.
4. PSPCL vide letter dated 26.02.2019 submitted that as per Net Metering Regulations, a consumer can bank power within the settlement period and if electricity generated exceeds 90% of the electricity consumed at the end of the settlement period, no payment shall be made and the same shall be treated as inadvertent injection. Regarding interconnection, PSPCL submitted that as per regulation 20 of Net Metering Regulations, the power to relax is with the Commission.
5. The petitioner vide letter no. EL-4069/PS dated 12.03.2019 (received on 18.03.2019) informed that the application for 1MWp SPV plant submitted on 04.01.2019 has been approved by PSPCL vide letter dated 12.03.2019 and requested to allow interconnection of 1 MWp plant at 132 kV.
6. After hearing the parties on 01.05.2019, the petition was admitted. The counsel for the petitioner requested to file written submissions. The Commission vide order dated 03.05.2019 directed the petitioner to file the same by 06.05.2019 with a copy to PSPCL ( through hard copy & soft copy). PSPCL was asked to file reply to the submissions filed by the petitioner by 13.05.2019. The Commission also advised the petitioner to explore the option to run the SPV plant as "Captive Power Plant" in accordance with PSERC (Harnessing of Captive Power Generation) Regulations, 2009, as amended from time to time. The petition was fixed for further hearing/arguments on 29.05.2019.

7. The petitioner filed the written submissions dated 09.05.2019 and submitted that as per present policy, the petitioner is to go for net metering and not for captive solar plant. The petitioner prayed that the Commission may grant relaxation to connect 1 MWp SPV plant under net metering at 132 kV supply voltage.
8. PSPCL vide letter dated 14.06.2019 submitted that the net meter is to be installed in place of utility meter at whatever voltage the utility meter may be installed i.e 11kV or 66 kV or 132 kV. However, Regulation 6 regarding Interconnection with Grid Standards & Safety is to be adhered to by the petitioner. The petitioner during hearing on 19.06.2019 submitted that interconnection conditions provided in the CEA Regulations for relevant voltage level shall be followed and implemented.

Since the petitioner is already connected at 132 kV and consented to adhere to the provisions of CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity to Grid) Regulations, 2007, as amended from time to time, so nothing survives and the petition is disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-

**(Anjuli Chandra)**  
**Member**

Sd/-

**(S.S. Sarna)**  
**Member**

Sd/-

**(Kusumjit Sidhu)**  
**Chairperson**

Chandigarh  
Dated: 03.07.2019