

**RAJASTHAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
JAIPUR**

**Petition No. RERC/2293/2025**

In the matter of

Petition filed under 86 (1) and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 21 of Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Generating Systems) Regulations, 2021, and amendments thereof, to make necessary amendments in the said regulations for relaxation in certain provisions to promote installation of rooftop solar.

**Coram:**

**Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Chairman**

**Shri Hemant Kumar Jain, Member**

Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.

Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.,

Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.

Petitioners

**Date of hearing:**

**27.02.2025**

Present : Ms. Parinitoo Jain, Advocate for the Petitioners.

**Date of order:**

**07.03.2025**

**Order**

1. The Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission') has issued the RERC (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Generating Systems) Regulations, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as 'RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021') on 15.06.2021. The first and second Amendments to the Regulations were issued on 28.08.2023 and 25.07.2024 respectively.

2. The Petitioners, who are the Distribution Licensees of Rajasthan (hereinafter referred to as the 'Petitioners'), have filed the present petition under section 86 (1) and 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 21 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021, and Amendments thereof, requesting several Amendments in the said Regulations for relaxation in certain provisions to promote installation of rooftop solar in the State.
3. The matter was heard on 27.02.2025, Advocate Ms. Parinitoo Jain appeared for the Petitioners.
4. It is submitted by the Petitioners that Hon'ble Prime Minister on 13.02.2024 has announced PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to install rooftop solar on one crore households and empower residential households to generate their own free/low-cost electricity. Rajasthan being one of the States abundant in the solar potential has been aggressively promoting the installation of rooftop solar under this scheme such as same day load enhancement, submission of all payments/fees and testing of meters within seven days. Numerous campaigns and camps are also being organized by the Discoms to educate the consumers in this regard and to promote the installation of rooftop solar systems by the consumers of the State. It is also their submission that the Discoms have been exploring more options to further promote the installation of RTS across the State.
5. Petitioners have submitted that according to regulation 4.2 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021, the Consumers having pending arrears with the Distribution Licensee are not eligible for Net Billing or Net Metering arrangement provided under these Regulations. As per the petitioners this provision acts as a deterrent to the consumers of the State who wish to install RTS, but get rejected on this basis. According to the petitioners, installation of RTS does not essentially mean that a consumer is applying for a fresh/new

connection. Therefore, any such consumer should not be prohibited from installing RTS on account of outstanding dues on his existing connection from Discom.

6. Petitioners in their petition have also requested to delete the regulation 8.3 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021. According to them waiving the requirement of the Application fees and Security Deposit associated with the installation of RTS under regulation 8.3 will motivate/ encourage the consumers to install RTS.
7. Petitioners further submitted that regulation 9 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 provides for executing of Connection Agreement by the Distribution Licensee and Eligible consumer for Net Billing Agreement or Net Metering agreement. According to the petitioners, the agreement process is a time consuming one and is often delayed owing to some of the specific conditions of the Agreement. Therefore, to ease out and reduce the time involved in the whole process, requested the Commission to remove/delete the provision of Connection agreement provided under regulation 9 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021.
8. It is further submitted by the Petitioners that the consumer has to bear the meter testing charges stated in regulation 11.6 of the RERC DREGS Regulations 2021. According to the Petitioners waiving off the application fees, security deposit and meter testing fee shall not prove to be a financial deterrent to them as MNRE is already providing them substantially lucrative incentives for the installation of RTS in the State. The petitioners also provided details of the year-wise incentives received by them as follows:

<b>Discom</b>	<b>FY 19-20</b>	<b>FY 20-21</b>	<b>FY 21-22</b>	<b>FY 22-23</b>	<b>Total (Rs Cr)</b>
JVVNL	13.87	23.09	26.18	13.10	76.24
AVVNL	10.46	33.34	19.47	11.03	74.30
JdVVNL	4.89	-	-	-	4.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.22</b>	<b>56.43</b>	<b>45.65</b>	<b>24.13</b>	<b>155.43</b>

9. During hearing, the Petitioners have requested that the proposed Amendments qua the domestic category consumers only and promote widespread installations of RTS by the consumers of the State.
10. Accordingly, the petitioners prayed qua the domestic category consumers as under:
  - (1).To admit and approve the petition to amend the RERC (Grid Interactive Distributed Renewable Energy Generating Systems) Regulations 2021 as per the submissions made, for widespread installation of RTS in the State.
  - (2).To condone any error/omission and to give opportunity to rectify the same;
  - (3).To permit the Petitioner to make further submission, additions and alterations to this Petition as maybe necessary from time to time;
  - (4).To pass any such other order/s and/or direction/s, which the Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

**Amended petition filed by the petitioner:**

11. Subsequent to filing the original petition, the petitioner submitted an amended petition, modifying their reliefs sought in their original petition. In the amended petition, the petitioners decided to

withdraw their prayer for the deletion of Regulation 4.2 and instead, proposed retaining it on the ground that permitting defaulting consumers to install RTS without clearing their dues would lead to financial losses for the Discoms.

12. The petitioners in their Amendment petition, therefore, limited their request to the relaxation in the following provisions of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021:

- (a) Amendment in Regulation 8.3 to waive application fee and security deposit for domestic rooftop solar installations.
- (b) Amendment in Regulations 9 to remove requirement for a connection agreement.
- (c) Amendment in Regulations 11.6 to waive meter testing charges.

**Commission's view:**

13. We have considered the submissions made on behalf of the Petitioners.
14. It is the submission of the Petitioners that prayer for amendment in Regulation 8.3, 9 and 11.6 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 is qua the domestic category consumers and to promote the rooftop Solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, a Scheme introduced by the Govt of India, to facilitate solar power generation by such consumers.
15. According to the Petitioners, the proposed Amendments relate to financial and procedural relaxations that aim to remove barriers to consumer participation in the scheme. The Commission notes that the requested amendments will not only facilitate implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the State but will also lead

to reduction of losses and relieve the transmission system and generate local employment thereby benefiting the State.

16. It is observed that regulation 21 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 referred by the Petitioners reads as follows:

***"21 Power to Relax***

*21.1The Commission may by general or special order, for reasons to be recorded in writing, and after giving an opportunity of hearing to the parties likely to be affected, may relax any of the provisions of these Regulations suo-motu or on an application made before it by an interested person."*

17. In our opinion, relaxing the provisions of the Regulations for providing waivers as requested by the Petitioners will be in the interest of both the consumers as well as Discoms, in view of benefits narrated above. Thus, none of them will be adversely affected by these waivers.
18. Considering the objectives of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the need to encourage consumer's participation in rooftop adoption and benefits likely to accrue to the Discoms and the State the Commission finds it appropriate to invoke its power to relax the provisions of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 prayed for by the Petitioners.
19. In view of the foregoing discussion, we hereby allow the petition and order as under:
- (a) The requirement of the application fee and security deposit for rooftop solar installations by the domestic consumers under regulation 8.3 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 is waived of.
  - (b) The requirement for Connection Agreement under regulation 9 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 for domestic consumers opting for Net Metering is waived of.

- (c) The meter testing charges for domestic rooftop solar installation required be deposited by the domestic consumers under regulation 11.6 of the RERC DREGS Regulations, 2021 are also waived off.
20. This order shall come into effect immediately and shall be applicable to all eligible domestic consumers seeking to install rooftop solar systems till the time target of 5 Lakh houses or any such other target set by the State Govt for rooftop solar installations in the State is achieved.
21. The petitioners are directed to take necessary steps for implementation of this order and ensure its wide dissemination amongst the Consumers of the State.
22. The Petition stands disposed of in the above terms.

(Hemant Kumar Jain)  
Member

(Dr. Rajesh Sharma)  
Chairman