

**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
GANDHINAGAR**

PETITION NO. _____ of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

PETITION UNDER SECTION 181 READ WITH 86 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 READ WITH REGULATION 18, 19 and 20 OF GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (NET METERING ROOFTOP SOLAR PV GRID INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS) REGULATIONS, 2016 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT FOR NET METERING FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS INSTALLING ROOF TOP SOLAR PV PLANTS UNDER PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited
2. Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited
3. Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited
4. Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited

- Petitioners

Versus

1. Torrent Power Limited - Distribution (Ahmedabad) & Anrs.

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Petitioner

UTTAR GUJARAT VIJ COMPANY LIMITED,

PLACE: Mehsana
DATED: 26.03.2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
AT GANDHINAGAR**

PETITION NO. ____ OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

PETITION UNDER SECTION 181 READ WITH 86 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003 READ WITH REGULATION 18, 19 and 20 OF GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (NET METERING ROOFTOP SOLAR PV GRID INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS) REGULATIONS, 2016 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT FOR NET METERING FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS INSTALLING ROOF TOP SOLAR PV PLANTS UNDER PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited,
Through its Managing Director,
Corporate Office, Visnagar Road,
Mehsana 384001 (N.G.).
2. Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited,
Through its Managing Director
Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan
Racecourse
Vadodara - 390 007.
3. Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited,
Through its Managing Director
Paschim Gujarat Vij Seva Sadan
Off. Nana Mava Main Road, Laxminagar
Rajkot - 3600004.
4. Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited,
Through its Managing Director
Kaporda Char Rasta,
Nana Varcha Road
Surat - 395006.

... Petitioners

Versus

1. Torrent Power Limited - Distribution (Ahmedabad) [TPL-D (A)]
Torrent Power Limited,
'Samanvay' 600 - Tapovan, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad - 380015.
2. Torrent Power Limited-Distribution(Surat) [TPL-D(5)],
Torrent Power Limited,
Torrent House, Station Road, Surat - 395 003.
3. Torrent Power Limited - Distribution (Dahej) [TPL-D (D)],
Torrent Power Limited, Plot No. Z/21, Dahej SEZ Part 1, At: Dahej
Tal.: Vagra, Dist.: Bharuch - 392 130



4. Torrent Power Limited - Distribution (Dholera),
Torrent Power Limited, 'Samanvay' 600 - Tapovan, Ambawadi,
Ahmedabad - 380015.
5. AspenPark Infra Vadodara Private Limited (AIVPL),
The Director, AspenPark Infra Vadodara Private Ltd., Survey No. 26,
Village Pipaliya, Taluka: Waghodia, Dist. - Vadodara - 391760.
6. The Chairman, Deendayal Port Authority (DPA),
(erstwhile Deendayal Port Trust / Kandla Port Trust)
Deendayal Port Trust,
06, Ground Floor, Port & Custom Building, New Kandla, Kutch 370210.
7. GIFT Power Company Limited,
EPS - Building No.49A, Block 49, Zone 04, Gyan Marg, GIFT City,
Gandhinagar - 382 050.
8. Jubilant Infrastructure Ltd.,
Plot No. 5, Vilayat GIDC, Tal. - Vagra, Dist.- Bharuch - 392 012.
9. MPEZ Utilities Ltd.,
2nd Floor, Adani House,
Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEAL)
Navinal Island, Near Dhrub, Mundra, Kutch - 370 421
10. Torrent Power Ltd (MBSIR),
Torrent Power Ltd
'Samanvay'600-Tapovan, Ambawadi,
Ahmedabad-380015.



PETITION

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

1. The present Petition is being filed by the Petitioner, Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited seeking amendment of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 (hereinafter "Net Metering Regulations 2016"). The amendment sought to relaxing the requirement of the agreement to be entered into by the consumers in respect of residential consumers installing Rooftop Solar PV Plants under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
2. The Net Metering Regulations, 2016 providing for the net metering arrangement recognizes the entering into an agreement between the Consumers and the Distribution Company. The Relevant provisions of the aforesaid Regulations are as under:

p) "Net Metering" means an arrangement under which Rooftop Solar PV System installed at Eligible Consumer's premises delivers surplus electricity, if any, to the Distribution Licensee after off-setting the electricity supplied by the distribution licensee to such Eligible Consumer during the applicable billing period.

q) "Net meter" means an appropriate energy meter capable of recording both import & export of electricity or a pair of meters one each for recording the import and export of electricity as the case may be;

...

3 Scope and Application

3.1 These Regulations shall apply to the distribution licensee and consumers of electricity of distribution licensee availing supply from it in its area of supply in the State of Gujarat, or consumers who are receiving electricity from its own generating source but situated in the distribution licensee area.

3.2 The Eligible Consumer may install the Rooftop Solar PV System under net metering arrangement which,

- a) shall be within the permissible rated capacity as defined under these Regulations.
- b) shall be located in the consumer's premises.
- c) shall interconnect and operate safely in parallel with the distribution licensee network.

4 General Principles The distribution licensee shall provide the net metering arrangement to the eligible consumer, who intends to install grid connected Rooftop Solar PV System, in its area of supply on non-discriminatory and first come first served basis.

...

6 Eligible Consumer and individual project capacity

6.1 In addition to the general eligibility defined in Regulation 2.1(l) of these Regulations, the Eligible Consumer for the Rooftop Solar PV System with net metering shall:

- i. be a consumer of the local distribution licensee;
- ii. own or be in legal possession of the premises including the rooftop or terrace or building or infrastructure or open areas of the land or part or combination thereof on which the Solar PV System is proposed to be installed;
- iii. connect the proposed Rooftop Solar PV System to the Distribution System of the Licensee;
- iv. consume all of the electricity generated from the Rooftop Solar PV System at the same premises.

If the consumer is not able to consume all of generated electricity in the same premises, he shall be governed by Regulation 9 of these Regulations.

3. Regulation 7 of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, inter-alia provide as under:

...

7 Procedure for Application:

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)
6	POST TFR	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 to applicant for system strengthening (if required) to be paid within 30 days, payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement.	5 days from receipt of TFR from field office
7	Signing of connectivity agreement and issuance of letter to applicant for completion of project	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.	5 days from execution of agreement
		Case-2 (If system strengthening required) On payment of connectivity charges and execution of connectivity agreement within 30 days along with payment of estimate. Letter to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months.	5 days from execution of agreement



A copy of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, is attached hereto and marked as **Annexure A**.

- The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, have been subsequently amended vide amendments dated 06.10.2017, 23.01.2020, 31.05.2022, 04.09.2024. A copy of the amendments dated 06.10.2017, 23.01.2020, 31.05.2022, 04.09.2024 are attached hereto and marked as **Annexure B (Colly)**.
- The Third Amendment to the Net Metering Regulations 2016 notified in 2022 amended the definition of the term, net metering. The third amendment, also made provided for amendments in the Interconnection

Agreement as provided under the principal Regulations. The amended definition of the term net metering reads as under:

2(p) “net-metering” means a mechanism whereby solar energy exported to the Grid from Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System of a Prosumer is deducted from energy imported from the Grid in units(kWh) to arrive at the net imported or exported energy and the net energy import or export is billed or credited or carried-over by the distribution licensee on the basis of the applicable retail tariff by using a single bidirectional energy meter for net metering at the point of supply;

6. The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, amended Regulation 7 as under:

....

6.	Post TFR	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.	2 days from receipt of TFR from field office
7.	Signing of connectivity agreement and issuance of letter to applicant for completion of project work	<p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>5 days from execution of agreement</p> <p>5 days from execution of agreement</p>



		to applicant to complete the project work within 6 months	
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7. The Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016, as amended, provide for a period of 15 days within which interconnection/net metering agreement is to be executed between the concerned distribution licensee and the consumer/prosumer.
8. That the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was launched on 13.02.2024 to promote sustainable development and public welfare by providing up to, 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore household. The scheme is intended to increase the share of rooftop solar capacity and empower residential household to generate their own electricity. A copy of guideline/scheme of the PM Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is attached hereto and marked as **Annexure C**.
9. Further the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) has emphasized the need for rapid implementation of this scheme to achieve the ambitious target. MNRE vide Letter dated 30.12.2024 has noted that the scheme targets one crore households to be implemented until FY 2026-27 and emphasised the role of Distribution Companies for successful implementation. MNRE vide said letter inter alia sought for simplification, net metering processes by eliminating requirement for Net Metering Agreement. This was stated as there is no commitment required from the consumer and the Distribution Company has to abide by the Net Metering Regulations issued by the respective State Commissions. It was also requested that additional fees such as application, facilitation and connection charges are waived. Copies of the Letter dated 30.12.2024 of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with a copy to the Principal Secretary, Energy, Gujarat is attached hereto and marked as **Annexure D (Colly.)**.
10. In light of the above, the matter has been considered and it is felt that since there is no direct consumer commitment involved, the interconnection agreement may not be necessary. The application form itself may be considered as an agreement and the provisions of the Regulations as well as terms and conditions of the Orders passed by the Hon'ble Commission would be applicable to both parties.



11. It may also be considered that it would be beneficial if there is reduction in time and simplification of the process as recommended by MNRE considering the objective of the Scheme.
12. Therefore, with the intent to speed up the installation of solar rooftop system and to promote the rapid implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Serial Number 7 under Regulation 7 may have to relaxed or modified in regard to the consumer under the said Scheme. Further reference in Serial Number 6 to agreement would have to be considered accordingly.
13. That UGVCL is therefore filing the present Petition seeking the intervention of this Hon'ble Commission, for relaxation or amendment of the requirement of entering into interconnection/net metering agreement.
14. That Regulation 18, 19 and 20 of the Net Metering Regulations, 2016, as amended from time to time, provide for the Power to relax, and Power to remove difficulty of this Hon'ble Commission. The said Regulations provide as under:

18 Power to relax

The 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 on its own motion or on an application made before it by an interested person, after following due process of law.

20 Power to Removal of difficulty

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to these Regulations, the Commission may issue necessary orders or clarification/interpretation to remove such difficulties either on its own volition, or based on representations from stakeholders.

15. It is therefore prayed before this Hon'ble Commission that it may exercise its power under the above mentioned Regulations, to relax the requirement of entering into a Net metering/Interconnection Agreement by the Distribution Licensee with the consumer setting up a Rooftop Solar PV Project under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.



16. Without prejudice to the above consideration of relaxation of requirement, it is submitted that the Hon'ble Commission also has powers to amend the Regulations:

19 Power to amend

The Commission may from time to time add, vary, alter, suspend, modify, amend or repeal any provisions of these Regulations after following due process of law.

17. That the removal of the requirement to enter into net metering/interconnection agreement by the consumer/prosumer, will help in rapid implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The above consideration is being sought in view of the MNRE Letter and consideration of the aspects.
18. UGVCL craves leave of this Hon'ble Commission to add any further submissions/grounds or file additional information at a later stage if so required based on the proceedings in the present Petition.

PRAYER

19. In the facts and circumstances of the case, submissions herein and in the interest of justice, it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble commission may be pleased to: -

- (a) Admit the present Petition;
- (b) Exercise power to relax or remove difficulties for removing the requirement of entering into Interconnection/Net metering Agreement for the Distribution Licensee with residential consumers, setting up Rooftop Solar PV Projects under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana;
- (c) In the alternative, initiate proceedings for amendment of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Net Metering Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems) Regulations, 2016 to exempt residential consumers, setting up Rooftop Solar PV Projects under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana from entering into a Interconnection/Net metering Agreement for the Distribution Licensee with; and/or



- (d) Pass such further or other Orders as this Ld. Commission may deem just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

DATE: 26.03.2025

PLACE: Mehsana


Petitioner

Superintending Engineer (Solar)
Uttar Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
R&C Office, Mehsana.

DECLARATION

Declaration that the subject matter of present Petition has not been raised by the Petitioner before any other competent forum and that no other competent forum is currently seized of the matter or has passed any order in relation thereto.

DATE: 26.03.2025

PLACE: Mehsana


PETITIONER

Superintending Engineer (Solar)
Uttar Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
R&C Office, Mehsana.



**BEFORE THE GUJARAT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,
GANDHINAGAR**

PETITION NO. _____ OF 2025

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

1. Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited
2. Madhya Gujarat Vij Company Limited
3. Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Limited
4. Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited

-- Petitioners

Versus

1. Torrent Power Limited - Distribution (Ahmedabad) & Anrs.

AFFIDAVIT

SERIAL NO.	391
BOOK NO.	05
PAGE NO.	41
DATE	26 / 03 / 2025

I, Ishwarbhai Katara S/o Galjibhai Katara, aged about 49 years, resident of Gandhinagar hereby solemnly affirms and state as under:

1. I am the Superintending Engineer (Solar) of the Petitioner and I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and able to depose to the present Affidavit.
2. I have gone through the contents of the accompanying Petition and I say that the facts stated therein are based on the records of the Petitioner and believed by the deponent to be true.
3. The Annexures to the Petition are true copies of their originals.



Solely Affirmed & Signed
BEFORE ME

[Signature]

Jayeshkumar M. Chaudhary
NOTARY
(GOVT. OF INDIA) MEHSANA
26 / 03 / 2025

[Signature]
DEPONENT

Superintending Engineer (Solar)
Uttar Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
R&C Office, Mehsana.

VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent above named do hereby verify that the contents of my above Affidavit are true to my knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Mehsana on this 26th March of 2025



[Signature]
DEPONENT

Superintending Engineer (Solar)
Uttar Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
R&C Office, Mehsana.