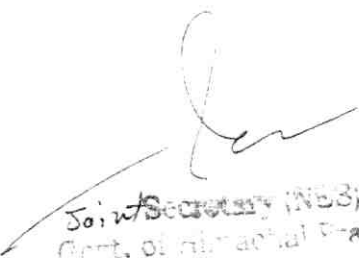


H.P. SOLAR POWER POLICY

Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

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Joint Secretary (NB3) to the
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Himachal Pradesh being a mountainous State is bestowed with high mountains & resultant valleys which are the watersheds to five major rivers in the North-Western region. Obviously, this is the top priority of the State to generate and contribute to meet ever increasing demand of power in the country out of its total estimated hydel potential. The fact cannot be denied that while developing a hydel plant some environmental concerns remains associated with it such as displacement of local residents where the scheme is not run of the river, drying of water sources due to tunnelling, deforestation and other geological disturbances. The Govt. has also recognized the urgent need to tackle the challenges that arise on account of climate change and global warming through integrated policy prescriptions and programmes aimed at mitigation of impacts and adaptation to reduce the vulnerability of system. Based on the "climate efficient initiative" the State has decided to promote the solar power generation and build capacities in which all the concerned stakeholders can contribute.

2. BACKGROUND:

Knowing the importance of promoting Solar Power, Government of India in July, 2009 unveiled a plan to produce 22000 MW of solar power by 2022 under the **Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM)**.

In view of above mission, the Govt. of H.P. has planned to set up a policy for the development of Solar Power for "New and Non Conventional Sources and Applications" to reduce the emissions & related impacts of climate change.

3. SOLAR POWER POTENTIAL IN H.P.:

The State of Himachal Pradesh being a Hilly State, has generally a clear sky and the average solar radiation level in the entire physiographic zones of the State receives insolation between 4 - 5.25 kWh/m²/day with around 300 clear sunny days in a year, favouring commercial as well as domestic applications of solar energy.

As far as the solar power potential of the State is concerned practically no real estimation of potential available/achieved particularly keeping in view the areas of cold desert in Lahaul & Spiti and part of Kinnaur districts in Trans - Himalayan region. The key constraints to harnessing the solar power in H.P. are:

- (i) Specific locations are not known which have high insolation / solar radiation;
- (ii) Solar power is expensive vis-a-vis hydro-electric power (which has a huge potential in the State), which is much cheaper. However, now the HPSERC has

made mandatory for the power distributors and obligated consumers to purchase a particular percentage of power from solar source.

- (iii) Unlike many other states, even the subsidized rate of power per unit is not worthwhile for domestic purchase in H.P.
- (iv) The cold desert region in Lahaul & Spiti and part of Kinnaur districts does not have a proper power evacuation system.

4. H.P. SOLAR POWER POLICY:

The policy shall be known as **Himachal Pradesh Solar Power Policy-2014**. The provisions contained in the Solar Power Policy shall be applicable to all the Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) plants to be installed in the State. The Government reserves the right to undertake a review any of the provisions mentioned in the policy from time to time as the situation so warrants in larger public interest or in view of any changes in the national policy or technological breakthrough.

5. OBJECTIVES:

To achieve the mission, the Policy as being released, is meant for pursuing the following objectives:

- i. To promote the JNNSM & MNRE schemes for speedy harnessing of Solar Power.
- ii. To promote generation of green and clean power in the shape of Solar Power Energy through off grid & decentralized solar applications, roof top & other small solar power plants and new grid connected solar
- iii. To create a climate for availing the benefits under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- iv. For employment generation for local youths.
- v. For creation of environmental consciousness in the state.
- vi. To identify and utilize vacant areas in cold desert region of the State for SPV plants and to allow power producers and investors to explore possibilities of development of evacuation systems there, with the help of Institutions and Agencies involved in similar type of activities there.
- vii. To educate and create awareness of the available solar energy potential in the State through the creation of solar energy parks in the universities and technology institutions in the State.

6. Capacity Installation:

A maximum of 50 MW Solar Power shall be allowed for installation during the second Phase i.e. from 2013 to 2017 and another 250 MW during third phase upto the operative period of JNNSM i.e. from 2017 to 2022 as indicated below:-

Joint
Secretary
Himachal Pradesh

Scheme	Maximum capacity to be developed	
	Phase-I	Phase-II
Under JNSSM	20 MW	50 MW
Upto 500KWp	10MW	50MW
Above 500KWp	20MW	150MW
Total capacity=	50 MW	250 MW

Govt. of Himachal shall endeavour to promote solar energy in Himachal by providing incentives for execution of solar plants through MNRE & JNSSM programmes/projects and/or through HP solar Policy.

7. OPERATIVE PERIOD:

This policy will come into force with effect from the date of its issuance and shall remain in operation upto 31.03.2022 which is the operative period of the scheme under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) i.e. the solar power generating stations installed and commissioned during the operative period alone shall be eligible for incentives upto 31.03.2022.

8. OFF GRID AND DECENTRALISED SOLAR APPLICATIONS:

HP Government will promote off grid and decentralised solar applications for replacement of diesel generator sets, as per the prevailing guidelines/policy of MNRE. The Accelerated Depreciation Benefits shall also be applicable.

9. GRID CONNECTED SOLAR PLANTS:

HP Government will also promote the Grid interactive Solar Power Generation to encourage the private producers & investors to identify sites of high solar radiation in the State and to develop solar power plants in the State. The solar power plants shall be conceived/built/approved in the following categories:

- (i) **Category-I: Rooftop/small solar power plant upto 100 KWp.**

All domestic consumers will be encouraged to put up roof top solar installations.

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(ii) **Category-II :** Integrated Rooftop/small solar plants upto 1 MW

Group of individuals, Housing colonies, Rural/urban housing schemes will be encouraged to put up integrated roof top solar installations. Each rooftop should not be more than 100 KWp.

(iii) **Category-III:** Solar power plants from 100 KWp to 500 KWp (By Institutions).

These plants can be put up by any Commercial/ Industrial/Education Institutions including Govt. Buildings (college, schools, hospitals etc.)

(iv) **Category-IV :** Solar power plants from 100 KWp to 500 KWp

The solar plants can be installed on the owned land or land leased from Government/private party with their own arrangements.

(v) **Category-V :** Solar power plants above 500 KWp

The solar plants can be installed through private sector participation on the land owned/Land leased from private party by their own arrangement or Govt. leased land.

10. Procedure of allotment of Solar PV Projects

i) Allotment of Solar PV Projects upto 500 Kwp:

A) Guidelines for Solar Power Projects:

The solar power generation is available everywhere and can be tapped effectively. For tapping solar energy from the projects of capacity up to 500 Kwp by proper identification, the applicants are advised to meet the following minimum requirements/guidelines before putting in an application:

- (i) A comprehensive PFR has to be prepared and attached with the proposal as per guidelines of Himurja.
- (ii) Applicants should clearly mention the following information in their project proposal to be attached with the application:
 - (a) Salient feature of the project.
 - (b) Location map and General Layout
 - (c) Interconnection point and Evacuation arrangement
 - (d) Land details
 - (e) Description of plant and cost estimate
 - (f) Technology proposed
 - (g) Financing arrangement
- (iii) If SPP is interested to apply for more than one Project, separate application for each Project shall be submitted along with application fee

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