

Go for safe solar power

Use green energy with caution, says Tangedco

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Make sure that your 'green' intentions don't turn black. While installing a rooftop solar photovoltaic (SPV) system at home, ensure use of quality and certified inverters. For, Tangedco can hold you responsible for any freak accident due to back feeding from your home system when the grid supply is off.

In the draft procedure for LT connectivity for LT roof top SPV plants submitted to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC), Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd (Tangedco) has made the consumer solely responsible for any accident to human being or animals if it happens due to back feeding. The commission has invited comments and suggestion on the draft, which has set standards of SPV system by August 15.

In the event of Tangedco's LT supply failure, the draft said the promoter had to ensure that there would not be any solar power being fed to the LT grid of Tangedco. The inverter standard should be such that it should not allow solar power of Tangedco's LT grid on failure of grid supply and its protection logics should be tested before commissioning of the plant, it said.

The rooftop SPV should be equipped with appropriately rated protective devices to sense any abnormality in the system and carry out automatic isolation of the SPV from the grid, the draft said. Allaying fears, Sriram Ramakrishnan, CEO, Consul Consolidated, a leading manufacturers of solar products, said SPV system being sold in the market comes with provision to isolate itself in case of power supply failure on the side of the utility.

"Once there is a power cut, the inverter will automatically disconnect itself from the grid," he said, adding that there is nothing abnormal about the regulation, as certain standards should be followed if the system is connected to the grid and feeding power.

The state government has unveiled the Solar Energy Policy 2012 in October last year offering incentives includ-



ing generation based incentive (GBI) varying ₹2 per unit initially to 50 paise per unit and net metering facility.

The consumer opting for SPV should install two meters – one at the generation end and other at the bi-directional meter for measuring the import and export of energy and cost should be borne by them, the draft said.

Procedure for erecting rooftop SPVs

- The inverters used in solar photovoltaics (SPVs) should meet quality parameters and tested before commissioning
- Export and import meters and generation meter should installed by consumer
- Cost of the meters should be borne by consumer
- Generation based incentive would be directly paid to consumer back account
- Power credit for feeding excess power back to the grid will be adjusted in bi-monthly bill