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PACE-D TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Draft Madhya Pradesh Off-Grid Renewable Energy Policy 2015

March 2016

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PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE CLEAN ENERGY
DEPLOYMENT (PACE-D)

Technical Assistance Program

Draft Madhya Pradesh Off-Grid Renewable
Energy Policy 2015

(Draft for Discussion)

Submitted to USAID/India in March 2016

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ACRONYMS

Acronyms	Definition
GBI	Generation-based Incentives
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GOMP	Government of Madhya Pradesh
ITIs	Industrial Training Institutes
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt Hour
LT	Low Tension
MNRE	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
MP	Madhya Pradesh
MPERC	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
NRED	New and Renewable Energy Department
MPUVNL	Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MW	Megawatt
RE	Renewable Energy
RTI	Right to Information
RVE	Rural Village Electrification
SADP	Special Area Development Program
SPV	Solar Photovoltaic
Sq. km.	Square Kilometer
VAT	Value-added Tax

DEFINITION

- **“Biomass”** means waste produced during agricultural and forestry operations (for example straws and stalks) or produced as a by-product of processing operations of agricultural produce (e.g., husks, shells, de-oiled cakes, etc.); wood produced in dedicated energy plantations or recovered from wild bushes/weeds; and the wood waste produced in some industrial operations.
- **“Cogeneration”** means a process which simultaneously produces two or more forms of useful energy including electricity from a single fuel source.
- **“Command Area”** shall mean the area allocated by the nodal agency to a biomass project developer for procurement of biomass on the basis of the clustering study conducted by the nodal agency and shall include any reallocations thereof.
- **“Decentralized Distributed Generation”** means generation of electricity from various conventional or renewable energy sources for local consumption, in areas where grid connection is not feasible or cost-effective, largely using its own dedicated distribution system.
- **“Developer”** means a person or body of persons, company, firm and such other private or government undertaking, who/that finances, designs, processes, constructs, commission, operates and maintains the project facilities.
- **“Feed-In-Tariff”** means a tariff determined by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission and to be paid for each unit of renewable electricity produced and sold at interconnection point.
- **“Generation-based Incentive”** means the amount paid to the generator in addition to Feed-In-Tariff by any entity that wishes to support generation from RE sources.
- **“Government”** means the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- **“Green Energy Fund”** means a fund managed by agency appointed by State Government for promotion of renewable energy in the state.
- **“Nodal Agency”** refers to Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, the agency responsible for promotion and development of renewable energy in the state.
- **“Power Purchase Agreement”** means a contract for the sale of power between two parties: one who generates electricity for the purpose of sale (the seller) and the other who purchases electricity (the buyer), based on terms and conditions as agreed between the seller and the procurer.
- **“Renewable Energy Certificate”** is a market-based instrument as defined by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission from time to time.
- **“Renewable Purchase Obligation”** means the mandatory targets to be complied by obligated entities as defined in the relevant regulations of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- **“Renewable Source”** means renewable electricity generating sources such as hydro generating station, wind, solar, tidal, biomass, urban/municipal or industrial waste, geothermal, ocean energy or such other source as approved by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **“Stand-Alone System”** means the electricity system set-up to generate and distribute electricity in a specified area without connection to the grid.

Note: Any definition which is not covered in this Policy will be as per the definition as mentioned in the Electricity Act 2003, respective regulations of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Important Note

This is a draft policy framework for discussion with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It has been developed based on the analysis carried out by the USAID PACE-D TA Program and limited stakeholder engagement.

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH ENERGY DEPARTMENT

No ..., Bhopal Dated ...

RESOLUTION

Subject: Madhya Pradesh Off-Grid Renewable Energy Policy, 2015

1 PREAMBLE

Madhya Pradesh (MP) is the second largest state in India with an area of 308,000 sq.km and population of over 72.2 million inhabitants, sixth largest in country. The state has 54,903 census villages and 132,216 habitations, and nearly 70 percent of the population (around 52.5 million) lives in rural areas.

Despite several rural electrification programs, over 34 percent of total households and around 41 percent of rural households are still without access to electricity. According to the MP Power Management Company Limited (MPPMC), the power demand is expected to grow from 57 billion units to over 101 billion units by 2020. Further, agriculture consumption, which accounts for 46.7 percent of low tension (LT) power and 34.6 percent of total electricity sales in the state, has a huge potential for growth as only 33 percent of land under cultivation is currently irrigated.

MP is one of the most lucrative destinations for its investors to harness renewable energy (RE) as it is blessed with ample resources such as wind, solar, small hydro and biomass. According to the latest assessment, the state has a vast RE potential of over 38,000 megawatt (MW), nearly 5,231 MW excluding solar. The state had an installed RE capacity of 965 MW by September 30, 2014; and thus the vast RE potential, especially for off-grid, still remains untapped or unexploited. The state has also issued different policies to promote different forms of RE technologies.

MP is the only state with a separate dedicated organization for off-grid RE promotion. The Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (MPUVNL) manages all off-grid projects and grid-connected RE projects which are part of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) schemes, while the Office of the Commissioner, New and Renewable Energy Department (NRED) manages all grid-connected RE projects, which are planned and implemented as part of state policies.

2 NEED FOR OFF-GRID RE POLICY

It is a well-recognized fact that RE-based off-grid solutions can be a good option for rural electrification. Many villages still lack access to modern energy sources such as electricity; which is perceived as one of the major barriers for rural development.

At present, there is a wide mismatch between the state's potential and existing off-grid RE installations. Installation of off-grid RE sources will not only help leverage the locally available cleaner eco-friendly RE resources in a decentralized manner but will also help in achieving sustainable development of rural areas through evolution of local livelihood opportunities and economy.

MP Vision Document 2018 articulates the focus on off-grid and onsite RE technologies and systems to:

- Utilize continuous availability of quality power for economic and social development.
- Achieve inclusive rural growth access to energy, health care, drinking water, etc.
- Develop vibrant Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and rural industry, and promote self-employment/entrepreneurship.
- Make the state emerge as a leader in generation and use of RE and green technologies.
- Provide off-grid RE solutions (60 MW) and water heating solutions (20 MW).
- Encourage various renewable off-grid solutions.
- Establish a true single window system for RE project approvals, and investor tracking system to track the potential investors and their projects.

For the development of off-grid RE systems, the existing solar policy states that the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP) will promote decentralized and off-grid solar applications, including hybrid systems as per guidelines issued by MNRE. There is no separate policy for the promotion of off-grid RE systems in the state as on date. MPUVNL is the main implementing agency for all existing subsidy-driven programs of MNRE (e.g., rural

village electrification, solar photovoltaic (SPV) home and street lighting, *Akshay Urja* shops, scheme for solar water heaters, biomass and biogas program). However, the state needs to articulate an overall vision through a policy which promotes an integrated programmatic approach specifically focused on the development of decentralized off-grid applications such as mini-grids, SPV systems, solar thermal applications, etc. In view of this, GOMP has decided to announce a comprehensive off-grid RE policy.

3 OPERATIVE PERIOD

- I. This policy shall be known as the **Off-Grid RE Policy of Madhya Pradesh 2014**.
- II. This policy shall come into force with effect from the date of issue of government notification and shall remain in operation till March 31, 2020 or until reviewed by the GOMP whichever is later.
- III. The GOMP will undertake midterm review of the policy in 2017 to bring in course corrections and also evaluate the impact of the policy over this period.
- IV. MPUVNL shall be the implementing agency for this policy.

This policy supersedes all earlier policy guidelines/instructions issued in this regard. The provisions contained in this off-grid RE policy will be applicable to all the off-grid (and small-grid interactive onsite generation) RE projects.

4 VISION

This policy has been issued with a vision to ensure **universal access to modern clean and RE services to all citizens of the state by 2027**. While ensuring access to clean energy, the vast untapped renewable potential of the state shall be exploited.

5 OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this dedicated **Off-grid RE Policy** is to:

- a) Provide electricity to all households with at least eight hours of supply including the evening peak by the year 2017, which will increase to 12 hours by year 2022 and 24/7 stable and quality power to all consumers by 2027.
- b) Encourage deployment of off-grid RE systems in the state by creating a suitable implementing framework.
- c) Create conducive environment for participation of private sector, public sector, and small communities and non-governmental organizations in the development of off-grid based solutions.
- d) Define incentives and benefits to incentivize private sector participation in off-grid RE deployment in the state.

- e) Serve as a catalyst to reinforce synergy amongst key sectors and policies to achieve stated development goals in the state.
- f) Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to achieve low-carbon inclusive growth.
- g) Create an enabling environment for investment in the off-grid sector based on a programmatic approach to enhance access to funds and thereby achieve economies of scale. The policy is expected to address market entry barriers through access to a wide bouquet of financing options by enabling the establishment of the Off-grid Renewable Energy Fund.
- h) Enhance human resource development, livelihood opportunities, empower women/other socio-economically vulnerable groups by way of off-grid RE deployment as it will create alternate energy options and will help in creating job opportunities in rural areas.

6 SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF POLICY

This policy shall be applicable to the entire state of MP for all off-grid RE technologies including electricity generation. This policy supersedes all existing policies or guidelines related to off-grid RE technologies. In this regard, following specific provisions will be applicable:

- Only new plant and machinery shall be eligible for installation under this policy.
- This policy shall not be applicable to off-grid RE-based projects sanctioned prior to the commencement of the policy and those in the process of development.
- This policy is technology agnostic and will cover all energy-related applications using RE sources such as biomass, biogas, solar, wind, mini/micro hydro and such other sources as approved by MNRE.

7 FOCUS AREAS AND TARGETS

The off-grid policy will promote all RE technologies/systems and their applications in order to achieve the objectives stated in this policy. Table 1 illustrates the key technologies/ applications and targets for each area.

TABLE 1: KEY OFF-GRID TECHNOLOGIES, APPLICATION AND TARGETS

Technology/Application	Cumulative Target by 2020	Expected Outcome
Micro-grids for rural electrification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 micro-grids of 100 kWe capacity catering to around 400 households with 250 W connected load. 	Around 50,000 rural households.
Off-grid RE for community services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,500 schools/hostels (~ 8 MW). • 550 public health services and community health services (~ 3 MW). • 2,000 panchayat bhawans and 	Quality energy access and reliable power in schools/hostels, health service, community buildings in remote and rural areas.

Technology/Application	Cumulative Target by 2020	Expected Outcome
	community centers (~ 6 MW).	
On-site RE generation for commercial establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 RE power packs (1.40 MW) for rural banks, ATMs, petrol pumps, etc. • 22,000 diesel-powered telecom Towers (220 MW). • 300 LT water pumping stations (2 MW). • 1,800 MSMEs (90 MW). 	<p>Improved quality of energy availability for banks/ATMs/ petrol pumps LT water pumping station.</p> <p>Establishment of MSMEs.</p> <p>Development of rural areas</p> <p>Greening telecom towers by 2020.</p> <p>Reduce GHG emissions.</p>
Off-grid RE products such as lantern, solar home lighting systems, solar water heating systems, solar cooker, SPV pump, SPV pack, biogas plant, gasifiers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40,000 solar home lighting systems in rural areas. • 20,000 solar water heating systems in rural areas. • 20,000 solar cooking systems in rural areas. 	<p>Accelerated deployment of off-grid RE products to meet “energy access for all”, in alignment with GOMP vision.</p> <p>Enhanced access and reliable lighting, cooking, and heating solutions for scattered rural households through solar home lighting systems.</p>
Solar agricultural pump sets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lakh solar irrigation pump sets across MP. 	<p>Improved access and availability of reliable power for irrigation pumping in rural areas.</p>

MPUVNL shall announce annual targets for various programs to be initiated under each technology/application area. Further, it is clarified that the annual targets can be reviewed at the time of midterm policy review depending upon the stakeholder response to policy initiatives.

8 INCENTIVES

The incentives and promotional measures available for all off-grid RE programs, projects, schemes and products covered under this policy are as follows:

- No electricity duty or energy cess shall be payable on the electricity supplied by off-grid RE projects.
- The projects implemented under this policy shall receive the status of industry and shall be eligible for all the incentives provided under ‘Industrial Promotion Policy’ of state government as amended from time to time. If there is any contradiction between the provisions of this policy and the Industrial Promotion Policy then, the provisions of this policy shall be applicable.
- Carbon credits or Renewable Energy Certificates or any other similar incentives which are available for off-grid RE projects shall be made available to the developer as per the guidelines issued by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (MPERC) or Competent Authority, from time to time.

- d) The exemption from value-added tax (VAT)/entry tax for off-grid RE projects, systems, applications, and products shall be available in accordance with the Madhya Pradesh Government Gazette (Extraordinary) Notification No. 380, dated 01.08.2009.

In addition, there are various incentive structures and promotional schemes that can be devised depending on the requirement of a program. Some of the possible incentive structures and support mechanisms are outlined in Table 2. These incentive schemes/support programs will be partly funded through the off-grid RE fund created as outlined in Section 10. **Further, modalities of specific incentive schemes/structure for funding support for a particular off-grid RE program shall be published at the time of formulation of specific off-grid RE program.**

The financial assistance will be required for some of the programs targeting population in rural areas as well as community institutions such as schools/hostels, public health centers, etc., whereas the commercial/onsite generation may not need financial incentives to adopt the off-grid RE appliances. Further, onsite RE generation applications for commercial and industrial segment may require suitable regulatory framework in terms of enabling access and connectivity framework, and conducive rules for net metering, banking and wheeling, etc.

Accordingly, the government shall devise suitable incentive framework for each off-grid RE program/application/scheme, as may be necessary from time to time. However, while designing a particular off-grid program/scheme, the government shall be guided by following matrix of incentive framework and may consider any one or combination of incentive options as outlined in Table 2.

TABLE 2: INCENTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR OFF-GRID RE PROGRAMME

Item Description	Mini-Grids for Rural Electrification	Off-Grid RE for Community Services	Onsite RE Generation for Commercial Establishments	Off-Grid RE Products Deployment	Solar Agriculture Pump Sets
Financial Support/Incentives					
Subsidy	■			■	■
Grant		■			
Viability Gap Funding		■			
Generation-Based Incentives	■				■
Fiscal Support/Incentives					
Concessional Stamp Duty, Registration Charges		■			
Concessional Stamp Duty, Registration Charges		■			

Item Description	Mini-Grids for Rural Electrification	Off-Grid RE for Community Services	Onsite RE Generation for Commercial Establishments	Off-Grid RE Products Deployment	Solar Agriculture Pump Sets
Exemption From VAT	■	■	■	■	■
Exemption From Entry Tax	■	■	■	■	■
Exemption From Electricity Duty	■	■	■		
Support Through Green Cess	■	■			■
Regulatory Support/Incentives					
FIT	■	■			■
Concessional Open Access Framework			■		
Renewable Purchase Obligations	■	■			■
RE Certificates	■	■	■		■

9 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

GOMP shall adopt a multi-pronged strategy for implementation of this policy. While MPUVNL will undertake specific actions for large-scale deployment of off-grid RE technologies under this policy, all efforts will be made to identify synergies with other developmental initiatives of the government. MPUVNL will take active efforts in this regard.

This off-grid policy shall be implemented in close cooperation with the private sector. The role of the government and MPUVNL shall be that of a facilitator and provider of incentives/subsidies, if applicable. Further, MPUVNL shall take necessary steps to monitor implementation and then performance of systems/devices supplied by the selected agencies under this program. MPUVNL shall adopt the following methodology for selection of entity for the implementation of programs under this policy.

A. Micro-Grids for Rural Electrification

Based upon the annual targets for micro-grids for electrification, rural areas/regions shall be identified in consultation with rural development department, local bodies and distribution utilities. Preliminary assessment studies for feasibility and configuration/scheme for rural micro-grids for the identified rural areas/regions shall be developed by MPUVNL as an implementing agency. Applications/Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be invited from prospective developers for the development of micro-grids in identified villages. Based on the feedback and response received through the EOI, a detailed program will be devised for implementation of the micro-grid program. The award of the project to prospective developer(s) shall be undertaken through transparent competitive process.

B. Off-Grid RE for Community Services

The overall annual target for off-grid RE for community services shall be sub-divided into region-wise sub-targets for each sub-category in terms of number of schools, hostels, primary health centers/community health centers, etc. Standard configurations/schemes for off-grid RE systems of 2 kW, 5 kW, 10 kW, 15 kW, 25 kW, 50 kW and 100 kW for applications in these user segments will be developed. The channel partners, system integrators, and RE developers will be empanelled for each type of off-grid RE applications/user segments. A program/scheme with suitable incentive structure will be devised for specific user segments or geographic regions/districts for which EOI will be invited from empanelled list of channel partners/developers for the deployment of off-grid RE systems. The award of off-grid RE systems to parties/developers/channel partners shall be undertaken through transparent competitive process.

C. Onsite RE Generation for Commercial Establishments

The overall annual target for onsite RE generation for commercial establishment shall be sub-divided into sub-targets region-wise and for each sub-category in terms of number of rural banks/ATMs, petrol pumps, telecom towers, etc. Standard configurations/schemes for onsite RE generation systems of 2 kW, 5 kW, 10 kW, 15 kW, 25 kW, 50 kW and 100 kW for applications in these user segments will be developed. The channel partners, system integrators, and RE developers will be empanelled for each type of off-grid RE applications/user segments. Commercial establishments will be encouraged to make use of this preparatory work and invite bids from the empanelled partners. MPUVNL will also conduct workshops to create awareness among commercial establishments about RE technologies and preparatory work carried out by MPUVNL.

D. Off-Grid RE Products Deployment

Annual targets shall be devised for each type of off-grid RE product such as solar home lighting system, solar street light system, solar cookers, solar water heaters, etc. The standard products/systems of the empanelled off-grid RE product suppliers/manufacturers will be registered with MPUNL. The network and support from *Akshay Urja* shops shall be made available to approved/empanelled list of suppliers. A program with suitable subsidy/grant/incentive scheme will be developed for specific user segments or geographic regions. The award of contract for supply off-grid RE products to suppliers/manufacturers shall be undertaken through transparent competitive process.

E. Solar Agriculture Pump Set Programs

The overall annual target devised for solar agriculture pump sets shall be sub-divided into region-wise sub-targets in consultation with irrigation department, local bodies and distribution utilities. Standard configurations/schemes for group of solar irrigation pump sets (for example, in group of 50 to 100) of configurations 5 kW, 10 kW and 20 kW will be developed. The channel partners, system integrators and RE developers will be empanelled for solar irrigation pump set program. A scheme will be devised for specific geographic regions for which applications, through an EOI, shall be invited out of the empanelled list of channel partners for the deployment of solar agriculture pump sets. The award of solar irrigation pump set to channel partners shall be undertaken through transparent competitive process.

10 OFF-GRID RE FUND

In order to achieve these targets over the next five years, significant quantum of funds will be required for the deployment of various off-grid RE systems. For this purpose, a state-level **“MP Off-Grid RE Fund”** (off-grid fund) shall be created which will be managed by the implementing agency, i.e., MPUVNL.

The primary objectives to create an off-grid fund are:

1. Raise financial resources from various sources including GOMP.
2. Ensure stable funding for off-grid RE deployment.
3. Insulate channel partners/developers/system integrators from the vagaries of the budgetary allocation process so that MPUVNL can pursue performance-based disbursement of incentives/subsidies.

MPUVNL shall raise funds from the following sources for off-grid fund.

1. National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)

NCEF was created in 2010 by establishing a clean energy cess of INR 50 per ton on domestic as well as imported coal. Subsequently, the cess has been increased to INR 100 per ton. The cess collected in NCEF is proposed to be used for funding research and innovative projects in clean energy technologies. MPUVNL can seek funding from NCEF for the contribution to off-grid RE promotion activities in the state. MPUVNL, within six months of announcement of this policy, shall prepare a proposal for the payment of Generation-based Incentives (GBI) to micro-grid operators for 1,000 systems across the state. Depending on the success of this proposal, the government will enhance target for micro-grids during midterm review.

2. Green Cess

Green cess is being levied in many states in India including Gujarat, Maharashtra and Pondicherry. GOMP had also made provision for the collection of cess in the ‘Incentive Policy of Renewable Energy, 2006.’ However, under the new RE policy, the provision for green cess has not been made. GOMP will reinstate this provision so as to create a fund dedicated for the promotion of RE in the state. A part of green cess can be allocated for the activities of off-grid RE promotion in the state. MPUVNL, within three months of the announcement of this policy, shall send proposal to GOMP in this regard.

3. International Funding

Several bilateral/multilateral international agencies are funding RE initiatives in India. MPUVNL shall approach these funding agencies and explore possibility of leveraging funds with their off-grid RE programs. MP Off-grid Fund can formulate rules for availing contributions/funds from such international funding sources that match with the stated objectives and purpose of the Fund.

4. Voluntary Contribution From Private Sector

Individuals as well as corporates may be interested in supporting the cause of rural development and thereby interested in supporting off-grid rural electrification. Enabling

provisions should be made in fund rules to accept donations from such individuals/other persons.

5. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds

The recently-enacted Indian Companies Act requires certain set of companies to spend at least two percent of their average net profits on CSR. The companies can be pursued to make contributions from their CSR pool of funds to support off-grid RE programs in the state. MPUVNL shall approach all public sector undertakings of GOMP and private sector companies located in MP to make contributions to the Off-grid Fund. Such annual contributions can make the Off-grid Fund sustainable. MPUVNL shall develop all necessary procedures to ensure that the contributors are able to demonstrate before tax authorities that the funds are being used for intended purpose.

6. Budgetary Assistance

Every year, GOMP provides 'plan budget' to support the off-grid RE projects in the state. Henceforth, this plan budget will be released to the Off-grid Fund so that the funds are available with MPUVNL for the implementation of the projects.

Within two months of announcement of this policy, MPUVNL shall prepare the business plan for the proposed "**MP Off-Grid RE Fund**" and shall submit the same to the government for approval.

11 MONITORING AND VERIFICATION

It is often alleged that the off-grid technologies fail early and are not available for their intended life. To ensure the sustainability of the program and the effective utilization of money spent, it is essential that the systems operate for their intended life.

For this purpose, MPUVNL is currently developing a Web-based tool, Centralized Monitoring Centre (CMC), to monitor all off-grid solar installations above 5 kW. Using CMC, any person can monitor the performance of off-grid systems from anywhere in the world. Over a period of time, efforts shall be made to support such systems using GBI instead of capital subsidies. This will create significant incentive for project developers to properly maintain systems so that they remain operational. This will also ensure that the project developers do not supply sub-standard equipment.

MPUVNL shall develop similar technological solutions for monitoring RE applications supported under this policy. MPUVNL shall also develop sampling methodology that will enable the testing of random sample selected from the market. MPUVNL shall incorporate clauses in the tenders that will enable it to disqualify/penalize the suppliers that supply defective/sub-standard equipment.

12 GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

MPUVNL shall be the implementing agency under this policy and shall be responsible to undertake all the activities, unless specified otherwise.

Within two months of the announcement of this policy, MPUVNL shall undertake the study of organizational strengths, weaknesses and capacity building requirements to ensure effective implementation of this policy and shall make appropriate proposals to the government.

It is envisaged that, within six months of the announcement of this policy, MPUVNL shall develop programs/schemes in line with the implementation framework specified in Section 9 of this policy. Thus, MPUVNL will be acting as central organization planning, implementing and monitoring the entire implementation of the off-grid RE policy in the state and will be responsible for:

- Planning for off-grid RE deployment at the state level.
- Coordination with distribution companies in the state.
- Provision of secretarial support to the Steering Committee.
- Manage the MP Off-grid RE Fund.
- Development of guidelines/forms/procedures for allotment of off-grid projects and programs in the state.
- Implementation and monitoring of the projects and programs.
- Making appropriate submissions before MPERC for regulatory interventions, especially for micro-grid program.

Coordination and Steering Committee

MPUVNL shall set up an appropriate institutional structure in order to ensure accountability for development and implementation of the program under the policy. Further, it is important to identify synergies with other development programs of the central and state government programs such as Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Area and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It is possible to derive maximum benefit out of every rupee spent, provided efforts of different departments are coordinated. In order to ensure oversight and coordination, GOMP shall establish a Coordination and Steering Committee with Chief Secretary, GOMP as the Chairperson with CEO-MPUVNL as Member Secretary. The members of the committee will be the Principal Secretaries of NRED, Energy, Finance, Rural Development, Planning, Agriculture, MSME, and Technical Education. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year and will undertake review of implementation of this policy and shall guide MPUVNL on further steps to be taken.

13 CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

In order to achieve the policy targets, MPUVNL shall strive for capacity building of the institutions involved in the implementation of projects, availability of skilled manpower and continuous skill up gradation.

- Emphasis will be given for development of skilled manpower in the area of off-grid RE with a focus and thrust on skill up-gradation amongst women and backward section of the society to enhance their employability.
- MPUVNL shall promote private sector participation in skill development and will encourage regular industry-institution interface to identify skill sets required for the industry and to develop such skill sets in the training institutions utilizing private infrastructural facilities for conducting such training programs.
- Focus will be given on aligning the curriculum of industrial training institutes, polytechnics, Government Tool Room and Training Centre, and other allied institutes with the requirement of off-grid RE sector so as to create ready employable workforce as well as entrepreneurs.

14 PUBLICITY AND AWARENESS

GOMP and MPUVNL shall undertake publicity and awareness to promote and popularize the use of off-grid RE technologies and devices for a variety of applications both in rural areas as well as peri-urban areas. MPUVNL will organize workshops and exhibitions to spread awareness on the need and benefits of off-grid RE for enhancing energy access and energy security as well as its environmental and economic benefits to people and the state as a whole. MPUVNL will associate with other institutions such as the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Energy and Development and other premier national and international agencies to organize training and awareness programs across the departments/organizations of GOMP for promoting RE.

15 PROCEDURES FOR REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS

This section provides details of procedure for future revisions and amendments in the policy.

Power to Amend and Interpret the Policy

GOMP shall have the powers to amend/issue clarification, if any, on any matter related to the interpretation of any provisions or amendments under this policy in consultation with the concerned departments/agencies.

Power to Remove Difficulties

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to this policy, GOMP shall issue clarification as well as interpretations to such provisions, as may appear necessary for removing difficulty either on its own motion or after hearing those parties who have represented for change in provisions. Notwithstanding anything contained in this policy notification, the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the applicable regulations issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission/MPERC from time to time shall prevail for the purpose of implementation of this policy.

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