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### Viability of hybrid wind, solar projects depend upon tariffs and sops

Renewable power sector expects CERC to soon come up with tariff framework for its smooth implementation



Renewable power sector players have said that the success of the draft hybrid wind and solar policy depends on the tariff level which may be either feed-in tariff based or competitively bid based. Besides, overall regulatory clarity in terms of tariff norms for hybrid projects remains a key.

The draft policy released last week aims to promote a large grid connected wind-solar PV system for optimal and efficient utilisation of transmission infrastructure and land, reduce the variability in renewable power generation and achieve better grid stability. Existing wind farms have scope of adding solar PV capacity and similarly there may be wind potential in the vicinity of existing solar PV plant.

As per the policy, in the locations where the wind power density is quite good, the size of the solar PVs capacity to be added as the solar hybrid component could be relatively smaller. In case of the sites where the wind power density is relatively lower or moderate, the component of the solar PV capacity could be relatively on a higher side.

Vikram Solar's executive director Joy Saxena shared views expressed by Mehta and Majumdar saying that the viability of hybrid projects would depend upon tariff structures and financial incentives, for which further clarity needs to come in. "The wind-solar hybrid policy will be a step further in the realization of India's renewable energy (RE) targets. Key infrastructure elements like land & evacuation network account for around 10% of overall project cost for wind as well as solar projects. Hybrid projects would therefore lead to a reduction in capital cost due to the common infrastructure," he viewed.

According to Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Partner Debasish Mishra, distribution utilities would be keen on seeing a stable and predictable supply pattern from such combination of RE technologies apart from cost optimization due to saving in land and evacuation costs. "Wind IPPs are complaining of getting backed down in some States during low demand period in the grid, despite having must-run status," he added.

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