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Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

Renewable Electricity Development Team
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Date: 28 January 2015

Dear Stakeholder,

CONSULTATION ON OFGEM E-SERVE'S DRAFT GUIDANCE - RENEWABLES OBLIGATION: CLOSURE OF THE SCHEME TO LARGE-SCALE SOLAR PV

We are writing to inform you that our draft guidance: 'RO: Closure of the scheme to large-scale solar PV' has been published today for an eight week consultation period. The draft guidance is provided in annex 1.

We are inviting stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft guidance. The closing date for responding to the consultation is 25 March 2015.

The draft guidance explains our proposed administration of the early closure of the RO to large-scale solar PV generating capacity, ie generating capacity >5MW, based on the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 which was laid on 27 January 2015. These changes will take effect once the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 comes into force, expected to be 1 April 2015. We intend to publish the final version of the guidance shortly after. The guidance should be read alongside the 'RO: Guidance for Generators'[1].

The guidance document has been drafted as if the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 is already in force. If any changes are made to the legislation before it comes into force, we will amend the guidance document as appropriate.

Please note the changes only apply to generating stations in England, Wales and Scotland.

How to respond

The purpose of this consultation is to gain your views on our proposed administration of the closure of the scheme to large-scale solar PV and the process for applying for the grace periods that are available. In responding to this consultation please answer the following questions:

[1] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-1

- Question 1: Do you have any concerns relating to the proposed processes for administering the closure of the RO to large-scale solar PV generating capacity and the associated grace periods as set out in this document?

- Question 2: Are there any aspects of this guidance that could be made clearer or improved? If so, please provide specific comments including section references.

- Question 3: Are there any omissions in this guidance? If so, please provide comments.

Responses should be sent to either:

REDevelopment@ofgem.gov.uk , or

RE Development Team
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9 Millbank,
London SW1P 3GE

Please be aware that this is not a consultation on the policy behind the changes but on how Ofgem, as the administrator of the scheme, intends to administer them. Queries relating to the policy should be directed to DECC at: 0300 068 5404 or SolarPV.Consultation@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

If you want your response to be kept confidential, please clearly mark the document/s to that effect and include your reasons for requesting confidentiality. (However, this may be subject to any obligations to disclose information, for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). It would be helpful if you could submit your responses electronically and in writing.

Next steps

Once we have considered the responses to this consultation, we will publish the final guidance document shortly after the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 has come into force.

Until the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 comes into force, stakeholders should refer to the current legislation and guidance.

If you have any comments or concerns relating to how this consultation has been conducted please refer to annex 2 for details.

Yours sincerely,

Renewable Electricity Development Team

Annex 1

Draft guidance

Renewables Obligation: Closure of the scheme to large-scale solar PV

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Renewables Obligation: Closure of the scheme to large-scale solar PV

Draft guidance

Publication date:	28 January 2015	**Team:**	Renewable Electricity
Response deadline:	25 March 2015	**Email:**	REDevelopment@ofgem.gov.uk

Overview:

This draft guidance is for operators of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating stations in England, Wales and Scotland affected by the closure of the Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme to large-scale solar PV on 1 April 2015. This closure is brought into effect by the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015.

The closure applies to new generating stations with a total installed capacity (TIC) greater than 5MW and any additional capacity added to existing stations that have, or would have, a TIC greater than 5MW. Operators of large-scale stations that meet certain criteria may be eligible for a grace period, meaning that they can apply for accreditation for 12 months after the closure date, ie from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016.

Context

The Renewables Obligation (RO) and the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) (ROS) are designed to incentivise large-scale renewable electricity generation in the UK and help the UK meet its requirements for 15 per cent of energy to be sourced from renewable sources by 2020. The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority) administers the schemes, and its day-to-day functions are performed by Ofgem.

The RO and ROS schemes are provided for under the Renewables Obligation Order 2009 (as amended) and the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2009 (as amended). The Orders place an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers in England, Wales and Scotland to source an increasing proportion of electricity from renewable sources. All references to the RO cover the RO and ROS schemes.

The RO and ROS schemes are scheduled to close to new capacity on 31 March 2017. The RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 closes the RO schemes early for new large-scale solar PV generating capacity. It also introduces three grace periods for stations affected by the early closure.

This guidance document explains how we will administer the early closure and the grace periods that are available. It should be read in conjunction with chapter 3 of 'RO: Guidance for generators',[2] which provides full details on seeking accreditation under the RO. This guidance document does not apply to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) as the RO Closure Order does not affect generating stations in Northern Ireland.

This document is for guidance only and is not intended to be a legal guide. Generators might find it helpful to seek their own legal and technical advice before applying.

The document does not anticipate every scenario which may arise. It is intended to be a working document and may be updated from time to time. Where a scenario arises which is not addressed in these procedures, we will adopt an approach consistent with the relevant legislation. Any guidance in addition to this document will be published on our website.

[2] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2

Associated documents

Readers should be aware of the following documents which support this publication:

Policy and legislation

- Government response to consultation on changes to financial support for solar PV (Part A: Controlling spending on large-scale solar PV within the RO): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/360280/Government_response_RO-FIT_changes_to_Solar_PV_-_FINAL_2014-10-02.pdf
- Government response to further consultation on changes to financial support for solar PV (Part A: Introduction of a possible grid delay grace period under the RO): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378252/Government_response_to_further_consultation_on_solar_PV.pdf
- The Renewables Obligation Closure (Amendment) Order 2015: www.legislation.gov.uk
- The Renewables Obligation Closure Order 2014: www.legislation.gov.uk
- Renewables Obligation Order 2009, Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Order 2009, as well as their amendment orders for 2011, 2013 and 2014: www.legislation.gov.uk

Guidance

- Renewables Obligation: Guidance for generators: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2
- Renewables and CHP register user guide: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-and-chp-register-user-guide-may-2014
- Renewables and CHP register account guidance: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/ofgem-publications/90390/es898renewablesandchpregisteraccountguidanceweb.pdf
- Guidance on the transition period and closure of the RO: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-ro-guidance-transition-period-and-closure-ro

Contents

Executive summary

The Renewables Obligation (RO) and the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) (ROS) schemes are scheduled to close to new capacity on 31 March 2017. The Renewables Obligation Closure Order 2014, which came into force on 9 September 2014, brought this closure into effect. The Renewables Obligation Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 (referred to as the RO Closure Order 2015) came into force on 1 April 2015. It closes the RO and ROS schemes early to new large-scale solar PV generating capacity. This means that from 1 April 2015:

- any new solar PV generating station >5MW will be unable to apply for accreditation (either full or preliminary) under the RO,
- existing solar PV generating stations with a TIC ≥5MW cannot add additional capacity under the RO, and
- existing solar PV stations with a TIC <5MW cannot add additional capacity that would mean the station's TIC is >5MW.

The RO Closure Order 2015 also introduces three grace periods for stations affected by the early closure. If the criteria for a grace period are met, and if all other RO eligibility criteria are met, these grace periods allow operators to gain accreditation under the RO after 31 March 2015, until 31 March 2016. The grace periods are:

i. 'Significant investment' grace period for operators of generating stations that have made significant investments on or before 13 May 2014,
ii. 'Grid delay' grace period for operators of generating stations that have been subject to grid connection delays that are outside their control, and
iii. 'Preliminary accreditation' grace period for operators of generating stations that were granted preliminary accreditation under the RO on or before 13 May 2014.

This guidance document explains how we will administer the early closure and the grace periods that are available. It should be read in conjunction the 'RO: Guidance for generators',[3] which provides full details on seeking accreditation under the RO.

It also explains the process for applying for accreditation and a grace period at the same time. To gain accreditation between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 operators will need to submit an application for accreditation, submit their grace period evidence, commission the station and meet all RO eligibility and grace period criteria on or before 31 March 2016. From 1 April 2016 we will no longer be accepting any applications for accreditation from operators of large-scale solar PV generating stations.

[3] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2

1. Introduction

Chapter summary
Explains the background to the changes for large-scale solar PV generating stations introduced on 1 April 2015, the key terms that operators should be aware of and Ofgem's functions as administrator of the RO scheme.

1.1. The RO and the ROS schemes closed to large-scale solar PV capacity on 1 April 2015. This applies to new solar PV generating stations with a TIC >5MW and any additional capacity added to existing stations that have, or would have once the additional capacity has been added, a TIC >5MW. Three grace periods are available for operators of generating stations affected by the closure if they meet certain criteria. These changes were introduced by the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015.

1.2. This guidance document explains how we will administer the early closure and the grace periods that are available. It should be read in conjunction with the 'RO: Guidance for generators'[4], which provides full details on seeking accreditation under the RO.

Explanation of key terms

1.3. Operators should be aware of the meaning of the following key terms and approaches in reading this document:

How to calculate TIC

1.4. To calculate the TIC of a solar PV generating station the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has confirmed that the following approach should be taken:

"In the case of solar PV, the TIC of the generating station is to be calculated by multiplying the rated output of the solar PV modules used by the number of modules. This is also how TIC is calculated under the Feed-in Tariff scheme."[5]

1.5. An example calculation would be:

[4] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2
[5] Page 9, "Government response to further consultation on changes to financial support for solar PV": https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/360280/Government_response_RO-FIT_changes_to_Solar_PV_-_FINAL_2014-10-02.pdf

Panel type	**Wattage x number of modules**	**Installed capacity of each module type**
Panel type 1	325W x 2,196 modules	713.7kW
Panel type 2	330W x 14,490 modules	4,781.7kW
Panel type 3	335W x 19,566 modules	65,545.61kW
Panel type 4	340W x 432 modules	146.88kW
Total Installed Capacity (sum of all the installed capacities)		**12.19MW**

Definition of a generating station

1.6. The RO and ROS Orders do not define 'generating station'. However, for the purposes of assessing whether a generating station is a single station or not, we will take a view on the commercial arrangements and the physical components that exist. This will include interactions with any sites in close proximity. Typically we would consider the following components to determine the extent of a single solar PV generating station:

- What constitutes the premises, eg this might be a house or building with its grounds, or a parcel of land with one landowner.
- Whether there is a shared electrical or mechanical connection between any or all of the sets of equipment for generating electricity or any other equipment, apparatus or plant.
- Whether the same driver is used by any or all of the sets of equipment for generating electricity and they are related functionally.
- Whether there is the same planning permission and / or Section 36 consent governing the sets of equipment for generating electricity.
- Whether there is one connection to the transmission or distribution network.

- Whether there is the same or linked metering for the sets of equipment for generating electricity. Separate metering is required for separate generating stations.
- How the metering is registered under the Balancing and Settlement code.
- In a scenario where a previously accredited generating station is or was located on the same site which is subject of an application for accreditation, we would consider whether the subject of the new application constitutes the same generating station as that which is or was previously accredited.

1.7. Further details may be found in Appendix 1 of the 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

Commissioned

1.8. The Orders define "commissioned" as "the completion of such procedures and tests in relation to that station as constitute, at the time they are undertaken, the usual industry standards and practices for commissioning that type of generating station in order to demonstrate that that generating station is capable of commercial operation"[6].

1.9. Section 4.18 lists the minimum evidence we will require from operators to prove a station has commissioned.

RO

1.10. Where "RO" is used in this document, it means the Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme and the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) (ROS) scheme. In this guidance, the RO Order and ROS Order are collectively referred to as 'the Orders' but individually referenced where necessary. The Renewables Obligation Closure (Amendment) Order 2015 is referred to as the 'RO Closure Order 2015' throughout this document.

Ofgem's functions

1.11. The Orders detail the Authority's functions in respect of the RO schemes in England, Wales and Scotland. A number of these functions are carried out via our IT system - the Renewables and CHP Register (the Register) and include:

- accrediting generating stations as being capable of generating electricity from eligible renewable energy sources,
- issuing Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) and Scottish Renewable Obligation Certificates (SROCs),

[6] Article 2 of the Orders.

- establishing and maintaining a register of ROCs and SROCs,
- revoking ROCs and SROCs where necessary,
- monitoring compliance with the requirements of the Orders,
- calculating annually the buy-out price resulting from the adjustments made to reflect changes in the Retail Price Index (RPI),
- receiving buy-out payments and redistributing the buy-out fund,
- receiving late payments and redistributing the late payment fund,
- recovering the administration costs of the RO from the buy-out fund,
- publishing an annual report on the operation of and compliance with the requirements of the Orders.

1.12. We carry out these functions as efficiently and effectively as possible, according to the provisions of the Orders. We cannot act beyond the scope of the powers laid down in the Orders. For example, we have no remit over the operation or regulation of the ROC market itself or the underlying policy. Amendments to the relevant legislation in respect of the RO are a matter for the Secretary of State and Scottish Ministers.

2. Eligibility for the RO from 1 April 2015

Chapter summary
Explains the impact of the closure of the scheme to solar PV generating capacity with a TIC >5MW. Also covers the scenarios in which a new solar PV generating stations may or may not be eligible for the RO and in which RO-accredited solar PV generating stations may add additional capacity under the RO, including how 'excluded capacity' is treated.

2.1. From 1 April 2015 the RO closed to large solar PV stations. A large solar PV station is defined in the RO Closure Order 2015 as "a solar PV station where the total installed capacity of the RO capacity of the station is more than five megawatts"[7].

2.2. This means that from 1 April 2015:

- any new generating station >5MW will be unable to apply for accreditation (either full or preliminary) under the RO,
- existing stations with a TIC ≥5MW cannot add additional capacity under the RO, and
- existing stations with a TIC <5MW cannot add additional capacity that would mean the station's TIC is >5MW under the RO.

2.3. There is an exception to these rules for capacity that is eligible for one of the three grace periods that are available. See chapter 3 for further details. In addition, an existing RO station may wish to add capacity to a station but not gain support for it under the RO. Such capacity is called 'excluded capacity' and is explained further in section 2.12.

2.4. New solar PV generating stations ≤5MW are not affected by this closure and can continue to apply for accreditation under the RO until the scheme closes to all new generating capacity on 31 March 2017.

Solar PV generating station scenarios

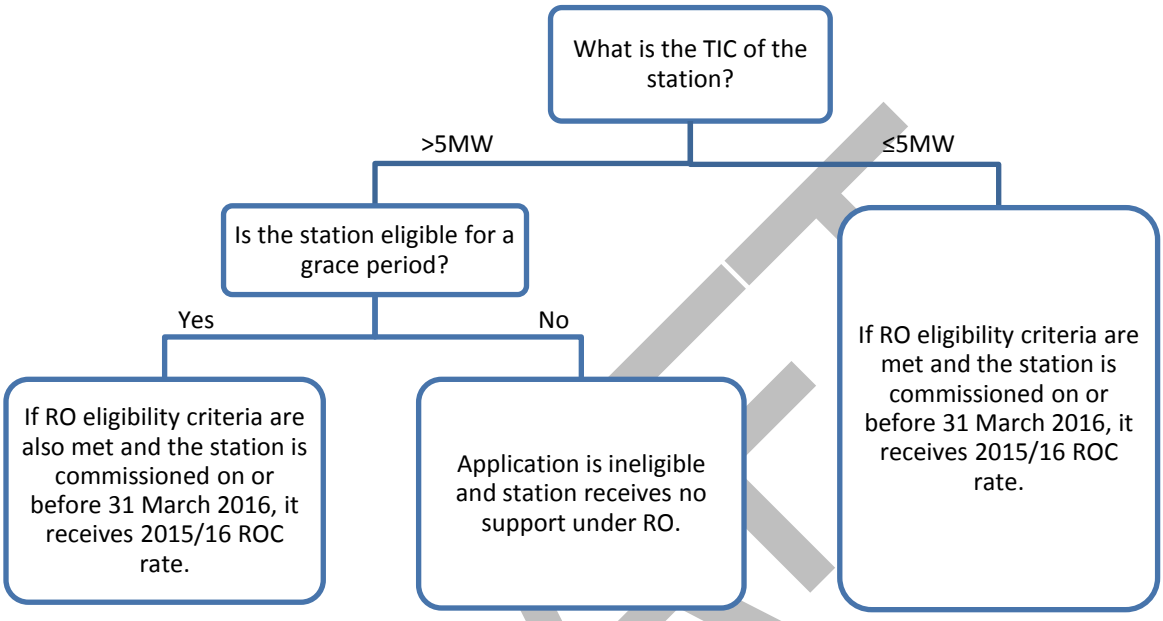
New solar PV generating stations

2.5. Figure 1 sets out how we will handle applications from new solar PV generating stations from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016. For a new solar PV station >5MW, the station will only be accredited if it is eligible for a grace period, if it meets the RO eligibility criteria and if it is commissioned on or before 31 March 2016. There are no changes for new solar PV stations ≤5MW. Provided they meet the

[7] Article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

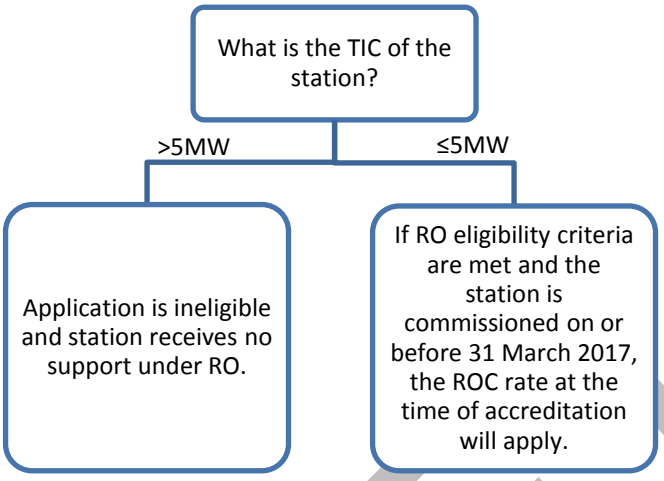
eligibility criteria and are commissioned by 31 March 2017 they will gain accreditation under the RO.

Figure 1: New solar PV generating stations applying for RO accreditation from 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016



2.6. Figure 2 sets out how we will handle applications from new solar PV generating stations from 1 April 2016 onwards. For a new solar PV station >5MW, the station will not be eligible for accreditation and will receive no support under the RO. There are no changes for new solar PV stations ≤5MW. Provided they meet the eligibility criteria and are commissioned by 31 March 2017 they will gain accreditation under the RO until the RO closes to new capacity on 31 March 2017.

Figure 2: New solar PV generating stations applying for accreditation from 1 April 2016 until 31 March 2017



Adding additional capacity

2.7. Figure 3 sets out how we will handle additional capacity being added to a solar PV generating station from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016. Additional capacity added to a station that is ≥5MW, or where the additional capacity will mean the station's TIC is >5MW, will only be eligible for RO support if:

- it meets the grace period eligibility criteria,
- the RO eligibility criteria, and
- it has commissioned on or before 31 March 2016.

2.8. There are no changes where the TIC of the station remains at ≤5MW once additional capacity has been added.

2.9. Where capacity is added to an RO station and the operator does not wish to gain RO support for it, this will be considered as 'excluded capacity'. See section 2.12 for further details on adding excluded capacity to an RO station.

2.10. Figure 4 sets out how we will handle additional capacity being added to a solar PV generating station from 1 April 2016 until the RO closes to new capacity on 31 March 2017. Any additional capacity added to a solar PV station >5MW is 'excluded capacity' and is not eligible for support under the RO. The original capacity is not affected. There are no changes for stations where the TIC remains at ≤5MW once additional capacity has been added.

2.11. For further information on adding additional capacity under the RO refer to our 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

Figure 3: RO-accredited solar PV generating station adding additional capacity from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016

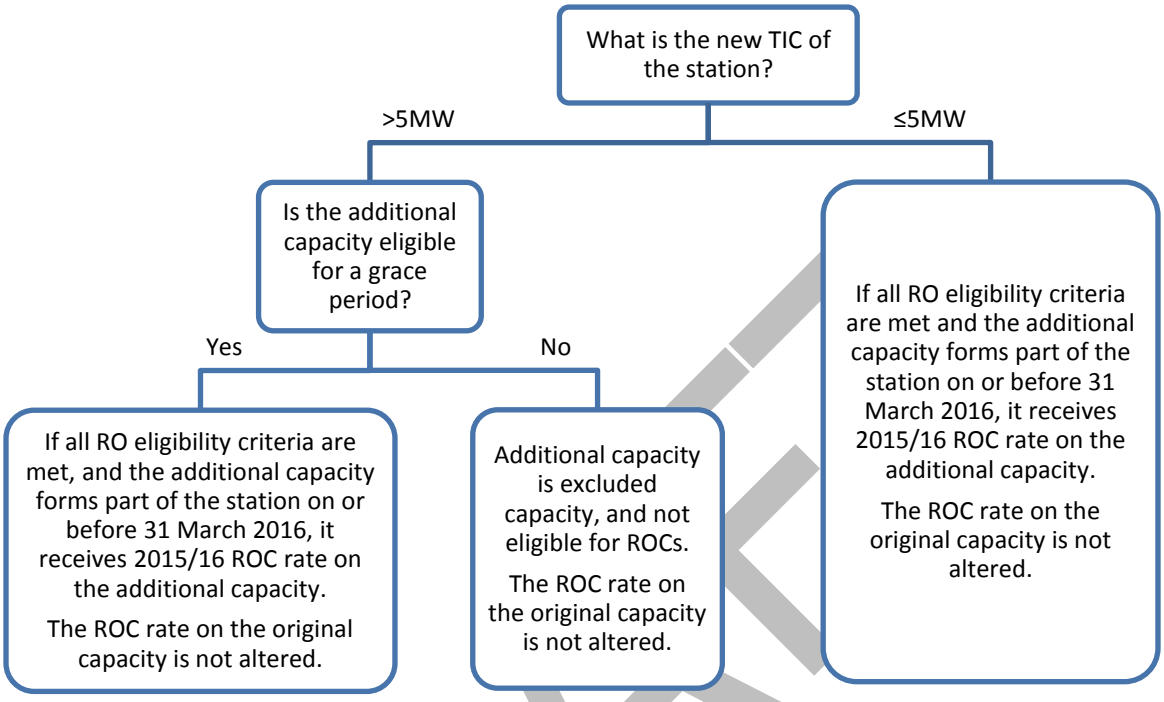
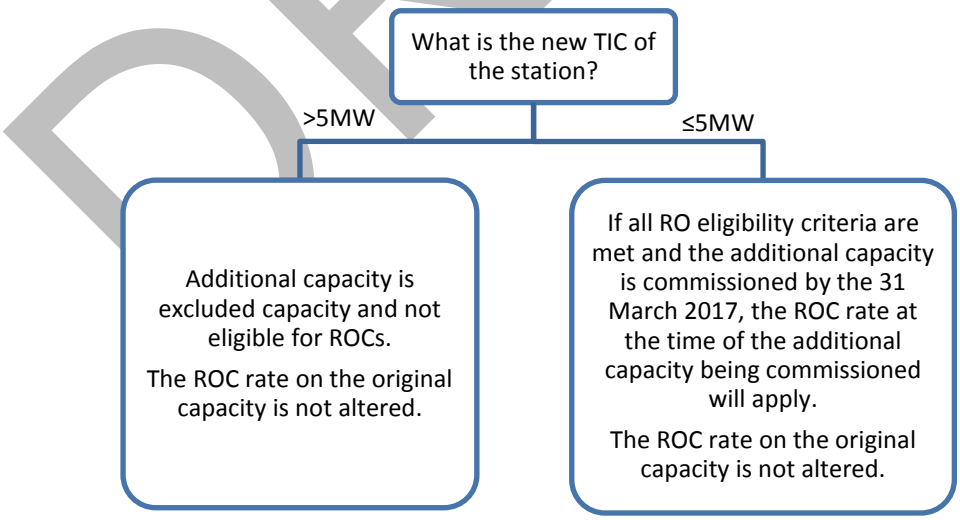


Figure 4: RO-accredited solar PV generating station adding additional capacity from 1 April 2016 until 31 March 2017



RO-accredited stations with "excluded capacity"

2.12. The closure of the scheme to solar PV may create a scenario where a station has some capacity accredited under the RO, ie its original capacity, and some that is added later and is not supported under the RO, ie it has not been registered as additional capacity.

2.13. This unsupported capacity is called "excluded capacity"[8]. Excluded capacity >5MW may be eligible for support under the Contracts for Difference (CFD) scheme. An RO-accredited station that is successful in entering into a CFD for any excluded capacity is called a dual scheme facility.

2.14. Operators will need to ensure that the excluded capacity is separate from the RO capacity. This is so the correct level of support is issued for the capacity that each scheme supports. For a station with excluded capacity, whether it is a dual scheme facility or not, we would expect the following arrangements to be in place to ensure the RO capacity and the excluded capacity are separate:

Output electricity

2.15. The RO output electricity[9] is metered separately, or the excluded capacity output is metered separately, and deducted from the electricity metered for the whole generating station.

Input electricity

2.16. The RO input electricity[10] can be calculated either:

- pro rata on the basis of the TIC, ie the RO and excluded capacity,
- separate metering of the input electricity used for the excluded capacity, or
- separate metering of the input electricity used for the RO capacity.

Information relating to the excluded capacity

2.17. Operators that want to add excluded capacity should inform Ofgem as early as possible. They should not update their TIC (QA310) and capacity breakdown in (QC237) on the Register but should update their plant description (QE100) to confirm the TIC of the excluded capacity and its expected commissioning date. They should also provide an updated schematic diagram (QI100) showing the entire capacity of the generating station (ie the RO capacity and the excluded capacity),

[8] Article 2 of the Orders.
[9] Article 23A of the Orders.
[10] Article 23A of the Orders.

including the separate metering arrangements. On this diagram operators should highlight the RO capacity and the excluded capacity so they can be easily distinguished.

2.18. It is the operator's responsibility to ensure they are familiar with the metering arrangements and eligibility criteria of any scheme that they intend to seek support under.

2.19. Additional guidance on adding excluded capacity and on becoming a dual scheme facility is in 'RO: Guidance on the transition period and closure of the RO'[11]. This includes information on RO accredited stations with excluded capacity that want to claim Levy Exemption Certificates and Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) certificates on both their RO capacity and their excluded capacity. For more information on applying for support under the CFD scheme, refer to National Grid's guidance[12].

[11] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-ro-guidance-transition-period-and-closure-ro
[12] https://www.emrdeliverybody.com/Shared Documents/CFD User Guide ISSUE 2 Final.pdf

3. Eligibility for grace periods

Chapter summary
Explains the three grace periods that are available for solar PV generating capacity >5MW. If eligible for a grace period the operator can apply for accreditation until 31 March 2016, rather than until 31 March 2015. We also describe the eligibility requirements and the evidence we would expect in support of an application.

3.1. In certain situations, the RO Closure Order 2015 allows operators of large-scale solar PV stations to apply for accreditation under the scheme after it has closed to large-scale solar PV generating capacity. This extension lasts for 12 months. To do so operators will need to apply for one of the three grace periods at the same time as they apply for accreditation from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016. We will not accept applications from operators of new large-scale solar PV generating stations after 31 March 2016. This includes operators applying for support for additional capacity that would mean the new TIC of the station is >5MW.

3.2. A decision on eligibility for both accreditation and the grace period will be taken at the same time. Operators must also have commissioned by 31 March 2016 in order to be accredited under the scheme. The process for making both applications at the same time, as well as the evidence we would expect to see to demonstrate that the station is commissioned, is outlined in chapter 4.

3.3. There are three grace periods that an operator may apply for:

i. **'Significant investment':** for generating stations where significant investments have been made on or before 13 May 2014[13].

ii. **'Grid delay':** for operators of generating stations that have been subject to grid connection delays that are outside of their control[14].

iii. **'Preliminary accreditation'**: for operators of generating stations that were granted preliminary accreditation under the RO on or before 13 May 2014[15].

3.4. The eligibility criteria for each grace period and the evidence we would expect to see in support of a grace period application are outlined in the following sections. Applicants should also ensure that they have a full understanding of the RO Closure

[13] See article 2B(3) of the RO Closure Order 2015 for new generating stations. See article 2C of the same Order for generating stations accredited on or before 13 May 2014 which are adding additional capacity before 31 March 2016.
[14] See article 2B(2) of the RO Closure Order 2015 for new generating stations. See article 2D of the same Order for generating stations accredited before 1 April 2015 which are adding additional capacity on or before 31 March 2016.
[15] See article 2B(1)(b) of the RO Closure Order 2015.

Order 2015 that sets out the legislative requirements for the specific pieces of grace period evidence.

i) 'Significant investment' grace period

3.5. The following evidence must accompany a significant investment grace period application:

Table 1: Significant investment grace period evidence

Type of evidence	Legislative requirement	What evidence should you provide?
1. Planning permission[16]	a. Evidence that an application for planning permission for the station was made on or before 13 May 2014, or	A letter or email from the relevant planning authority that identifies the station in question by technology, location and capacity, and states that the application was made on or before 13 May 2014.
	b. a copy of the planning permission for the station which was granted on or before 13 May 2014, or	A copy of the planning permission for the station which clearly shows that planning permission was granted on or before 13 May 2014.
	c. a declaration by the operator of the station that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, planning permission is not required for the station.	We would expect planning permission to be required, but if not send us: A document signed by the operator of the station (ie, the super-user of the account on the Register[17]) stating that to the best of their knowledge and belief planning permission is not required for the station.

[16] Planning permission means: "(i) consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989,(ii) development consent under the Planning Act 2008, (iii) planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(e), or (iv) planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997(a) except that in articles 2B(3) and 2C(2) it does not include— (a) outline planning permission within the meaning of section 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(a), or (b) planning permission in principle within the meaning of section 59 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997(b)." See article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

[17] We would expect the operator to be the individual applying for accreditation, ie the super-user of the account created on the Register for the purpose of applying for accreditation.

2. Grid works offer	a. A copy of an offer from a licensed network operator[18] made on or before 13 May 2014 to carry out grid works in relation to the station, or	A copy of the offer to carry out grid works from a licensed network operator that clearly states the location of the grid works and the connection capacity. It must be evident that the offer was made on or before 13 May 2014. We would expect the offer to cover the non-contestable aspects of any grid works required at a minimum.
	b. A declaration by the operator of the station that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, no grid works were required to be carried out by a licensed network operator in order to enable the station to be commissioned.	We anticipate that grid works would usually have been required. However, if not, send us a document signed by the operator of the station (ie, the super-user of the account on the Register) stating that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, no grid works were required to be carried out by a licensed network operator in order to enable the station to be commissioned.
3. Grid works offer acceptance	Evidence that the offer was accepted on or before 13th May 2014 (whether or not such acceptance was subject to any conditions or other terms)	A letter from a licensed network operator confirming that the operator of the station accepted the grid works offer on or before 13 May 2014, or a signed acceptance form from the operator of the station on or before 13 May 2014.
4. Land ownership declaration	A declaration by the operator of the station that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, as at 13th May 2014 a developer[19] of the station (or a person connected with a developer of the station within the meaning of section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010): (i) was an owner or lessee of the land on which the station is situated, (ii) had entered into an agreement to lease the land on which the station is situated, (iii) had an option to purchase or to lease the land on which the station is situated; or (iv) had entered into an exclusivity agreement[20] in relation to the land on which the station is situated.	A declaration signed by the operator of the station confirming whether (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) applies. (A template that may be used in providing this declaration can be found in Appendix 3).

[18] Licensed network operator means: "a distribution licence holder or a transmission licence holder." See article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

[19] Developer: "in relation to a large solar PV station, means a person who (a) applied for planning permission for the station, (b) arranged for grid works to be carried out in relation to

Planning permission evidence

3.6. In applying for the 'significant investment' grace period we will also request the final planning permission document that enabled the construction of the station, if it has not already been provided. If this document does not relate to the same station (ie, it is not at the same location) for which planning permission was applied for on or before 13 May 2014 then we may not be able to accredit the station.

3.7. In addition, projects may require off-site supporting infrastructure, which may require planning permission. Given this, we will only seek planning permission for the site where the electricity generating equipment is to be located.

Variations to the required evidence

3.8. The 'significant investment' grace period requires documents such as evidence of an application for planning permission and grid connection offers/acceptances. When assessing eligibility for this grace period, we are primarily concerned with the relevant documentary evidence that was in place as at (or before) 13 May 2014.

3.9. We are aware that variations may be made to a planning permission or grid connection arrangements as a project progresses. Should such variations have happened after 13 May 2014, we will not take these into account for the purposes of our grace period assessment. However, if we consider that the relevant evidence was not in place as at 13 May 2014, a grace period will not be granted. Similarly if, on assessment of the application for accreditation, it is clear to us that the subject of the application does not relate to the station covered by the grace period evidence, a grace period will not be granted.

3.10. For example, if a connection offer was accepted on 21 February 2014 but was then varied on 17 July 2014, we would not take this variation into account. Similarly, if a planning application was submitted on 10 April 2014 but underwent a minor amendment on 29 May 2014, we would not take this amendment into account. Conversely, if it was clear to us that the planning permission and/or connection offer/acceptance that was in place on or before 13 May 2014 did not relate to the station for which an accreditation application was made, we would not grant a grace

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the station, (c) arranged for the construction of any part of the station, (d) constructed any part of the station, or (e) operates, or proposes to operate the station". See article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

[20] An exclusivity agreement: "in relation to land, means an agreement, by the owner or a lessee of the land, not to permit any person (other than the persons identified in the agreement) to construct a solar PV station on the land". See article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

period. It is our expectation that we would question any dramatic variances in grid connection capacity, planned capacity and/or location of the station during our assessment.

The parties to whom evidence was originally issued

3.11. The RO Closure Order 2015 does not specify that the planning permission must have been issued to the person applying for the grace period. Therefore, the party the planning permission was issued to will not form part of our grace period assessment. Similarly, the RO Closure Order 2015 does not specify that the grid connection offer must have been made to the person applying for accreditation. This means the party to which the grid connection offer was made will not form part of our grace period assessment.

Grid connection evidence

3.12. We recognise that additional consents, easements and wayleaves will be required for grid connections. However, for the purposes of this grace period, we do not intend to request evidence of these.

ii) 'Grid delay' grace period

3.13. The following evidence must accompany a grid delay grace period application:

Table 2: Grid delay grace period evidence

Type of evidence	Legislative requirement	What evidence should you provide?
1. Grid works agreement	Evidence of an agreement with a network operator ("the relevant network operator") to carry out grid works in relation to the station ("the relevant grid works").	A copy of the offer to carry out grid works from a network operator that clearly states the location of the grid works and the connection capacity. We would expect the offer to cover the non-contestable aspects of any grid works required at a minimum. And one of the following: A letter from the network operator confirming that the operator of the station (ie, the super-user of the account on the Register[21]) accepted the grid works offer on or before 31 March 2015,

[21] We would expect the operator to be the individual applying for accreditation, ie the super-user of the account created on the Register for the purpose of applying for accreditation.

		or a signed acceptance form, signed by the operator of the station (ie the super user of the account on the Register), on or before 31 March 2015.
2. Date for completion of grid works	A copy of a document written by, or on behalf of, the relevant network operator which estimated or set a date for completion of the relevant grid works ("the planned grid works completion date") which was no later than 31 March 2015.	A document, eg a letter, from the relevant network operator which estimates or sets a "planned grid works completion date"[22] which is no later than 31 March 2015. The location of the grid works and connection capacity should be clearly stated. Where a document refers to a grid connection needing to be completed within a specific number of months it must be clear when this period of time starts from.
3. Confirmation of grid works delay	A letter or email written by, or on behalf of, the relevant network operator confirming (whether or not such confirmation is subject to any conditions or other terms) that— (i) the relevant grid works were completed after the planned grid works completion date, and (ii) in the relevant network operator's opinion, the failure to complete the relevant grid works on or before the planned grid works completion date was not due to any breach by a developer[23] of the station of any agreement with the relevant network operator.	A letter or email from the network operator to the operator of the station confirming points (i) and (ii).
4. Operator declaration in relation to delayed grid works	A declaration by the operator that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the station would have been commissioned on or before 31 March 2015 if the relevant grid works had been completed on or before the planned grid works completion date.	A declaration signed by the operator of the generating station. (A template that may be used in providing this declaration can be found in Appendix 3).

[22] The planned grid works completion date is the date (either estimated or set) that the network operator expects to have completed the relevant grid works. See article 2B(2)(b) of the RO Closure Order 2015.

[23] Developer: "in relation to a large solar PV station, means a person who (a) constructed any part of the station, (b) operates, or proposes to operate, the station, or (c) arranged for the construction of any part of the station". See article 2 of the RO Closure Order 2015.

Variations to the required evidence

3.14. We are aware that variations may be made to grid connection offers and agreements as a project progresses. Should such variations happen, we will not take these into account for the purposes of our grace period assessment. Similarly if, on assessment of the application for accreditation, it is clear to us that the subject of the application does not relate to the station covered by the grace period evidence, a grace period will not be granted.

3.15. For example, if an original planned grid works completion date was given which was before 31 March 2015, but the network operator subsequently modified this to after the 31 March 2015, we would not take this variation into account. Conversely, if it was clear to us that the connection offer or agreement did not relate to the station for which an accreditation application was made, we would not grant a grace period.

3.16. We will question any dramatic variances in grid connection capacity or location of the station during our assessment. We would however expect any new connection offer to refer to the original "planned grid works completion date" as being on or before 31 March 2015.

The parties to whom evidence was originally issued

3.17. The RO Closure Order 2015 does not specify that the grid connection offer or agreement must have been made to the person applying for the grace period. Therefore, the party to which the grid connection offer was made will not form part of our grace period assessment.

Grid connection evidence

3.18. We recognise that additional consents, easements and wayleaves may be required for grid connections. However, for the purposes of this grace period, we do not intend to request evidence of these.

iii) 'Preliminary accreditation' grace period

3.19. Operators applying for this grace period do not need to provide any additional information.

3.20. In order for us to grant this grace period, we must be content that the preliminary accreditation was effective on or before 13 May 2014 and that since that time it has not been invalidated. All preliminary accreditations come with a standard condition which requires the applicant to tell us about any material changes to the generating station in the period leading up to full accreditation being sought. By "material changes" we mean changes that might affect the eligibility of the generating station under the RO. We will not grant accreditation if:

- there has been a material change in circumstances since the preliminary accreditation was granted meaning that, had the application for preliminary accreditation been made after the change, it would have been refused,
- the information on which the decision to grant the preliminary accreditation was granted was incorrect, or
- there has been a change in applicable legislation since the preliminary accreditation was granted meaning that, had the application for preliminary accreditation been made after the change, it would have been refused.

3.21. For example, if a generating station's proposed TIC had changed since preliminary accreditation was granted, we would not view this as a material change and the preliminary accreditation would stand. The reason for this is that, regardless of the capacity, if we had undertaken assessment of the new TIC, the station would still have been eligible under the scheme. Conversely, if it transpired that the electricity generated by the station was not to be supplied or used in a permitted way and ROCs could not be issued upon it, the preliminary accreditation would be invalidated and so too would the grace period application.

4. Submitting an application from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016

Chapter summary
Explains the process for operators of large-scale solar PV generating stations submitting an application for accreditation and a grace period from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016.

4.1. Operators of large-scale solar PV generating stations that apply under the RO for accreditation from 1 April 2015 until 31 March 2016 will be asked to apply for a grace period as part of their application for accreditation. Any operator that does not apply for a grace period will not be able to proceed with their application. The application must be received by Ofgem on or before 31 March 2016.

4.2. To be successful in applying for accreditation the operator must take the following steps:

- **Apply for accreditation:** Applicants must submit an RO accreditation application to Ofgem on or before 31 March 2016, or amend the existing application if adding additional capacity, and meet the RO eligibility criteria. (Applications should be made no more than two months before the date on which the generating station is to be commissioned).
- **Submit grace period evidence** to Ofgem, when requested as part of your RO accreditation application, on or before 31 March 2016, and meet all the grace period eligibility criteria. (Ofgem will request this if it has not been provided).
- **Commission** the generating station (or the additional capacity) on or before 31 March 2016 and provide commissioning evidence.

4.3. The following sections explain these steps in more detail.

4.4. Please note, generators who wish to add capacity to an RO accredited station that is not eligible for a grace period, ie excluded capacity, should refer to chapter 2, page 17.

The process for applying for accreditation and a grace period

Applying for accreditation

4.5. In applying for accreditation operators should be familiar with the RO eligibility criteria by referring to the Orders and the 'RO: Guidance for generators'; chapter 3 in particular.

4.6. Before applying for accreditation the operator must register an account for their organisation (or themselves as applicable). Register at: https://renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/

4.7. Our 'Renewables and CHP Register – System User Guide'[24] provides a step by step guide to registering an account, applying for accreditation and managing the account once the generating station has been accredited.

4.8. When completing the application form, applicants who select solar PV as their technology, and enter a TIC >5MW will be asked whether they wish to apply for a grace period. If an applicant selects 'no' for this question, they will not be able to progress with their application. If an applicant selects 'yes', they will be informed that they must send in their supporting evidence to Ofgem. This evidence must be received by us on or before 31 March 2016. Your application will not be processed, or considered submitted, until this evidence has been supplied. Once we have received the application and grace period evidence we will send an email to confirm that it has been received and the date on which it was received. See step 2 for further information on submitting your grace period evidence.

4.9. The application is not considered to be submitted if it is not complete. Operators should ensure the application is complete before submitting it, and that the declarations have been made (you will receive an automated email reminding you to submit your declarations). Depending on the circumstances, declarations or other information that is provided after 31 March 2016 will mean the application cannot be processed and the station cannot be accredited.

4.10. Where we have received the application on or before 31 March 2016, it is still possible that we may request further clarification or additional information. All other queries will also be raised via the Register, so it important you set up email notifications or check the system regularly to ensure you respond to queries quickly. If you need to edit your application please make sure that you click through to the end of the application to submit it. Note that a review screen will appear at the end of the application – you must scroll to the bottom of this and re-submit your application.

Existing RO stations adding additional capacity under the RO

4.11. Operators of generating stations that are already accredited under the RO and add additional capacity under the RO that means their TIC increases to >5MW will be asked via the Register whether they wish to apply for a grace period. If an applicant selects 'yes', they will be asked to send in their supporting evidence to Ofgem. This evidence must be received by us on or before the 31 March 2016 deadline. See step 2 for further information on submitting your grace period evidence.

[24] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-and-chp-register-user-guide-may-2014

4.12. A revised schematic diagram should be submitted to Ofgem showing the position of the additional generating equipment and any changes to metering. The 'RO: Guidance for generators'[25] provides further information on adding additional capacity.

Submitting grace period evidence

4.13. You will be asked during your accreditation application to submit your grace period evidence. To do this, email: Renewable@ofgem.gov.uk stating which grace period is being applied for in the subject line, ie either the 'significant investment' grace period or the 'grid delay' grace period. Applicants for the 'preliminary accreditation' grace period do not need to provide any grace period evidence and so do not need to send this email.

4.14. All the required information for the grace period you are applying for, as listed in the previous chapter, should be attached to the email and listed in the body of the email. In addition, the email should confirm the name of the generating station, the address of the station and the TIC. An example email template is provided in Figure 5. Also, a checklist for applying for accreditation and a grace period is provided in Appendix 3.

4.15. Our system will automatically reject emails larger than 20MB. If you have any concerns about the size of your files, or you receive a notification that it has been rejected, please contact us. We have a file-sharing service which can be used to transfer large files.

[25] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2

Figure 5: Example email template

From: Operator of a large-scale solar PV generating station
Sent: 01 April 2015 09:44
To: Renewable@ofgem.gov.uk
Subject: Application for the 'significant investment' grace period

Dear Ofgem Renewable Team

I have submitted an application for accreditation for a large-scale solar PV generating station via the Register / amended an existing accreditation via the Register to add capacity which would make the station a large-scale solar PV station [delete as appropriate].

Generating station name: [insert name]
Generating station address: [insert address]
Total Installed Capacity: [insert capacity] kW

I am applying for the 'significant investment' grace period. The required information is attached:
1. The planning permission
2. The grid connection offer
3. The acceptance of the grid connection offer
4. My declaration

4.16. Grace period evidence may also be submitted by post. It should be clearly labelled, include all the required information and then sent to:

Renewable Electricity, ref: RO grace period, Ofgem, 9 Millbank, London, SW1P 3GE

4.17. We must receive the grace period evidence on or before 31 March 2016 in order to assess it. Once we have received it we will email you to confirm when it was received. Where we have received all of the relevant grace period evidence on or before 31 March 2016, it is still possible that we may request further clarification or additional information.

Commissioning evidence

4.18. Once a generating station has been commissioned the operator needs to send us evidence of this via email to Renewable@ofgem.gov.uk. Table 3 is a checklist of the minimum evidence we will require.

Table 3: Commissioning evidence

<table>
<tr><th>Example list of commissioning evidence</th><th>Example/details (which should match the details given on the register)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Narrative timeline of commissioning activities</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Date completed</th><th>Test completed</th><th>Evidence or document</th></tr>
<tr><td>2/9/2014</td><td>Direct Current (DC) String test</td><td>DC string test certificates</td></tr>
<tr><td>3/9/2014</td><td>Inverter commissioning</td><td>Inverter commissioning certificates</td></tr>
<tr><td>etc.</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>DC string test certificates</td><td>A copy of each string combiner certificate, and report if produced by an independent party</td></tr>
<tr><td>Inverter commissioning certificates</td><td>A copy of each inverter commissioning certificate, and report if produced by an independent party</td></tr>
<tr><td>EPC (Engineering Procurement and Construction) certificate confirming the TIC at the date of commissioning and a full breakdown of the number of modules and individual rating</td><td>Eg, as the EPC contractor for ‘Example Solar Farm’ we installed the following:
Total number of modules:
• 2196 modules of 325W (panel type 1)
• 14490 modules of 330W (panel type 2)
• 19566 modules of 335W (panel type 3)
• 432 modules of 340W (panel type 4)
Total Installed Capacity: 12.19MW (DC) [The sum of the products of module numbers and ratings]
Total inverters installed:
• 4 x Inverter 1 (360V, rated power 1.2MW)
• 3 x Inverter 2 (360V, rated power 1.5MW)
= 4 x 1.2MW + 3 x 1.5MW =
Declared Net Capacity (Alternating Current (AC)): 9.3MW
Commissioning of all components has been completed on 3 September 2014.</td></tr>
<tr><td>G59 certificate</td><td>Detailing the test results. Dated and signed by the testing engineer and the network operator witnessing engineer.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Half hourly data as evidence of first generation</td><td>Showing values before and after commissioning time</td></tr>
<tr><td>Earthing documentation</td><td>Certificates detailing results of each earthing test carried out</td></tr>
</table>

4.19. Operators may also provide an independent audit report for the station as supporting evidence of when the station was commissioned, the metering and its TIC. For example, a site visit by an independent party to check and verify details of the data submitted on the application form, supported by a report covering:

- description of tests and procedures undertaken during the commissioning of the plant,
- independent verification and confirmation of the TIC,

- independent verification and confirmation of the DNC,
- confirmation of the types of modules and inverters installed, and
- confirmation of metering details.

Processing the application for accreditation and a grace period

4.20. Applications for accreditation and the grace period evidence must be received by us by midnight on 31 March 2016. Applications received after this date from a large-scale solar PV generating station will not be accepted.

4.21. The evidence provided in support of the applications for accreditation and for a grace period will be reviewed at the same time. We will undertake an initial check of the information provided and ask for any missing information to be submitted to us. The application will then undergo a technical check, with queries being raised as required. Throughout the first two stages of the checking process it will be our intention to be in regular contact with applicants via email and telephone.

4.22. Once the technical check has been completed, the application will go to a member of staff with delegated authority to undertake a final check and, if appropriate, grant accreditation and the grace period. We will grant accreditation only where we are satisfied that all statutory requirements have been met. This means the RO eligibility criteria, the grace period criteria and the station commissioning on or before 31 March 2016.

4.23. We anticipate receiving a high volume of accreditation and grace period applications. If decisions are to be made in a timely manner, it is essential that applicants fully understand the legislation and the guidance before submitting an application to us. Similarly applicants should ensure that all necessary information has been provided and that they respond to our queries, which will be raised by email or through the Register, in a timely manner. Incomplete or unclear applications and evidence will slow the decision-making process down.

4.24. To aid this process further Appendix 1 provides tips on how to complete certain aspects of the application form. Appendix 2 provides a checklist of the tasks that will need to be completed in applying for accreditation and the information to be submitted in applying for a grace period.

Accreditation under the RO

4.25. To be issued with ROCs, a generating station must be accredited under the RO as being capable of generating electricity from eligible renewable sources. The generating station must also meet all other RO eligibility criteria. The Orders[26] explain how we should grant and withdraw accreditation. They also detail when we

[26] Article 58ZZB of the Orders.

may attach and amend conditions to any preliminary accreditation or accreditation. For more information on the scheme's eligibility requirements see 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

Audit

4.26. We regularly audit accredited generating stations to guard against fraud and error. If an operator applied for one of the three available grace periods, the station is subsequently accredited and that station is audited, the grace period evidence and declarations will be reviewed alongside the information provided in support of the accreditation application. Our auditors will pay particular attention to evidence provided in support of the commissioning date, other relevant dates and the total installed capacity stated in the accreditation application.

4.27. We will also be undertaking a series of audits in advance of accreditation. Stations that have been granted a grace period may therefore be audited before they are accredited under the RO.

4.28. We have the power to withdraw accreditation and revoke or permanently withhold ROCs in certain circumstances, including where we later find that information provided to us was incorrect. More information is provided in chapter 3 of 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

Appendices

Index

Appendix 1 – Application tips

We have identified the questions in the application form that are often answered incorrectly, and have put together tips and specific examples to illustrate points to help you get your application right first time. Not all questions are covered in this guide. This is not a definitive legal guide and is not a substitute for getting your own independent legal or technical advice. For more detailed information, we encourage you to read the 'RO: Guidance for generators' available at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-guidance-generators-2.

QA100: Name for the generating station

Use the same name here as in any correspondence. Think carefully about the name you choose as once the name has been entered it cannot be amended.

QA201: Commissioning date

Refer to the definition of commissioning in the 'RO: Guidance for generators'. To evidence this you will be required to provide:

- a copy of a G59 test signed by the witnessing network operator,
- the inverter and DC string testing sheets, and
- half-hourly data which shows the output of the station before and after commissioning.

For this, and the TIC/DNC questions below, you can provide an independent audit of commissioning which also confirms these details. For further details please refer to the 'Example list of commissioning evidence' in chapter 4.

QA301: Total Installed Capacity (TIC)

Refer to the definition of TIC in the 'RO: Guidance for generators', and to the specific PV definition in chapter 1 of this document. To confirm the TIC you will need to provide details of the number and rating of each type of solar panel you have.

QA302: Declared Net Capacity (DNC)

Refer to the definition of DNC in the 'RO: Guidance for generators'. To confirm the DNC you will need to provide details of the inverters and/or any other internally used electricity.

QB201: Address

The address of the station should be for the land on which the panels are situated.

QB206 & QB300: Postcode and ordnance survey (OS) grid reference

The OS grid reference should match the location of the postcode. Please use the link provided in the question text to convert your postcode into an OS grid reference and double check to make sure they are the same, correct, location.

QC237: Capacity details

The capacity details must match the values given QA201, 301 and 401.

QC239: Method of generating electricity

We would expect the answer to be 'ground mounted solar PV only'

QC400, QC500 & QC600, QC700: CCL & REGO

If applying for CCL the selection is 'photovoltaic (CCL code= PV) and if applying to REGO the selection is 'solar (REGO code=PV)'. For further details on these schemes please see our website.

QE100: Plant description

This is an example of the level of detail we require for this question. This must match the details given elsewhere:

36,684 PV modules in total:

- 2,196 a rated power output of 325 Wp.
- 14,490 a rated power output of 330 Wp.
- 19,566 a rated power output of 335 Wp.
- 432 a rated power output of 340 Wp.

This gives you a system with a total DC power output of about 12,196.89 kWp (at peak power). The total installed capacity (TIC) is thus 12,196.89 kW. The total inverters power output (as AC power) is 9300 kW (NDNC).

- 4 x PowerElectronics FreeSun FS1120CH (360V) (Rated power 1,200 kW)
- 3 x PowerElectronics FreeSun FS1400CH (360V) (Rated power 1,500 kW)

QF100, QF200, QF300, QF400: Claiming certificates

Please make it very clear about how you measure your electricity, and how this relates to your chosen method for claiming certificates. The method of claiming certificates and responses on the metering must match the metering set up at the station. Definitions of input, export, gross output and net output electricity are provided in the 'RO: Guidance for generators'. As ROCs can only be claimed on the net output electricity, if this is not measured directly the metering arrangements must show how this can be calculated.

QF500-QF516: Export metering

The details of the metering must be provided in full. They also must match the details provided on the single line diagram. The meters used must be approved meters. Explanations of approved meters are provided in the 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

QG100 and QG200: Imported electricity and generated electricity used by the generation equipment

For solar PV applications we expect the answer to these to be Yes. This means that you will need to provide the monthly data for imported electricity or electricity generated and used by the system, as ROCs can only be issued on your net output electricity.

QG120- QG129: Import metering

The details of the metering must be provided in full. They also must match the details provided on the single line diagram. The meters used must be approved meters. Explanations of approved meters are provided in the 'RO: Guidance for generators'.

QH500: Connection capacity

The connection capacity should be for the amount agreed with the network operator. A correct connection capacity gives us an additional method of confirming the TIC and expected export.

QI100: Single line diagram

The single line diagram should be uploaded and include the points detailed in QI100:

- all generating equipment,
- all import and export connections,
- location of all metering and serial numbers,
- any standby generation, and
- the TIC breakdown of the generating station.

These details should also match the information given elsewhere in the application form.

Appendix 2 - Application checklists

Table 4 is a checklist of the information that should be submitted for each type of generating station when applying for accreditation and a grace period.

Table 4 - Application Checklist

	Evidence to be submitted to Ofgem	Grace period		
		Significant investment	Grid delay	Preliminary accreditation
Application for accreditation	The completed accreditation application received by Ofgem on or before 31 March 2016	✓	✓	✓
	Commissioning evidence, showing station commissioned on or before 31 March 2016	✓	✓	✓
	Final planning permission document	✓	✗	✗
Grace period evidence	Has been granted preliminary accreditation	✗	✗	✓
	Grid Connection Offer	✓	✓	✗
	Acceptance of the grid connection offer	✓	✓	✗
	Land ownership/lease declaration	✓	✗	✗
	Planning permission	✓	✗	✗
	Date for completion of the grid works	✗	✓	✗
	Confirmation of grid works delay	✗	✓	✗
	Operator declaration in relation to grid delay	✗	✓	✗

Appendix 3 – Declaration templates

Renewables Obligation: 'Significant investment' grace period

A declaration confirming land use rights, as set out under Article 2B of the Renewables Obligation Closure (Amendment) Order 2015, must be submitted. Set out below is an example declaration form that can be printed, signed by the operator of the generating station and sent to Ofgem.

Declaration of land use rights (example)

Generating Station name:

……

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, as at 13th May 2014 a developer of the station (or a person connected with a developer of the station within the meaning of section 1122 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010) (delete as appropriate):

(i) was an owner or lease of the land on which the station is situated,

(ii) had entered into an agreement to lease the land on which the station is situated,

(iii) had an option to purchase or to lease the land on which the station is situated; or

(iv) had entered into an exclusivity agreement in relation to the land on which the station is situated.

I confirm that I am the operator for the generating station stated in this declaration.

Signed .....

Full name .....

Job title .....

Date .....

This declaration is to be submitted once you have submitted your application for accreditation with the documents set out in Article 2B of the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015. Before making this declaration you should read the relevant legislation and take your own independent legal advice to ensure that the proposed generating station which is subject to this declaration qualifies.

Renewables Obligation: 'Grid delay' grace period

This is a declaration confirming that the generating station was ready to commission, and would have been commissioned before the 31 March 2015, had the grid connection delay not occurred, as set out under Article 2B of the Renewables Obligation Closure (Amendment) Order 2015. It must be submitted with the relevant supporting documentation, for a station to be considered for the grid delay grace period.
Set out below is an example declaration form that can be printed, signed by the applicant and sent to Ofgem.

Declaration of grid delay (example)

Generating station name:

……

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the station would have been commissioned on or before 31st March 2015 if the relevant grid works had been completed on or before the planned grid works completion date.

I confirm that I am the operator of the generating station stated in this declaration.

Signed .....

Full name .....

Job title .....

Date .....

This declaration is to be submitted once you have submitted your application for accreditation with the documents set out in Article 2B of the RO Closure (Amendment) Order 2015. Before making this declaration you should read the relevant legislation and take your own independent legal advice to ensure that the proposed generating station which is subject to this declaration qualifies.

Annex 2 – Consultation process

We are keen to consider any comments or complaints about how this consultation has been conducted. We are keen to get your views on the following:

Question 1: Do you have any comments about the process adopted for this consultation?

Question 2: Do you have any comments about the overall tone and content of the guidance?

Question 3: Was the guidance easy to read and understand? Or could it have been better written?

Question 4: To what extent did the guidance document's conclusions provide a balanced view?

Question 5: To what extent did the guidance make reasoned recommendations for improvement?

Question 6: Please add any further comments.

Please send your comments to:

andrew.macfaul@ofgem.gov.uk

Andrew MacFaul
Consultation Co-ordinator
Ofgem
9 Millbank
London
SW1P 3GE