

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS

The proposed Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPRA) Microgrid Regulations are intended to establish a clear, transparent and enabling regulatory framework for the development, licensing, operation and regulation of microgrids and other decentralized electricity systems in Sindh.

The Regulations seek to facilitate the provision of reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity, particularly to communities and consumers where conventional grid supply is unavailable, unreliable, inadequate or not economically viable to extend. By enabling the development of decentralized energy systems based on solar, wind, small hydro, waste-to-energy, battery storage and other indigenous energy resources, the framework aims to complement the existing electricity grid, improve energy access and support local economic and social development.

The proposed framework will provide for appropriate licensing, technical and service-quality standards, consumer protection, tariff and commercial arrangements, and a predictable regulatory environment for public and private investment. It is also intended to encourage innovative business models, public-private partnerships, community participation and efficient utilization of Sindh's indigenous energy resources.

The Regulations will thereby contribute to the development of a more reliable, affordable, resilient and sustainable electricity sector in Sindh, while supporting the broader objectives of energy security, economic development and public interest.

**SINDH ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(MICROGRID) REGULATIONS, 2026
NOTIFICATION**

Karachi, the ____ day of _____, 2026.

S.R.O. ____/2026.— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 32 read with clause (g) of sub-section (2) of section 4 and sections 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 44 of the Sindh Regulation of Electric Power Services Act, 2023 (Sindh Act No. XVII of 2023), and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority hereby makes the following regulations, namely:—

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title and commencement.—

(1) These regulations may be called the **Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Microgrid) Regulations, 2026.**

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. Scope and application.—

(1) These Regulations shall apply to the grant, amendment, renewal, suspension, cancellation and surrender of a microgrid licence, the rights and obligations of a microgrid licensee, and the construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, generation, distribution and supply of electricity through a microgrid undertaking within the Province.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to every applicant for, and holder of, a microgrid licence and to every person authorised under such licence to carry out a microgrid undertaking.

(3) Nothing in these Regulations shall relieve a licensee from compliance with any applicable law, rule, regulation, code, standard, environmental or safety requirement, or condition of the licence relating to the microgrid undertaking.

(4) These Regulations shall be read and applied consistently with the Act and other applicable provincial laws and, subject to the constitutional and statutory division of regulatory jurisdiction, with applicable laws, rules, regulations, codes and standards of the Federation relating to electric power.

(5) A microgrid shall be eligible for licensing under these Regulations only to the extent that the proposed microgrid undertaking falls within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Authority under the Act.

3. Definitions.—

(1) In these Regulations, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(a) “**Act**” means the Sindh Regulation of Electric Power Services Act, 2023 (Sindh Act No. XVII of 2023);

(b) “**Authority**” means the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority established under section 3 of the Act;

(c) “**consumer**” means a person who purchases or receives electric power for self-consumption and not for re-sale to others and includes residential, commercial, industrial, bulk power and agricultural consumers;

(d) “**extension**” means the expansion or extension of a distribution system into, or within, the service territory of a licensee for the purpose of supplying electric power to consumers;

(e) “**licence**” means a microgrid licence granted by the Authority under section 18 of the Act and these Regulations;

(f) “**licensee**” means a person granted a microgrid licence under section 18 of the Act and these Regulations;

(g) “**microgrid**” has the meaning assigned to it in clause (xviii) of section 2 of the Act;

- (h) **“Registrar”** means the Registrar of the Authority or such officer of the Authority as may be designated by the Authority for the purposes of these Regulations;
- (i) **“service territory”** means the geographic, spatial or virtual area specified in a licence within which the licensee is authorised to conduct electric power service business;
- (j) **“standards of service”** means the standards relating to the quality, service, continuity and reliability of electric power services specified in Schedule II and such other standards as the Authority may specify under the Act;
- (k) **“underserved territory”** means an area within the Province in which electric power service is available to consumers but is not available to all premises, or is available for fewer hours or at a standard of service below the standard specified by the Authority;
- Provided that** an underserved territory shall not, by virtue of this definition alone, be deemed to be an “unserved territory” for the purposes of clause (xviii) of section 2 of the Act;
- (l) **“unserved territory”** means an area within the Province in which no distribution system exists for the supply of electric power to consumers; and
- (m) **“working day”** means a day on which the offices of the Authority are open for business, excluding a public holiday declared by the Government.
- (2) Words and expressions used but not defined in these Regulations shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

4. Requirement of a microgrid licence.—

- (1) Any eligible person intending to construct, own and operate a microgrid within an unserved or underserved territory may apply to the Authority for the grant of a microgrid licence in accordance with these Regulations.
- (2) A microgrid licence shall be a single, unified licence granted by the Authority under section 18 of the Act and shall authorise the licensee, within its approved service territory and subject to the terms and conditions of the licence, to generate, distribute and supply electric power to consumers connected to the microgrid and to construct, own, operate and maintain the microgrid and its distribution system.
- (3) The microgrid licence shall also authorise the licensee to undertake activities incidental or ancillary to the generation, distribution and supply of electric power, including connection, metering, billing, collection and disconnection for non-payment or payment default, in accordance with the Act, these Regulations and the applicable codes, standards and consumer protection requirements.
- (4) A microgrid licence shall not authorise the licensee to distribute or supply electric power to consumers outside its approved service territory, except as may be expressly permitted by the Authority under the Act and the applicable regulations.
- (5) A microgrid shall not be connected, directly or indirectly, to the Provincial Grid or National Grid except in accordance with regulation 6 and section 18(5) of the Act.

5. Limits of voltage and capacity.—

- (1) For the purposes of a microgrid licence under section 18 of the Act, a microgrid shall—
- (a) operate at a nominal distribution voltage not exceeding eleven kilovolts (11 kV); and
- (b) serve a maximum coincident load not exceeding ten megawatts (10 MW).
- (2) The limits specified in sub-regulation (1) shall be determined as follows—
- (a) the 11 kV limit shall be determined by reference to the highest nominal voltage level used for the distribution of electricity within the microgrid; and
- (b) the 10 MW limit shall be determined by reference to the maximum coincident demand served by the microgrid, based on metering and measurement arrangements approved or specified by the Authority.
- (3) A microgrid licence shall not be granted, renewed or maintained in respect of a system that exceeds either of the limits specified in sub-regulation (1), unless the Authority, in accordance with the Act, determines that the system remains eligible for licensing as a microgrid.
- (4) A system that exceeds either of the limits specified in sub-regulation (1) and is not determined by the Authority to remain eligible as a microgrid shall not qualify as a microgrid for the purposes of

section 18 of the Act and shall be subject to such licensing requirements as may be applicable under the Act and the regulations made thereunder.

(5) The limits specified in this regulation shall continue to apply to a microgrid notwithstanding any approval granted under regulation 6 for interconnection with the Provincial Grid or National Grid, unless the Authority, in accordance with the Act, determines otherwise.

6. Connection with the Provincial Grid or National Grid.—

(1) A microgrid shall not be connected, directly or indirectly, to the Provincial Grid or National Grid except with the prior approval of the Authority in accordance with section 18(5) of the Act.

(2) An application for such connection shall be made in the form and manner specified by the Authority and shall include the proposed point of connection, technical and protection arrangements, metering arrangements, proposed import and export arrangements, and such other information as the Authority may require.

(3) The Authority may, after the public hearing required under section 18(5) of the Act, approve such connection subject to such technical, safety, operational, metering and commercial conditions as it considers necessary.

(4) A microgrid shall not inject, export or otherwise deliver electric power to the Provincial Grid or National Grid except as authorised by the Authority and in accordance with the applicable law, licence conditions and codes.

(5) Two or more microgrids may be interconnected with the prior approval of the Authority, subject to such conditions as the Authority may specify, provided that such interconnection does not constitute an unauthorised connection to the Provincial Grid or National Grid.

(6) The licensee shall immediately notify the Authority of any unauthorised or unintended connection with the Provincial Grid or National Grid and comply with any directions issued by the Authority.

CHAPTER II
GRANT OF A MICROGRID LICENCE

7. Eligibility for grant of microgrid licence.—

(1) Any person intending to construct, own and operate a microgrid in an unserved or underserved territory may apply to the Authority for the grant of a microgrid licence in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

(2) Subject to sub-regulation (3), a microgrid licence shall not be granted to any person unless that person is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2017.

(3) The Authority may, on an application made by the applicant, exempt the applicant from the requirement under sub-regulation (2), where the Authority is satisfied, having regard to the circumstances of the case, that such exemption is appropriate and is not inconsistent with the Act.

(4) In determining an application for exemption under sub-regulation (3), the Authority shall have regard to—

- (a) the nature and legal form of the applicant;
- (b) the size, capacity and nature of the proposed microgrid;
- (c) the interests and protection of consumers within the proposed service territory;
- (d) the technical, managerial and financial capacity of the applicant to construct, own and operate the microgrid and to provide electric power services in accordance with the Act, these Regulations and the terms and conditions of the licence; and
- (e) the ability of the applicant to remain accountable to the Authority and consumers for compliance with the Act, these Regulations and the terms and conditions of the licence.

(5) An exemption granted under this regulation shall—

- (a) be granted by an order of the Authority stating the reasons for such exemption;
- (b) be subject to such conditions as the Authority may specify in the order; and
- (c) be published in such manner as the Authority may determine.

(6) An applicant for a microgrid licence shall satisfy the Authority that the applicant possesses, or has made adequate arrangements to procure, the technical, managerial and financial capability necessary to—

- (a) construct and commission the proposed microgrid;
- (b) operate and maintain the microgrid in a safe, secure, reliable and efficient manner;
- (c) generate, distribute and supply electricity to consumers within the proposed service territory in accordance with applicable standards of service; and
- (d) comply with the Act, these Regulations and the terms and conditions of the proposed licence throughout its term.

(7) The Authority may, for the purposes of determining an applicant's eligibility and capability under this regulation, require such information, documents, undertakings, financial information, technical studies, feasibility studies or other evidence as may be specified in the application requirements or reasonably required for determination of the application.

8. Application process.—

(1) An application for a microgrid licence shall be made to the Authority in Form A-5 and shall be filed with the Registrar together with the particulars and documents specified in Schedule I, and shall be duly verified on oath in the manner specified in the Form.

(2) An application may be filed electronically through the facility or in such manner as may be specified by the Authority, or may be delivered by email, courier or such other means as may be notified by the Authority to the Registrar.

(3) The prescribed fee, if any, shall accompany the application:

Provided that where no fee is prescribed, an application shall not be treated as incomplete solely on the ground that no fee has been paid.

(4) The Authority may, for reasons to be recorded in writing and in accordance with such criteria as may be specified by the Authority, reduce or waive the prescribed fee in respect of a microgrid proposed to be established in an unserved territory.

(5) No applicant shall be required to furnish any particular, document or undertaking other than those specified in Form A-5 or Schedule I:

Provided that the Authority may, where reasonably necessary for the determination of the application, require such additional information or clarification as may be necessary, and shall record the reasons for requiring such information or clarification.

9. Scrutiny of an application.—

(1) Upon receipt of an application for grant of a microgrid licence under section 18 of the Act, the Registrar shall scrutinize the application and the documents accompanying it to ascertain, on the face of the record,—

- (a) whether the proposed facility satisfies the requirements of a microgrid as defined in the Act;
- (b) whether the proposed service territory is an unserved or underserved territory within the meaning of the Act and these Regulations;
- (c) whether the proposed microgrid complies with the applicable statutory limits and requirements, including those relating to voltage, load and connection to the Provincial Grid or National Grid; and
- (d) whether the proposed activity or any material part thereof falls within the regulatory jurisdiction and powers of the Authority under the Act.

(2) Where, upon scrutiny under sub-regulation (1), the Registrar is unable to confirm compliance with any requirement referred to therein, or a material question arises as to the jurisdiction of the Authority or the eligibility of the proposed activity for a microgrid licence, the Registrar shall place the application, together with the reasons and relevant documents, before the Authority for determination.

(3) Before making a determination under sub-regulation (2) which may adversely affect the applicant, the Authority shall communicate to the applicant the material ground or grounds on which the question has arisen and provide the applicant a reasonable opportunity of being heard and of submitting relevant evidence or information.

(4) Where the Authority determines, by an order recording reasons, that the proposed activity or any material part thereof is outside the powers or functions of the Authority, or is otherwise not eligible to be considered for a microgrid licence under the Act, the Authority shall reject the application on that ground, and the application fee paid in respect thereof shall be refunded in full.

(5) Where the Authority determines that the application is within its jurisdiction and may be processed under the Act and these Regulations, the Registrar shall admit the application for further processing, allot an application number and issue an acknowledgement of receipt to the applicant.

(6) An acknowledgement issued under sub-regulation (5) shall not be construed as approval, acceptance of eligibility, grant of a licence, or a determination that the proposed facility satisfies all requirements of the Act or these Regulations.

10. Deficiency in an application.—

(1) Where, upon scrutiny of an application, the Registrar finds that the application is incomplete or does not comply with any requirement of the Act, these Regulations or the applicable Schedule, the Registrar shall communicate to the applicant all deficiencies identified at that stage and shall specify the documents, information or clarification required for rectification of such deficiencies.

(2) A deficiency communication under this regulation shall not constitute a decision to refuse the application.

(3) The applicant shall rectify the deficiencies and submit the required documents, information or clarification within the period specified by the Registrar, which shall not be less than fifteen days from the date of receipt of the deficiency communication, unless the applicant requests and the Registrar allows a reasonable extension.

(4) Where the applicant fails to rectify the deficiencies within the prescribed period, the Registrar may place the application before the Authority for appropriate orders in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

(5) Nothing in this regulation shall apply to a question of jurisdiction or eligibility which is required to be determined by the Authority under regulation 9.

11. Public notice and objections.—

(1) Before deciding an application for the grant of a microgrid licence, the Authority shall cause a notice of the application to be published in English, Urdu and Sindhi in such manner as the Authority considers appropriate to bring the application to the notice of persons residing or carrying on business within, or otherwise likely to be affected by, the proposed service territory, and shall also cause a copy of the notice to be served upon the concerned local government.

(2) The notice under sub-regulation (1) shall, at a minimum, specify—

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) the proposed location and boundaries of the microgrid and its service territory;

(c) the nature and proposed capacity of the microgrid and the electric power services proposed to be provided;

(d) the manner and period within which an objection or representation may be submitted to the Authority; and

(e) such other particulars as the Authority may consider necessary in the public interest.

(3) Any person who has an interest in, or may be directly or adversely affected by, the proposed microgrid may, within the period specified in the notice, submit to the Authority a written objection or representation stating the grounds thereof.

(4) The Authority shall consider every objection or representation duly submitted under sub-regulation

(3) before deciding the application and, where an objection or representation raises a material issue, may provide the person making it an opportunity of being heard in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

(5) Where the Authority decides an application after considering objections or representations, its determination shall state, in sufficient detail, the substance of the material objections and representations received and the Authority's conclusions and reasons in respect thereof.

(6) Nothing in this regulation shall be construed to dispense with any public hearing expressly required under the Act, including the public hearing required before a microgrid is connected to the National Grid or Provincial Grid under section 18(5) of the Act.

12. Criteria for grant.—

In deciding an application for a microgrid licence, the Authority shall have regard to—

(a) whether the proposed service territory is unserved or underserved and the evidence submitted in support thereof;

(b) the number of premises proposed to be connected and the proportion thereof to the total premises within the proposed service territory;

(c) the technical, managerial and financial capability of the applicant;

(d) the suitability of the proposed design, plant and equipment having regard to the nature and requirements of the proposed service territory;

(e) the proposed standards of service and the applicant's capacity to comply with them;

(f) the proposed tariff and its affordability to consumers within the proposed service territory;

(g) the arrangements for operation and maintenance of the microgrid during the term of the licence, including training of local personnel;

(h) the arrangements for expansion of the microgrid, where applicable; and

(i) any objections or representations received under regulation 11.

13. Grounds of refusal.—

(1) Subject to regulation 9 and after giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard, the Authority may refuse an application for a microgrid licence only on one or more of the following grounds, namely—

(a) that the proposed microgrid service territory is not an unserved or underserved territory;

(b) that the proposed microgrid does not comply with a limit specified in regulation 5;

(c) that the applicant does not possess, or has not made adequate arrangements to secure, the technical, managerial or financial capability required for the proposed microgrid;

(d) that the proposed design, plant or equipment is not appropriate for the proposed activity or service territory;

(e) that the applicant has not obtained, or has not satisfied the Authority that it is capable of obtaining, any consent, approval or no-objection certificate required under any applicable law, including any approval required under environmental law;

(f) that the grant of the licence would endanger the safety of persons or property;

(g) that, where two or more applications relate to the same service territory, another applicant would better serve the interests of consumers;

(h) that the proposed activity or any material part thereof falls outside the jurisdiction or powers of the Authority under the Act; or

(i) that the applicant has knowingly or recklessly submitted a statement or document that is false or misleading in a material particular in connection with the application and, after being given an opportunity to correct or explain the same, has failed to do so.

(2) The Authority shall not refuse an application on a ground that has not been communicated to the applicant and on which the applicant has not been given a reasonable opportunity to respond. Every refusal shall be made by a reasoned order, and the order shall be published.

(3) In applying clause (e), the Authority shall consider only whether the requisite consent, approval or no-objection certificate has been obtained or is capable of being obtained, and shall not exercise any function vested by law in another authority in relation to environmental protection.

14. Grant, term and issuance of licence.—

(1) A licence granted under these Regulations shall be issued in Form L-1, shall contain the particulars specified in Schedule III, and shall be authenticated in the manner prescribed by the Authority.

(2) A licence shall be granted on such terms and conditions as the Authority may determine in accordance with the Act and these Regulations, and shall be non-exclusive.

(3) The Authority shall determine the term of a licence having regard to the nature and useful life of the assets, the financing arrangements and the period reasonably required for recovery of the investment.

(4) A licence shall specify the date by which the microgrid shall be commissioned and, subject to regulation 16, supply shall commence. The Authority may, on the application of the licensee and for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend that date.

(5) No licence shall be deemed to have been granted, extended or renewed by default, lapse of time or otherwise than by a written decision of the Authority.

15. Competing applications.—

(1) Where two or more applications for a microgrid licence relate to the same or substantially overlapping service territory, the Authority may consider such applications together and may grant the licence to the applicant that, in the opinion of the Authority, best serves the interests of consumers and the objectives of the Act, having regard to, in particular, the proposed coverage, technical and financial capability, reliability, affordability, investment and implementation plan of the applicants.

(2) Before making a determination under sub-regulation (1), the Authority shall provide each affected applicant an opportunity of being heard.

(3) Where an application overlaps with the service territory of an existing microgrid licensee, the Authority shall have regard to the interests of consumers served by the existing licensee and the investment made by it, without creating any exclusive or perpetual right to the service territory.

CHAPTER III OBLIGATIONS OF A LICENSEE

16. Certificate of compliance before commencement of commercial operation.—

(1) A licensee shall not commence commercial operation of a microgrid until it has filed with the Authority a certificate, issued by a competent person, certifying that the microgrid, as built, complies with the Act, these Regulations, the licence and the applicable technical and safety standards.

(2) The certificate shall be accompanied by—

- (a) the as-built single-line diagram;
- (b) the applicable protection settings;

(c) the results of commissioning tests; and

(d) evidence of compliance with such environmental, electrical and safety approvals as may be applicable.

(3) The Authority, or any officer, expert or consultant authorised by the Authority, may inspect the microgrid and, where the inspection identifies any material defect or non-compliance, direct the licensee to remedy the defect or non-compliance before commencing commercial operation.

17. Obligation to serve.—

(1) A microgrid licensee shall connect and supply electricity to any consumer within its service territory on a non-discriminatory basis, subject to the limits of its distribution system specified by the Authority and where the connection is technically and financially viable.

(2) Where a connection cannot be provided on the grounds specified in sub-regulation (1), the microgrid licensee shall inform the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for refusal.

(3) A microgrid licensee shall not discriminate between consumers of the same class in respect of connection, supply, metering, billing or applicable tariff.

18. Inquiry upon denial of connection or supply.—

(1) Where a licensee refuses to connect or supply a consumer within its service territory, it shall record the reasons for such refusal in writing and communicate the same to the consumer.

(2) A consumer aggrieved by such refusal may file a written complaint with the Authority in accordance with section 29 of the Act.

(3) In determining the complaint, the Authority shall consider whether the refusal is justified under section 18(4) of the Act, including whether—

(a) the requested connection or supply would cause the licensee to exceed the specified limits of its distribution system; or

(b) the connection or supply is technically or financially not viable.

(4) The burden of establishing the grounds relied upon for refusal shall rest on the licensee, which shall provide such technical, financial and other information as the Authority may require.

(5) Where the Authority finds that the refusal is not justified, it may direct the licensee to connect and supply the consumer within such period and on such terms as it may specify.

19. Standards of service.—

(1) A licensee shall observe the standards of service set out in Schedule II and such further standards as the Authority may specify.

(2) The licence shall specify the minimum hours of supply in each day, and the licensee shall display that figure at a conspicuous place within the service territory.

(3) A licensee shall record its performance against each standard and report it to the Authority in the manner and at the intervals specified.

(4) Where a licensee fails to observe a standard, the Authority may direct the payment of such compensation to the consumers affected, by way of credit against their bills, as it may determine in accordance with the Act and applicable law.

20. Metering.—

(1) A licensee shall install, maintain and operate a meter at the premises of each consumer in accordance with the applicable metering code and standards specified by the Authority, and shall meter the electricity generated by the microgrid in accordance with such requirements.

(2) A consumer shall be billed on the basis of an actual meter reading:

Provided that, where the meter is defective or the premises are inaccessible, the licensee may issue an estimated bill in accordance with the procedure and limits specified or approved by the Authority and shall adjust the account on the basis of the next actual meter reading.

(3) The licensee shall ensure that meters are tested at the intervals specified by the Authority and, upon request of a consumer, in accordance with the applicable procedure. The cost of testing shall be borne in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations or standards specified by the Authority.

(4) The licensee may employ prepayment metering in accordance with the procedure and standards specified or approved by the Authority and shall provide the consumer with a reasonable means to ascertain the available credit and recharge the meter within the service territory.

21. Technical and safety standards.—

(1) A licensee shall design, construct, own, operate and maintain the microgrid in accordance with the applicable codes, standards and safety requirements specified or approved by the Authority.

(2) Where the Authority has not specified or approved a code or standard for a particular matter, the licensee shall comply with the relevant applicable national or international standard, including standards of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) or International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as applicable.

(3) Where more than one applicable standard addresses the same matter, the licensee shall comply with the standard specified by the Authority or, in the absence of such specification, the standard that provides the higher level of safety and reliability, to the extent technically applicable.

(4) A distribution system serving a residential settlement shall be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to protect persons, livestock and property, and shall comply with applicable requirements relating to earthing, protection, insulation, clearances and other safety measures.

(5) A licensee shall report to the Authority, within twenty-four hours of its occurrence, any accident involving death or serious injury and any fire at or arising from the microgrid facilities, without prejudice to any reporting requirement under applicable law.

22. Storage, capacity and supply.—

(1) A licensee may install and operate energy storage as part of the microgrid, and the capacity and duration of such storage shall be specified in the licence or approved by the Authority.

(2) A licensee shall maintain sufficient generation and storage capacity, as applicable to its approved design, to meet the applicable standards of service and shall promptly notify the Authority of any material reduction in such capacity.

(3) A licensee may supply residential, commercial, industrial or other consumers within its service territory, subject to the terms and conditions of the licence and applicable standards of service, and shall do so on a non-discriminatory basis.

23. Records, returns and accounts.—

(1) A licensee shall maintain such records relating to generation, supply, connections, disconnections, interruptions, metering, meter testing and consumer complaints as may be specified by the Authority, and shall retain such records for the period specified by the Authority.

(2) A licensee shall submit to the Authority an annual return, in the form and manner specified by the Authority, by the thirty-first day of July each year.

(3) A licensee shall maintain proper books of account and shall cause its accounts to be audited annually in accordance with applicable law, and shall submit the audited financial statements to the Authority within one hundred and twenty days after the close of its financial year.

CHAPTER IV CONSUMERS

24. Service contract and terms of supply.—

(1) A microgrid licensee shall supply electricity to consumers on the terms and conditions determined or specified by the Authority and shall enter into a service contract with each consumer.

(2) The licensee shall, before or at the time of connection, provide the consumer with a written statement in Urdu or Sindhi specifying the applicable tariff, standards of service, billing procedure, grounds and procedure for disconnection, reconnection charges, and procedure for lodging a complaint.

(3) The licensee shall publish the applicable tariff and terms of supply at a conspicuous place within its service territory and make them readily accessible to consumers.

25. Consumer deposits.—

A licensee may require a consumer to pay a security deposit, not exceeding such amount as may be specified by the Authority, as security for payment of electricity charges. The security deposit shall be held and accounted for in accordance with such directions as the Authority may issue and shall be refunded to the consumer upon termination of supply, after adjustment of any outstanding amount lawfully due from the consumer.

26. Billing and collection.—

(1) A licensee shall issue bills at such intervals as may be specified by the Authority, clearly stating the meter reading, units supplied, applicable tariff, amount payable, due date and such other particulars as may be specified by the Authority, and shall provide reasonable facilities for payment within its service territory.

(2) Where a consumer disputes a bill and pays the undisputed amount by the due date, the licensee shall not disconnect the supply solely on account of the disputed amount while the dispute is pending before the licensee or the Authority.

27. Disconnection and reconnection.—

(1) A microgrid licensee shall not disconnect the supply to a consumer except—

- (a) for non-payment of an amount lawfully due and not disputed by the consumer;
- (b) for a material contravention of the applicable terms and conditions of supply; or
- (c) where disconnection is necessary for safety.

(2) Except where disconnection is necessary for safety, the microgrid licensee shall give the consumer not less than seven days' prior written notice specifying the ground for disconnection and, where applicable, the amount payable to avoid disconnection.

(3) The microgrid licensee shall restore supply within forty-eight hours after the ground for disconnection has ceased to exist and the consumer has paid any applicable reconnection charge approved or specified by the Authority.

(4) The Authority may, by order or notification, specify classes of consumers or periods during which a microgrid licensee shall not disconnect supply without the prior approval of the Authority.

28. Complaints.—

(1) A microgrid licensee shall establish and maintain a complaints management system within its service territory, record every complaint received from a consumer, and dispose of the complaint within the period specified by the Authority.

(2) A consumer aggrieved by the disposal of a complaint, or where the licensee fails to dispose of the complaint within the specified period, may file a complaint with the Authority in accordance with section 29 of the Act and the applicable regulations.

(3) No fee shall be payable by a consumer for filing a complaint under this regulation.

CHAPTER V

TARIFF AND CHARGES OF A MICROGRID

29. Microgrid tariff.—

(1) A microgrid licensee shall supply electricity to consumers at the rates, charges and on the terms and conditions determined by the Authority under the Act and these Regulations.

(2) The Authority shall determine the tariff for a microgrid having regard to—

- (a) efficient and prudent costs of generation, storage, distribution and supply;
- (b) a reasonable return commensurate with the risks of the investment;
- (c) the quality, reliability and continuity of supply;
- (d) affordability and the interests of consumers;
- (e) efficient technical and non-technical losses; and
- (f) promotion of investment, competition and renewable and indigenous energy resources.

(3) In determining the tariff, the Authority may adopt a cost-of-service methodology, benchmark costs, a standard tariff methodology or such other methodology as it considers appropriate.

(4) The Authority may, after considering the views of the licensee and affected consumers and in accordance with the applicable procedure, determine different tariffs for different classes of consumers on the basis of objectively justifiable factors, including demand, voltage, load profile, cost of service or time of use, provided that there is no undue discrimination.

(5) The tariff determination may include an automatic adjustment mechanism based on objectively ascertainable variables, including fuel cost, inflation, exchange rate or power purchase cost. An adjustment made strictly in accordance with an approved mechanism shall take effect in the manner specified in the tariff determination.

(6) The Authority may, on its own motion or on an application by the licensee or an affected consumer, modify or revise a tariff where there is a material change in the circumstances or costs on which the tariff was determined, a material failure to meet applicable service standards, or where such modification or revision is otherwise necessary in the public or consumer interest.

(7) No tariff or charge shall have retrospective effect except for correction of fraud, misrepresentation, manifest billing error or an adjustment expressly provided for in the tariff determination or permitted under regulation 30.

(8) A microgrid licensee shall disclose to consumers the applicable tariff, connection charges, fixed charges, security deposit, reconnection charges and other approved charges in the consumer service agreement and billing documents. No charge shall be recovered from a consumer unless it is determined or otherwise authorised by the Authority under the Act.

(9) Any subsidy or financial assistance provided by Government or any other person for a class of microgrid consumers shall be transparently accounted for and dealt with in accordance with the directions of the Authority.

30. Review and indexation of tariff.—

(1) The tariff determined by the Authority may provide for periodic indexation or adjustment in accordance with a formula specified in the tariff determination.

(2) The licensee or an affected consumer may apply to the Authority for review of the tariff where there has been a material change in the circumstances or costs on which the tariff was determined.

(3) The Authority may, on its own motion or on an application under sub-regulation (2), review, modify or revise the tariff in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

(4) No review or revision of a tariff shall have retrospective effect, except where necessary to correct fraud, misrepresentation, manifest billing error or an adjustment expressly provided for in the tariff determination.

CHAPTER VI GRID ARRIVAL

31. Intimation of proposed extension.—

(1) Where a licensee becomes aware of any proposal to extend a distribution network or electricity supply into or within its licensed service territory by any person, it shall promptly inform the Authority in writing and provide such particulars as are reasonably available to it.

(2) Where the proposed extension is by another licensee, the licensee proposing the extension shall notify the Authority and the affected licensee at least one hundred and eighty days before the proposed extension is energised.

(3) Upon receiving an intimation or notice under this regulation, the Authority may, where it considers necessary in the public interest, issue notice to the affected licensees and consumers and provide them a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(4) Where the proposed extension is by a person not subject to the jurisdiction of the Authority, the Authority may seek such information as it considers necessary and may refer the matter to the Government or the appropriate authority.

32. Upon extension of a public electricity grid.—

(1) Where the Provincial Grid or National Grid is proposed to be extended to the service territory of a microgrid, the Authority shall, after providing an opportunity of hearing to the licensee, the relevant grid company and the affected consumers, determine whether—

(a) the microgrid shall continue to operate within its existing service territory and the grid extension shall not include premises being supplied by the microgrid;

(b) the licensee shall obtain such generation, distribution and electric power supply licences as may be required under the Act and continue its operations in accordance therewith; or

(c) the microgrid shall be integrated with the relevant grid and the microgrid licence surrendered or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

(2) In making a determination under sub-regulation (1), the Authority shall have regard to—

(a) the interests of consumers and continuity, quality and reliability of supply;

(b) the tariff payable by consumers;

(c) the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed grid extension;

(d) the investment made by the licensee and the extent to which such investment has been recovered; and

(e) the availability of reasonable arrangements for transfer, integration, compensation or continued operation.

(3) No microgrid shall be connected to the Provincial Grid or National Grid except with the permission of the Authority and in accordance with section 18(5) of the Act.

(4) The Authority shall publish the determination under this regulation together with reasons therefor.

(5) Where the Authority determines under clause (b) of sub-regulation (1) that the licensee shall obtain one or more licences under the Act, the microgrid licence shall, upon the issuance and coming into force of the relevant licence or licences, cease to apply to the extent specified by the Authority.

33. Compensation.—

(1) Where, pursuant to an order of the Authority under the Act or these Regulations, the applicable licence or an applicable tariff determination, a microgrid undertaking is transferred or the microgrid is required to cease operation before the expiry of the period recognized in the applicable tariff determination, the Authority may determine the compensation payable to the licensee for the unrecovered investment.

(2) In determining compensation under sub-regulation (1), the Authority shall have regard to—

- (a) the depreciated value of the assets employed in the undertaking;
- (b) the unrecovered investment recognized in the applicable tariff determination; and
- (c) the reasonable cost of decommissioning or relocating assets that are not transferred, so as to avoid double recovery.

(3) The Authority shall determine the person liable to pay the compensation, having regard to the person acquiring the undertaking or authorised to take over the relevant supply.

(4) A determination of compensation made under this regulation shall be enforceable in accordance with section 28 of the Act.

34. Transfer of microgrid licence.—

(1) A licensee shall not transfer or assign a microgrid licence, or the undertaking relating thereto, without the prior written approval of the Authority in Form A-9.

(2) The Authority may approve a transfer where the proposed transferee is eligible to hold a microgrid licence under the Act and these Regulations and the transfer will not adversely affect the continuity, quality or terms of electric power service to consumers.

(3) Upon the effective date of transfer, the transferee shall assume the rights and obligations of the transferor under the microgrid licence and applicable documents, and shall comply with any directions issued by the Authority to ensure continuity of supply.

(4) The transfer shall not take effect until the Authority has approved it in writing and the transferee has accepted the terms and conditions specified by the Authority.

35. Tariff upon change of supplier.—

Where a microgrid is interconnected with another microgrid, its undertaking or licence is transferred with the approval of the Authority, or its consumers are supplied by another licensee, the Authority may determine, modify or revise the tariff, rates, charges and terms and conditions applicable to such consumers, having regard to the tariff applicable immediately before such change and the circumstances of the change.

CHAPTER VII

MODIFICATION, RENEWAL, CANCELLATION AND SURRENDER

36. Modification of licence.—

(1) A licence may be modified by the Authority—

- (a) on an application made by the licensee in Form A-7; or
- (b) on its own motion, after giving the licensee notice and a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(2) Where a proposed modification materially affects the service territory, standards of service, or tariff payable by consumers, the Authority shall give notice to the affected consumers and provide them a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(3) The Authority shall not make a modification that would make the licensed activity incapable of being carried on or adversely affect a right accrued in good faith to a third party, except on such terms and conditions as the Authority considers just and reasonable and in accordance with the Act.

37. Renewal.—

(1) A licence may be renewed on an application made by the licensee in Form A-8, filed before the expiry of the licence within such period as may be specified by the Authority.

(2) Where an application for renewal is filed within the prescribed period, the existing licence shall continue in force, on its existing terms and conditions, until the application is finally decided by the Authority, and such continuation shall not constitute a deemed renewal.

(3) In deciding an application for renewal, the Authority shall have regard to the licensee's satisfactory performance, compliance with the Act and applicable documents, and any order or determination made against the licensee in respect of a contravention relevant to the licensed activity.

(4) The Authority may, where necessary to protect consumers or ensure continuity of supply, impose interim conditions during the period referred to in sub-regulation (2).

38. Suspension and cancellation of licence.—

(1) The Authority may, after giving the licensee an opportunity of being heard and upon determination of a contravention of the Act, these Regulations or any condition of the licence, or where the licence was obtained by misrepresentation, suspend or cancel the licence in accordance with the Act.

(2) Before suspending or cancelling a microgrid licence, the Authority shall determine such measures as may be necessary to ensure continuity of electricity supply to consumers in the service territory.

(3) Where necessary to ensure continuity of electricity supply, the Authority may, in lieu of cancellation or following suspension or cancellation, direct the transfer of the undertaking in accordance with regulation 34 or make such other arrangements as are permissible under the Act.

39. Surrender of licence.—

(1) A licensee may apply to the Authority for surrender of its licence on such terms and conditions as the Authority may determine.

(2) The surrender shall not take effect unless and until the Authority is satisfied that adequate arrangements have been made for the continuity of electricity supply to consumers within the microgrid's service territory.

(3) As a condition of accepting surrender, the Authority may require the licensee to transfer the undertaking in accordance with regulation 34 or make such other arrangements as are necessary to ensure continuity of supply.

(4) The surrender of a licence shall not relieve the licensee of any liability incurred, obligation accrued, or proceeding commenced before the effective date of surrender.

**CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS**

40. Register of Microgrid Licences.—

(1) The Registrar shall maintain a Register of Microgrid Licences containing, in respect of each licence, the licence number, name of the licensee, service territory, installed capacity, term, standards of service and current status of the licence, and shall publish the Register on the website of the Authority.

(2) The Register shall not contain any confidential price, tariff or other commercially sensitive term relating to the procurement or sale of electricity or any other transaction of the licensee, except to the extent disclosure is required by law or by an order of the Authority.

(3) Nothing in this regulation shall limit any disclosure required under regulation 24, regulation 29 or any other applicable law.

41. Duplicate licence.—

(1) Where a licence is lost, destroyed or defaced, the licensee may apply to the Authority for issuance of a duplicate licence, stating the circumstances of the loss, destruction or defacement and paying the prescribed fee, if any.

(2) The duplicate licence shall be marked “**DUPLICATE**”, shall bear the date of issue of the original licence and shall have the same force and effect as the original licence.

42. Review.—

A person aggrieved by an order, decision or determination of the Authority under these Regulations may seek review in accordance with the applicable review regulations. The order, decision or determination shall state the right to seek review and the period within which the review may be sought.

43. False or misleading statements.—

A person who knowingly or recklessly makes, in any application, undertaking, return or other document submitted under these Regulations, a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular commits a contravention for the purposes of section 27 of the Act.

44. Standard operating procedures, forms and guidelines.—

(1) The Authority may, from time to time, issue standard operating procedures, forms and guidelines for the implementation of these Regulations. Such instruments shall be published before they are applied to an application or licensee and shall not amend or be inconsistent with these Regulations.

(2) Where a matter is required to be specified by the Authority and no specification is in force, an application shall not be rejected or treated as incomplete solely for that reason, and the Authority shall determine the matter in accordance with the Act, these Regulations and the material available on record.

45. Residuary provision.—

(1) Any matter of procedure not provided for in these Regulations shall be dealt with by the Authority in a manner consistent with the Act, these Regulations and the principles of natural justice.

(2) Nothing in this regulation shall be construed to authorise the Authority to—

- (a) impose any requirement inconsistent with the Act or these Regulations;
- (b) refuse an application on a ground other than a ground provided under these Regulations; or
- (c) exercise any power or perform any function beyond those conferred on the Authority under the Act.

46. Transitional provision.—

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, a person lawfully operating a microgrid immediately before the commencement of these Regulations shall intimate the Authority within such period as the Authority may specify and, if an application for a microgrid licence is filed within that period, may continue such operation during the transitional period, subject to the Act, these Regulations and any applicable directions or conditions imposed by the Authority, until the application is finally decided.

(2) The Authority may, during the transitional period, impose such interim conditions as are reasonably necessary to protect consumers and ensure the safe, reliable and continuous operation of the microgrid.

(3) Where a person referred to in sub-regulation (1) fails to intimate the Authority or fails to file an application within the period specified by the Authority, the Authority may, after giving such person an opportunity of being heard, direct cessation of the operation or take such other action as may be permissible under the Act.

(4) Where an application for a microgrid licence made under this regulation is refused, the Authority shall, after considering the interests of consumers and continuity and safety of supply, determine the period within which the applicant shall cease operation or make such alternative arrangements as the Authority may direct.

(5) Nothing in this regulation shall be construed as constituting a deemed grant of a microgrid licence.

FORM A-5
APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF MICROGRID LICENCE
Under Section 18 of the Sindh Regulation of Electric Power Services Act, 2023

Before:
Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPRa)
Karachi, Sindh

PART-I — PARTICULARS OF THE APPLICANT

1	Name of Applicant		
2	Legal Status	☐ Individual ☐ Company ☐ Partnership	☐ Cooperative Society ☐ Social Welfare Organization ☐ Other: -----
3	Registered Office	Address: ----- City: ----- Province: Sindh Telephone: ----- Email: -----	
4	Company/Registration Number		
5	Date of Incorporation/Registration:		
6	Name and designation of Authorized Representative:		
7	CNIC/Passport No. of Authorized Representative:		
8	Authority/Board Resolution authorizing the application:		

PART-II — DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED MICROGRID

9	Name of Proposed Microgrid:		
10	Location of Microgrid:	Village/Settlement: ----- Taluka: ----- District: ----- Province: Sindh	
11	GPS Coordinates:	Latitude: ----- Longitude: -----	
12	Nature of Territory:	☐ Unserved Territory ☐ Underserved Territory	

13	Description of Service Territory:	Provide a detailed description of the geographical boundaries of the proposed microgrid territory, including villages, settlements, roads, landmarks and cadastral/revenue boundaries, where applicable.
14	Total Area Proposed to be Served (Sq. Km):	-----
15	Existing Electricity Supply:	☐ No electricity supply ☐ Intermittent/limited supply ☐ Other: -----
16	Existing Distribution Licensee, if any:	
17	Distance from Existing Distribution Network:	----- km.
18	Reason why the area is considered:	

PART-III — GENERATION FACILITY

19	Generation Technology:	Solar PV ----- MW Wind-----MW Biomass/Biogas -----MW	Diesel/Other Backup ----- MW Battery Energy Storage ----- MW Biomass/Biogas -----MW
20	Total Installed Generation Capacity (MW):		
21	Expected Net Available Capacity (MW):		
22	Annual Expected Energy Generation (MW):		
23	Annual Expected Energy Generation (MWh/year):		
24	Expected Commercial Operation Date (date)		
25	Expected Project Life (years):		
26	Fuel Source, where applicable:		
27	Renewable Energy Component (%)		

28	Energy Storage System:	Battery technology: ----- Rated power: ----- MW Storage capacity ----- MWh Expected discharge duration-----hours
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PART-IV — DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

29	Distribution Voltage Levels:	HV----- kV MV ----- kV LV ----- V
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30	Total Distribution Line Length (km):	
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31	Number of Distribution Transformers:	
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32	Transformer Capacity (kVA/MVA):	
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33	Number of Proposed Consumer Connections:	
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34	Expected Maximum Demand (MW)	
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35	Network Configuration:	☐ Radial ☐ Ring ☐ Hybrid ☐ Other:
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36	Protection and Control System:	Provide details of protection relays, circuit breakers, earthing, isolation, synchronization and control arrangements
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37	Single Line Diagram:	Attached as Annexure -----.
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38	Site Plan/Distribution Network Map:	Attached as Annexure -----.
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PART-V — CONSUMERS AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

39	Estimated Consumer Categories:	Domestic: No. (-----); Load (---- kW) Commercial: No. (-----); Load (---- kW) Industrial: No. (-----); Load (----kW) Agriculture: No. (-----); Load (---- kW) Government: No. (-----); Load (-----kW) Other: No. (-----); Load (-----kW)
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40	Total Initial Connections:	
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41	Projected Connections after 5 Years	
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42	Projected Connections after 10 Years	
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43	Metering Arrangement:	☐ Individual smart meters ☐ Electronic meters ☐ Prepaid meters ☐ Other: -----
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44	Billing Frequency:	☐ Monthly ☐ Other: -----
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45	Proposed Customer Service Arrangements:	Describe billing, collection, complaint handling, disconnection/reconnection and emergency services.
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46	Connection Policy:	The Applicant shall connect eligible consumers within the licensed microgrid territory in accordance with the applicable licence conditions, regulations, technical standards and directions of SEPRA.
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PART-VI — TARIFF AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

47	Proposed Tariff Structure (Rs./kWh):	Domestic Commercial Agricultural Industrial Government Others Note: For a microgrid under Section 18, the consumer tariff is to be determined by SEPRA after a public hearing, rather than simply being imposed unilaterally by the operator.
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48	Total Project Cost (Rs. Million):	
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49	Projected Connections after 5 Years	Equity Amount: Rs. ----- Million (---- %) Debt Amount: Rs. ----- Million (---- %) Grant Amount: Rs. ----- Million (---- %) Subsidy Amount: Rs. ----- Million (---- %) Other Amount: Rs. ----- Million (---- %)
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50	Estimated Annual Operating Cost (Rs. Million):	
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51	Estimated Annual Revenue (Rs. Million):	
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52	Financial Model:	Attached at Annexure -----
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53	Funding Commitment/Financial Closure:	Documentary evidence attached as Annexure-----.
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PART-VII — TECHNICAL AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE

54	The Applicant confirms that the proposed microgrid will be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with applicable:	• SEPPA regulations; • technical standards and codes; • electrical safety requirements; • applicable environmental requirements; • applicable Pakistan Engineering Council requirements; • applicable building and land-use requirements; and • all conditions imposed by SEPPA.
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55	Electrical Safety Arrangements:	
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56	Earthing/Lightning Protection:	
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57	Projected Connections after 5 Years	
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58	Earthing/Lightning Protection:	
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59	Protection System:	
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60	Emergency Shutdown Arrangements:	
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61	Earthing/Lightning Protection:	
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62	Health, Safety and Emergency Management Plan:	Attached as Annexure ----- --.
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PART-VIII — ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

63	Environmental Approval/No-Objection, if applicable:	Authority: ----- NOC/EIA/IEE No.: ----- Date: -----
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64	Community Consultation:	Date(s): ----- Number of participants: ----- Summary attached as Annexure ----- --.
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65	Social and Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan:	Attached as Annexure -----.
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PART-IX — MICROGRID BUSINESS AND OPERATION PLAN

66	Operations & Maintenance Contractor:	Name: ----- Experience: -----
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67	Control Room/Monitoring Facility:	Location: -----
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68	Expected Availability (%):	
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69	Customer Service Centre:	Location -----
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70	Complaint Resolution Mechanism:	
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71	Power Quality Management:	
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72	Expansion Plan:	
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PART-X — GRID CONNECTION STATUS

73	Is the proposed microgrid connected directly to the national grid?	☐ Yes ☐ No
74	Is the proposed microgrid connected indirectly to the national grid?	☐ Yes ☐ No
75	If connected or proposed to be connected, provide details:	The applicant should clearly disclose any existing or proposed grid connection.

PART-XI — DECLARATIONS

I/We, the undersigned Applicant, hereby declare that:

- (a) The information contained in this application and its annexures is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.
- (b) The proposed project falls within the scope of a microgrid licence under Section 18 of the Sindh Regulation of Electric Power Services Act, 2023.
- (c) The proposed territory is unserved, as represented in this application.
- (d) The Applicant possesses, or will obtain before commencement of the relevant activity, all required land, environmental, construction, safety and other statutory approvals.
- (e) The Applicant shall comply with the Act, applicable regulations, codes, standards and the terms and conditions of the licence granted by SEPR.
- (f) The Applicant shall provide metering and billing arrangements for consumers in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements.
- (g) The Applicant shall maintain appropriate records and submit such information, returns and reports as may be required by SEPR.
- (h) The Applicant shall comply with all lawful directions and orders issued by SEPR.
- (i) The Applicant understands that the grant of a microgrid licence does not exempt it from any other approval required under applicable law.
- (j) The Applicant understands that the consumer tariff applicable to the microgrid is subject to determination by SEPR in accordance with the applicable law and regulatory process.

Name of Authorized Signatory: _____
Designation: _____
CNIC: _____
Signature: _____
Company Seal: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

LIST OF ANNEXURES to be attached with the Application

- Annexure-A: Certificate of incorporation/registration and constitutional documents
- Annexure-B: Board resolution/authority letter
- Annexure-C: Memorandum and Articles/partnership or organizational documents
- Annexure-D: Detailed project report
- Annexure-E: Technical feasibility study
- Annexure-F: Single Line Diagram
- Annexure-G: Site plan and geographical service-territory map
- Annexure-H: Generation equipment specifications
- Annexure-I: Distribution network design
- Annexure-J: Load forecast and demand assessment
- Annexure-K: Consumer survey/list of prospective consumers
- Annexure-L: Metering and billing plan
- Annexure-M: Financial model and project cost
- Annexure-N: Financing/equity/debt evidence
- Annexure-O: Environmental approvals/NOCs, where applicable
- Annexure-P: Land ownership/lease documents
- Annexure-Q: Health, safety and emergency plan
- Annexure-R: Operations and maintenance plan
- Annexure-S: Community consultation report
- Annexure-T: Affidavit/undertaking and declarations
- Annexure-U: Any other document required by SEPR