



VERIFICATION REPORT FOR  
“SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT(S) BY SB ENERGY  
PRIVATE LIMITED”



Document Prepared By Earthhood Services Private Limited

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## Summary:

Earthood Services Private Limited (hereafter referred to as ESPL) has been contracted by Infinite Solutions to conduct the verification of the project - "Solar Energy Project(s) by SB Energy Private Limited", VCS ID 1805 with regard to the relevant requirements of VCS programme guidelines and standard (VCS standard version 4.0, & VCS program guide version 04.0). Relevant requirements of the UNFCCC for CDM project activities, as well as criteria for consistent project operations, monitoring and reporting has been applied for verification.

The monitoring period covers under this verification are from 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020.

The verification includes confirming the implementation of the monitoring plan of the registered VCS PD and MR (VCS ID 1805) and the application of the monitoring methodology as per ACM0002 version 19: "Grid-connected electricity generation from renewable sources".

The project activity involves electricity generation by the solar power supplying the generated electricity to state DISCOM i.e Indian grid. The project being a renewable energy generation activity, leads to reduction in fossil fuel dominated electricity generation. The project activity results in reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are real, measurable, and verifiable and also plays beneficial role in the mitigation of climate change.

A risk based approach has been followed to perform this verification. In the course of verification, 02 Corrective Action request (CARs), 00 Forward Action request (FARs), and 01 Clarification request (CLs) were raised and successfully closed.

The review of the project design documentation, monitoring report and additional documents related to baseline and monitoring methodology; the subsequent background investigation, telephonic interviews and stakeholders have provided ESPL with sufficient evidence to validate the fulfillment of the stated criteria.

ESPL confirms that the project is implemented in accordance with the registered VCS PD. The monitoring

system is in place and the emission reductions are calculated without material misstatements. Our opinion relates to the project's GHG emissions and the resulting GHG emission reductions reported and related to the valid and registered project baseline and monitoring and its associated documents. Based on the information seen and evaluated we confirm that the emission reductions from the project activity "Solar Energy Project(s) by SB Energy Private Limited" in India during the period 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020 (including both days) amount to 673,926 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Objective

Earthood Services Private Limited (ESPL) has been contracted by Infinite Solutions, to undertake the verification of the renewable energy project titled “Solar Energy Project(s) by SB Energy Private Limited” (VCS ID-1805) The verifiers have reviewed the GHG data collected to date for the monitoring period from 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020 (both days included) covered in this verification. The objective of this verification is a thorough and independent assessment of registered project activities against the applicable VCS requirement by the VVB. The verification process shall determine whether the proposed project activity complies with the requirements of latest VCS guidelines, applicability conditions of the selected methodology, relevant host country regulations and guidance issued by the VCS Board.

## 1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of verification is to assess the claims and assumptions made in the VCS monitoring report (MR) against the VCS criteria, including but not limited to, VCS standard, applied methodology and other relevant rules and requirements established for VCS project activities.

The Verification is not meant to provide any consulting towards the project participants. However, stated requests for clarification and/or correction actions request may have provided inputs for improvement of the project design.

## 1.3 Level of Assurance

The level of assurance of the verification report falls under reasonable assurance engagements as selected by the Client. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance regarding material misstatements, but not an absolute one.

Reasonable assurance includes the understanding that there is a remote likelihood that material misstatements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. To achieve reasonable assurance, the auditor needs to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level. This means that there is some uncertainty arising from the use of sampling, since it is possible that a material misstatement will be missed.

The evidence used to achieve a reasonable level of assurance is specified in section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report. Materiality for the project is 5%.

## 1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The project activity comprises installation of a grid connected solar photovoltaic based power project with a total capacity of 2,250 MW<sub>AC</sub> in the state Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka in India. The solar power developers (SPDs) involved in the project has signed power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC Limited, which is a government entity responsible for implementation of grid connected solar PV project under the scheme “National Solar Mission”. The National Solar Mission is an initiative of the Government of India and State Governments to promote solar power. The mission is one of the several policies of the National Action Plan on Climate Change. Electricity generated by the project activity is being purchased by NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN), which is eventually sold to state DISCOM.

There are 8 SPDs involved in the project activity and each SPD is subsidiary of SB Energy Private Limited (project proponent). The details of investors (SPDs), installed capacity with location and commissioning status is provided in the below table:

Sr.No	Investor Name	Installed Capacity (MW)	Location of the project	Commissioning date/status
1	SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd	182	Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh	27/02/2017
		68		22/03/2017
		100		28/03/2017
2	SB Energy One Private Limited	100	Bhadla village in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan	21/09/2018
		100		24/09/2018
		100		24/09/2018
3	SB Energy Three Private Limited	20	Bhadla village in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan	04/10/2018
		20		04/10/2018
		30		18/09/2018
		30		18/09/2018
4	SB Energy Four Private Limited	200	Bhadla village in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan	03/05/2019 and 09/07/2019
5	SB Energy Solar Private Limited	250	Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh	Not commissioned yet
6	SB Energy Six Private Limited	600	Phalodi town, in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan	Not commissioned yet
7	SB Energy Seven Private Limited	250	Kadappa district, Andhra Pradesh	Not commissioned yet
8	SBG Cleantech Project Co Five Private Limited	200	Pavagadaa taluk, Karnataka	Not commissioned yet

The part of the project owned by SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd, located in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh is considered for verification in the current monitoring period.

As indicated in the above table, total installed capacity by the investor SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd is 350 MW and commissioned in three phases and the power generated from the project activity is being supplied to state DISCOM (Indian grid).

The commissioning date of each phase is verified through the commissioning certificate/12/.The verification team has also verified the latest photographs/19/ of all the equipments (solar modules, invertors and transformers, energy meters ect) installed at site and SCADA monitoring system submitted by the project proponent. The project activity is undergoing second verification and description of project activity was also verified during first verification/02/ through physical site visit. Based on the assessment of the documents, the assessment team is able to confirm that the project activity is fully functional and implemented as described in the registered VCS PD.

## 2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

The registered VCS project is undergoing second verification, the approach adopted to ensure the quality of emission reductions is described in the following sections.

### 2.1 Method and Criteria

The verification approach consists two phases.

In the first phase, ESPL completed a strategic review and risk assessment of the projects activities and processes in order to gain a full understanding of:

Activities associated with all the sources contributing to the project emissions and emission reductions, including leakage if relevant;

Protocols used to estimate or measure GHG emissions from these sources;

Collection and handling of data;

Controls on the collection and handling of data;

Means of verifying reported data; and

Compilation of the Monitoring Report.

At the end of this phase, ESPL produced a Verification Checklist which, based on the risk assessment of the parameters and data collection and handling processes for each of those parameters, describes the verification approach and the sampling plan.

In the second phase using the Verification checklist, ESPL verified the implementation of the monitoring plan and the data presented in the VCS MR/04/ for the period in question. This involved telephonic interviews of project proponent representative's and a desk review of the Monitoring Report. This verification report describes the findings of this assessment.

## 2.2 Document Review

The verification is performed primarily as a document review of the registered VCS PD/01/, previous MR and Verification report/02/ and associated documents as stated in details in appendix 1 of this document. The assessment is performed by a verification team using a protocol. The cross checks between information provided in the Monitoring report, VCS PD and information from sources other than those used, if available, the team's sectoral or local expertise and, if necessary, independent background investigations.

## 2.3 Interviews

Due to the current situation with the global COVID-19 pandemic scenario and country wide lock down in India, an on-site inspection has not been performed by the assessment team. However the representatives of the PP were interviewed telephonically on 02/04/2020 i.e. personnel responsible for monitoring of the project activity, data collection and management, and QA/QC procedure. The details of the people interviewed are mentioned in the table below:

Name	Organization	Topic covered
Mr. Vikash Yadav	Infinite Solutions (Assistant Manager)	Project implementation, start date as per the VCS requirements.
Mr. Mohan Kumar	Manager- SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd	Electricity Generation Records (monthly energy statements, Invoices)  Reliability & accuracy of readings considered for emission reduction calculations, Calibration procedure
Mr. Naresh Babu	Engineer- SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd	Consideration of monitoring period, monitoring methodology, project documentation and emission reduction calculations.
Mr. Mohan Kumar	Manager- SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd	Monitoring and measuring system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of measurements</li> <li>• Observations of established practices</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data Verification of monitoring parameters</li> </ul> QA/QC procedures, data management, internal audits to maintain data quality & reliability, maintenance Practices.
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## 2.4 Site Inspections

As discussed in the above section, physical site inspection is not done for the current verification. However to achieve a reasonable level of assurance, the assessment team has followed the alternative means to substantiate the verification criteria as described in the below table:

Assessment Criteria	Means of verification/source documents	Assessment opinion
Description of project activity	Commissioning certificate /12/ PPA signed with NTPC /13/ VCS verification report for first monitoring period/02/. Telephonic interview with site personnel on 02/04/2020.	The information's with reference to project capacity, technology, plant equipments and commissioning dates as provided in section 1.1 of MR are found consistent with the documents.
Compliance of the project implementation with the registered project design document	Monthly credit reports issued by APEPDCL /09/. Geographical co-ordinates of project activity verified through Google Map <sup>1</sup> Photograph of equipments installed at site and screen shots of SCADA system /19/ VCS verification report for first	Monthly credit reports issued by APEPDCL indicate the following information: Commissioning date, Date of PPA signed with NTPC, Capacity of project and name of project participant. Location of project is verified through Google Map and found consistent with

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gps-coordinates.net/>

	<p>monitoring period/02/.</p> <p>Telephonic interview with site personnel on 02/04/2020</p>	<p>registered VCS PD.</p> <p>Photograph of equipments and screen shots of SCADA system are verified to check the operational status of project activity.</p> <p>Grid connectivity of the project is confirmed through the PPA.</p> <p>All the information's regarding the project implementation as discuss above are further verified through VCS PD and found consistent.</p>
<p>Compliance of the registered monitoring plan with applied methodologies and standardized baselines</p>	<p>Telephonic interview with site personnel on 02/04/2020</p> <p>PPA signed with NTPC /13/</p> <p>Monthly credit reports issued by APEPDCL /09/.</p> <p>Invoices raised by project developer to NTPC /08/</p>	<p>The organizational structure, responsibilities and competencies of the personnel confirmed through telephonic interview.</p> <p>Frequency of monitoring of parameters listed under approved monitoring plan is verified through credit reports /Invoices.</p> <p>The methods used for measuring, recording, storing, aggregating, and reporting the data on monitored parameters are verified though PPA and telephonic conversations with site personnel.</p> <p>Procedure for data uncertainty, emergency preparedness, roles and responsibility, operational and management structure</p>

		are mentioned in the MR is confirmed through quality policy documents/20/ and found satisfactory.
Compliance with the calibration frequency requirements for measuring instruments	<p>Calibration certificates of meters/07/</p> <p>PPA signed with NTPC /13/.</p> <p>Photograph of energy meters indicating sr. No, accuracy class, make /19/.</p> <p>Central Electricity Authority(Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations/16/</p>	<p>Calibration frequency and energy meter specifications (Sr.No, make accuracy class) is verified through calibration certificates and further verified through photographs and found consistent.</p> <p>Responsibility of calibration and maintenance of energy meters is solely under control of APEPDCL; this is verified through the PPA.</p>
Assessment of data and calculation of emission reductions or net removals	<p>Monthly credit reports issued by APEPDCL /09/.</p> <p>Invoices raised by project developer to NTPC /08/</p> <p>CEA CO<sub>2</sub> Baseline Database for the Indian Power Sector /11/</p> <p>Previous VCS verification report /02/.</p>	<p>Monthly values of monitoring parameter used in ER calculation are verified through credit reports and cross verified with the invoices.</p> <p>Methods, formulae and emission factor for calculating baseline emissions have been followed are in accordance with the applied methodology and as described in the approved VCS verification report /02/.</p>

It is noteworthy that no sampling plan for verification is applied as 100% data is verified for the current monitoring period. Most of the reference document referred by the assessment team (above table) are either issued /endorsed by state utility (APEPDCL), an external government agency, hence is deemed authentic.

Based on the above assessment it can be concluded that the assessment team has verified sufficient appropriate audit evidences, to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level as requisite to achieve reasonable level of assurance for the current verification.

## 2.5 Resolution of Findings

The objective of this step is to identify, discuss and conclude on the issues related to the monitoring, implementation and operations of the registered project activity that could impair the capacity of the registered project activity to achieve emission reductions or influence the monitoring and reporting of emission reductions. This is done based on the desk review and interaction with site personnel over phone. The verification team prepares and/or updates a verification protocol (internal document) that records the conformities and non-conformities, which may be of following types;

CAR (Corrective Action Request) is raised if one of the following occurs:

Non-compliance with the monitoring plan, the methodology or the standardized baseline are found in monitoring and reporting and has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient;

Modifications to the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project activity has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants;

Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions that will impact the quantity of emission reductions;

Issues identified in a FAR during validation to be verified during verification or previous verification(s) have not been resolved by the project participants. Clarification request (CL) is raised if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable CDM requirements have been met. All CARs and CLs raised by the ESPL during verification shall be resolved prior to submitting a request for issuance.

FAR (Forward Action Request) is raised during verification if the monitoring and reporting require attention and/or adjustment for the next verification period. All the findings that are raised and communicated to project participant during the verification are included under Appendix 3. The section also includes the response, if provided, by the project participants and an assessment by the verification team if it was closed out or otherwise.

### 2.5.1 Forward Action Requests

The project activity is undergoing second verification under second crediting period in VCS; there were no FARs raised during the validation or previous verification/02/.

## 2.6 Eligibility for Validation Activities

Not applicable.

### 3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

Not applicable.

#### 3.1 Participation under Other GHG Programs

The project capacity (350 MW), implemented by the developer SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd, considered in this verification is already registered under VCS program (VCS ID-1805).

There are total 8 solar project developers (SPDs) involved in the project, however the sub-projects developed by 7 (out of 8) developers are also seeking registration under GS (Gold Standard). It is noted that no credits have been issued under GS programme till date for any sub-project. The current status of each sub-project is provided in the below table:

S. No	Project developer	Project Capacity (MW)	Project title	Status under Gold Standard
1	SB Energy One Private Limited	100	400 MW Solar Power Project at Bhadla, Rajasthan	Registered (GS7071) ( <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1455">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1455</a> )
		100		
		100		
2	SB Energy Three Private Limited	20		
		20		
		30		
		30		
3	SB Energy Solar Private Limited	250	250 MW Solar Power project by SB Energy	Listed( <a href="https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2193">https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2193</a> )
4	SB Energy Six Private Limited	600	600 MW Solar PV Plant by SB Energy in Rajasthan	Listed ( <a href="https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2195">https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2195</a> )
5	SB Energy Seven Private Limited	250	250 MW Solar Power project at Kadapa by SB Energy	Listed ( <a href="https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2201">https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2201</a> )
6	SBG Cleantech Project Co Five Private Limited	200	200 MW Solar Power project by SB Energy at Pavagada, Karnataka	Listed ( <a href="https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2194">https://impact.sustain-cert.com/public_projects/2194</a> )
7	SB Energy Four Private Limited	200	200 MW Bhadla project	Undergoing registration (GS ID7532)

The PP has submitted the declaration/15/ which states that the net GHG emission reductions generated by the project activity will not be used for compliance with any other emissions trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG emissions for the same monitoring period.

### 3.2 Methodology Deviations

There is no methodology deviation identified during the current monitoring period.

### 3.3 Project Description Deviations

The project activity was registered under VCS with a total capacity of 2,250 MWAC in the state Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka in India. There are 8 solar power developers (SPDs) involved in the project activity; however during the current monitoring period sub-projects implemented by 7 SPDs are migrated to another GHG programme (Gold standard), hence not considered for verification in the current monitoring period. Current status of the sub-projects migrated under Gold Standard is provided under the table in section 3.1 of this report. The project proponent has considered this instance as project description deviation in the current monitoring period.

The assessment team is able to confirm that the deviation identified during the current monitoring period is appropriately described and justified and the project remains in compliance with the VCS rules. Also the deviation does not have an impact on the applicability of the methodology, additionality or the appropriateness of the baseline scenario.

### 3.4 Grouped Project

Not applicable. The project activity is not a grouped project

## 4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

### 4.1 Project Implementation Status

The project activity involves installation of a grid connected solar photovoltaic based power project with a total capacity of 2,250 MWAC in the state Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka in India. There are total 8 solar power developers involved in the project activity and details of the sub-projects implemented by each SPD is provided under section 1.4 of this report. The part of the project (capacity 350 MW) owned by SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd, located in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh is considered for verification in the current monitoring period.

This proposed solar power project will reduce the GHG emissions generated by the current generation energy mix in India's Power Grid, which is dominated by fossil fuel based grid connected power plants. The power generated through the proposed project activity being supplied to Indian grid through a contractual arrangement (PPA) with NTPC Limited. The technical specification of the project activity equipment's have been checked through the photographs of all the equipments installed at site and are found to be consistent with the mentioned under section 3.1 of MR. The current status of the project activity is verified through the screen shots of SCADA system/19/, indicating the real-time generation data and hence it is confirmed that the project is fully functioning.

The monitoring plan of registered VCS PD/01/ includes the parameter "Quantity of net electricity generation supplied by the project plant/unit to the grid in year y" ( $EG_{\text{facility},y}$ ). This parameter being calculated on monthly basis as difference of electricity exported to the grid and electricity imported from the grid by the project and those are being measured by energy meters of accuracy class 0.2s located at project. These export and import parameters are measured continuously and at least monthly recording. This is in line with methodology and is accepted.

Monthly values of  $EG_{\text{facility},y}$  obtained directly from the monthly credit reports issued by APEPDCL/09/. The invoicing being done against electricity supplied by the project plant to the grid. The measurement results are cross checked with records of invoices and it is in line with applied methodology. Thus this parameter is considered in emission reduction calculations.

As verified through the calibration certificates and recent photographs that there are 3 set of energy meters installed at site pooling substations and are under control of state utility (APEPDCL), sealed in presence of both the state utility official & representative of PP.

Joint Meter Reading is being taken jointly by the officials of state utility and project participant's representative on monthly basis and accordingly monthly credit report is being prepared. The monitoring methodology applies consistently the choice of the option selected for monitoring of baseline emissions. The monitoring plan provide procedures for the collection and archiving of all relevant data necessary for estimation or measuring the emission reductions within the project boundary during the crediting period. This is checked through discussion with consultant and the project participant during the telephonic interview.

The VCS MR/04/ has been reviewed to check that the procedure for data uncertainty, emergency preparedness, roles and responsibility, operational and management structure are mention in the MR. The monitoring plan completely describes all measures to be implemented for monitoring all parameters required. The monitoring plan described the positioning of the equipment. Calibration frequency for Energy meters is once in 5 years. Also CEA Notification/16/ No. 502/70/CEA/DP&D dated 17/03/2006 which is considered as national standard mentions that "All interface meters shall be tested at least once in five years." Hence calibration frequency once in 5 years considered for the project activity is found to be appropriate.

The information relating to the project implementation, provided in the Monitoring Report /04/ is consistent with that stated in the registered PD /01/. The data and variables provided in the monitoring report are the same as stated in the registered PD/01/. Total emission reductions achieved under this monitoring period 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020 (including both days) is 673,926 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Assessment team concludes the following:

- a) There is no material discrepancies between project implementation and the project description provided in the registered PD/01/.
- b) The monitoring plan is implemented completely and monitoring system (i.e., process and schedule for obtaining, recording, compiling and analysing the monitored data and parameters) is appropriate.
- c) There is no material discrepancies between the actual monitoring system, and the monitoring plan set out in the project description and the applied methodology/10/.
- d) The GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project have not included in an emissions trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading/15/.
- e) The project has not received or sought any other form of environmental credit, or has become eligible to do so since validation or previous verification/15/.
- f) The project is already registered under VCS and the sub-projects implemented by 7 SPDs are seeking registration under GS.
- g) The project activity is comply with indicators for sustainable development in the interim approval guidelines for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects from India as discussed under section 1.11 of MR.

In view of the information's as verified above the assessment team is able to conclude that the project has been implemented as described in the project description.

## 4.2 Safeguards

### 4.2.1 No Net Harm

There is no negative impact to any socio economic conditions of the region due to the project activity. As per the notifications issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated 13/05/2011; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the solar projects is not required to be done (Ref:<http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OM-SolarPV.pdf>).

This project activity will not involve any negative environmental or socio-economic impacts, as the project activity involves generation of power using solar energy which is a clean source of energy. Hence no mitigation measures are required.

#### 4.2.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

The project activity undergoing second verification and local stakeholder consultation was appropriately conducted prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders during the validation.

The project proponent has implemented mechanism for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during implementation and operation of the project activity. The project proponent has placed a grievance register and a grievance box at site office/21/, where the local villagers can register their concerns.

The assessment team has checked the copy of grievance register maintained at site office/22/ and confirmed that no formal complaints were received during the current monitoring period.

#### 4.3 AFOLU-Specific Safeguards

Not applicable to the project activity.

#### 4.4 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

The calculation of the emission reductions is found to be correct. The details of the reported and the verified values for all parameters are listed in section 4.5 of this report.

The parameter  $EG_{\text{facility},y}$  is directly sourced from monthly credit reports issued by state utility. The PP has provided the complete set of data for all the monitored parameters in the ER spreadsheet/06/. This data has been verified as described in section 4.5 below. The formulae & method used to calculate the baseline emissions, project emissions and leakage are appropriate and in line with the approved methodology ACM0002 version 19.

The PP has calculated the grid emission factor as per the combined margin approach described in the 'Tool to calculate the emission factor for an electricity system', version 07.0. The grid emission factor has been calculated as the weighted average of OM & BM; and has been fixed ex-ante for the entire crediting period.

The OM and BM have been obtained from a publicly available source i.e. "CO2 Baseline Database for Indian Power sector", version 13/11/ published by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, and Government of India. The OM has been determined as the average of the previous 3 years values obtained from the CEA database/11/. The value of BM has been identified directly from the CEA database. The combined margin emission factor was arrived at by applying weights of 75% for OM and 25% for BM, as specified in the tool. The OM and BM have been calculated to be 0.9726 tCO<sub>2</sub>/MWh and 0.8723 tCO<sub>2</sub>/MWh respectively. Applying the weights, the grid emission factor has been calculated to be 0.9475 t CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh.

As per CER excel spreadsheet/06/ submitted by the PP, the net emission reductions for the current monitoring period was verified as 673,926 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the current monitoring period.

The assessment team able to confirm that the GHG emission reductions and removals have been quantified correctly in accordance with the project description and applied methodology.

#### 4.5 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

All the data recorded is in compliance with the registered VCS PD and Monitoring Report. The assessment team has checked the monthly credit reports for electricity generated and supplied by project activity/09/ for the current monitoring period to verify the values of monitoring parameter reported in ER calculation sheet and found to be consistent. Since the monthly generation reports prepared and issued by state utility, they are found to be reliable and authentic.

The SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd is responsible for the operations, maintenance and monitoring of the project activity, whose operation and maintenance activities are ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) certified/20/. Hence it is confirmed that the management system of the VCS project is in place; with the responsibilities properly identified. The same was also verified during the telephonic interview of site personnel.

The monitoring of the project activity is found to be in accordance with the monitoring methodology described in ACM0002, Version 19 /10/. The monitoring mechanism is effective and reliable. During the con-call, personnel involved at various levels of the operation of the project activity have been interviewed to confirm that the plant personnel are conscious of the importance of the monitoring activities. The verification of the plant records and latest photographs are also substantiating consistency in recording and reporting of monitored data.

The screen shots of SCADA system/19/ confirms that the monitoring systems have been installed and are operational. The meters comply with appropriate quality standards applicable for the used technology. The accuracy class of the meters installed for the project activity was verified through the registered VCS PD/01/, MR /04/, and calibration certificates, latest photographs of meters and cross-checked against the PPA/13/ signed for the project activity, found to be consistent.

The supporting records of monthly credit reports /09/ issued by the state utility and invoices raised to NTPC for the entire monitoring period were checked and found to be sufficient to enable verification of emission reductions.

The following parameter has been verified for current monitoring period:

**Parameter:** Quantity of net electricity generation supplied by the project plant/unit to the grid in year y,  $EG_{\text{facility},y}$  (MWh):

Means of verification	Criteria/Requirements	Assessment/Observation
	Measuring /Reading /Recording frequency	<p>The parameter is calculated as difference of <math>EG_{\text{Export}}</math> and <math>E_{\text{Import}}</math> and recorded monthly basis in line with the approved monitoring plan.</p> $EG_{\text{facility},y} = EG_{\text{Export}} - EG_{\text{Import}}$ <p>Where,</p> <p><math>EG_{\text{Export}}</math> = Electricity exported by the project activity to the grid</p> <p><math>EG_{\text{Import}}</math> = Electricity imported by the project activity from the grid</p>
Is measuring and reporting frequency in accordance with the monitoring plan and monitoring methodology? (Yes / No)	Yes. In line with the approved monitoring plan, this parameter is recorded on monthly basis in the monthly generation reports issued by state utility.	
Monitoring equipment	This parameter is measured through ABT meters installed at substation.	
Is accuracy of the monitoring equipment as stated in the monitoring plan? If the monitoring plan does not specify the accuracy of the monitoring equipment, does the accuracy of the monitoring equipment comply with local/national standards, or as per the manufacturer's specification?	The accuracy of the monitoring equipment used to measure the input values used to calculate this parameter is 0.2s as verified from the calibration certificates and actual photographs of meters indicating the accuracy class, which is as per the registered VCS PD/01/ and the norm defined in the PPA/13/.	

	<p>Is the accuracy valid for the entire measuring range or do different accuracy levels apply to different measuring ranges?</p>	<p>Yes. Calibration certificates/07/ are verified and confirmed that accuracy of monitoring instruments is valid for the entire range.</p>
<p>Calibration frequency /interval:</p>	<p>Calibration frequency of the meters is once in 5 years /01/.</p>	
<p>Is the calibration interval in line with the monitoring plan and/or methodology? If the monitoring plan does not specify the frequency of calibration, is the selected frequency in accordance with the local/national standards, or as per the manufacturer's specifications?</p>	<p>Yes. The calibration frequency is in line with the monitoring plan as outlined in the registered VCS PD/01/.</p>	
<p>Is the calibration of measuring equipment carried out by an accredited person or institution?</p>	<p>Yes the calibration is conducted by state utility (APEPDCL) which is a NABL Accredited entity/07/.</p>	
<p>How were the values in the monitoring report verified?</p>	<p>The monthly values of this parameter are directly sourced from credit reports prepared by state utility /09/. The PP has correctly reported the monthly values in the emission reduction spreadsheet/06/.</p> <p>The value of <math>EG_{\text{facility},y}</math> for the current monitoring period is 711,267.88 MWh.</p>	
<p>If applicable, has the reported data been cross-checked with other</p>	<p>Monthly reported values of <math>EG_{\text{facility},y}</math> for the current monitoring period were further cross-checked with the monthly invoices raised by the PP /08/ to state</p>	

	available data?	utility and found to be consistent.
	Does the data management ensure correct transfer of data and reporting of emission reductions and are necessary QA/QC processes in place?	<p>Yes, all the stakeholders, namely, the Grid Authority (APEPDCL)), and the PP implemented the adequate QA/QC procedures.</p> <p>The electricity exported and imported by project activity is recorded by main and check meters (billing meters) installed at project site. All the tri-vector energy meters have the capability of continuous measurement, which was verified through the latest photographs and calibration certificates of energy meters. .</p> <p>Joint meter reading is taken by the officials of APEPDCL in the presence of the PPs representative at the metering points.</p>
	In case project participants have temporarily not monitored the parameter, has either i) a deviation been approved by the CDM EB or ii) has the parameter been estimated as stipulated by Appendix 1 to the CDM Project Standard?	No such issues.
<b>Findings</b>	CL #1, CAR #1 and CAR #2 were raised and resolved.	
<b>Conclusion</b>	The parameter has been monitored appropriately, in accordance with the registered monitoring plan (as per measurement methods and procedures to be applied) and applied methodology. The monitoring results were recorded consistently as per the approved frequency in the monitoring plan.	

**Parameters fixed ex ante:**

$EF_{grid,OM,y}$ ;  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ : it is the operating margin emission factor of Indian grid fixed for the entire crediting period and the value is considered as 0.9726  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ , that is consistent with the registered VCS PD and MR.

$EF_{grid,BM,y}$ ;  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ : it is build margin emission factor of Indian grid fixed for the entire crediting period and the value is considered as 0.8723  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ , that is consistent with the registered VCS PD and MR.

$EF_{grid,CM,y}$ ;  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ : it is the combined margin emission factor of Indian grid fixed for the entire crediting period and the value is considered as 0.9475  $tCO_{2e}/MWh$ , that is consistent with the registered VCS PD and MR.

**Calibration of meters:**

During the verification assessment of the project activity, accuracy of all the metering have been checked and found appropriate. The installation and working conditions of the meters were checked through calibration certificates, latest photographs and were found to be satisfactory. Details of meters are provided in below table:

Meter location	Meter Sr.No.	Calibration Date	Calibration validity date	Calibration delay (Y/N)
Pooling Station 203	Main Meter : 16196315	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	N
	Check Meter: 16196317	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	
Pooling Station 204	Main Meter : 16196320	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	N
	Check Meter : 16196328	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	
Pooling Station 206	Main Meter : 16196408	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	N
	Check Meter : 16196417	20/02/2017 and 17/10/2019	16/10/2024	

It is evident from the above table that calibration of all the existing meters was valid during the current monitoring period, hence no delay in calibration of meters identified. The CEA Notification No. 502/70/CEA/DP&D dated 17/03/2006 and its amendments Notified on 26/06/2010 No. 502/6/2009/DP&D/D-I /16/ which is considered as national standard, mentions that for voltage of 650 V up to 33 Kv, 0.5s accuracy class or above is recommended. Hence, the accuracy classes of 0.2s for the energy meters installed at the project activity site are found to be appropriate.

The details of monitoring equipment are involved in the project activity and their calibration details/07/ are mentioned under Appendix-1 of the VCS MR/04/. The CEA Notification No. 502/70/CEA/DP&D dated 17/03/2006/16/ which is considered as national standard mentions that “All interface meters shall be tested at least once in five years.” Hence, the stipulated calibration frequency once in 5 years is appropriate.

In view of the above discussion the assessment team able to confirm that evidence used to determine the GHG reductions and removals are sufficient and appropriate with respect to quality and quantity.

### GHG Calculations

The emission reduction as per the applied methodology equals the baseline emissions (project emissions and leakage emissions for such project activities is considered zero). The formula provided for the calculation of baseline emissions is:

$$BE_y = EG_{PJ,y} * EF_{CO_2,grid,y}$$

Where:

$BE_y$ : Baseline emissions in year y (tCO<sub>2e</sub>/yr)

$EG_{PJ,y}$ : Quantity of net electricity supplied to the grid as a result of the implementation of the CDM project activity in year y (MWh)

For renewable energy projects  $EG_{PJ,y} = EG_{facility,y}$

$EF_{CO_2,grid,y}$ : CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor of the grid in year y (tCO<sub>2</sub>/MWh)

Thus,

$$BE_y = EG_{facility,y} * EF_{CO_2,grid,y} \text{ Thus, } BE_y = 711,267.88 \text{ MWh} * 0.9475 \text{ tCO}_2/\text{MWh} \\ = 673,926 \text{ tCO}_2$$

As per the applied methodology, emission reductions are calculated as follows:

$$ER_y = BE_y - PE_y$$

$$ER_y = 673,926 - 0$$

$$ER_y = 673,926 \text{ tCO}_2$$

The verification team confirms that appropriate methods and formulae for calculating baseline emissions have been followed. The assumptions, emission factors and default values that were applied in the calculations are justified. The actual emission reduction achieved during the current monitoring period are 10.72 % lesser than the estimated amount of emission reductions as determined in the registered VCS PD, which is due to the low PLF achieved by the project activity during the monitoring period.

It is to be noted that PLF is completely governed by the availability of sunlight, which is natural phenomenon and same is beyond the control of PP, hence the assessment team has concluded the decrease in emission reduction of the project activity is justified and acceptable. All the data were made available and have monitored as per required monitoring frequency. The means of verification for the values of parameters, used for baseline emission calculation, is described above.

#### 4.6 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

Not applicable for the project activity.

## 5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

Earthood Services Private Limited (ESPL), contracted by Infinite Solutions, to perform the independent verification of the emission reductions for the VCS project activity “Solar Energy Project(s) by SB Energy Private Limited” (VCS ID- 1805) in India for the monitoring period 01/01/2019 – 01/02/2020 as reported in the Monitoring Report Version 03 dated 27/04/2020. The SBG Cleantech Project Co. Pvt Ltd is responsible for the collection of data in accordance with the monitoring plan and the reporting of GHG emissions reductions from the project activity.

It is our responsibility to express an independent verification statement on the reported GHG emission reductions from the project activity .ESPL commenced the verification on the basis of the baseline and monitoring methodology ACM0002 Version 19, the monitoring plan contained in the registered VCS PD Version 02, dated 25/02/2019 and VCS guidelines version 4.0, Monitoring Report Version 03 dated 27/04/2020 as per the process described under Section 2 of this report. ESPL verification approach is based on the understanding of the risks associated with reporting of GHG emission data and the controls in place to mitigate these. ESPL planned and performed the verification by obtaining evidence and other information and explanations that ESPL considered necessary to give reasonable assurance that reported GHG emission reductions are fairly stated.

In our opinion the GHG emissions reductions reported for the project activity for the period 01/01/2019 – 01/02/2020 are fairly stated in the Monitoring Report Version 03 dated 27/04/2020. The GHG emission reductions were calculated correctly on the basis of the approved baseline and monitoring methodology ACM0002 , Version 19, and the VCS standard version 4.0.

Verification period: From 01/01/2019 – 01/02/2020 (including both days)

Verified GHG emission reductions and removals in the above verification period:

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Leakage emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
2019 (from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019)	626,090	0	0	626,090
2020 (from 01/01/2020 to 01/02/2020)	47,836	0	0	47,836
Total	673,926	0	0	673,926

Approved by



**Dr. Kaviraj Singh**

**Managing Director**

**Earthood Services Privated Limited**

**Date: 14/05/2020**

**Place: Gurugram, Haryana**

# APPENDIX 1: DOCUMENT REFERENCES

S.No	Title of Document	Version	Date
1.	Registered VCS PD	02	25/02/2019
2.	Joint VCS Validation and Verification Report for the monitoring period from 27/02/2017 to 31/12/2018	02	25/02/2019
3.	VCS Monitoring Report	01	10/02/2020
3.1	VCS Monitoring Report	02	26/03/2020
4.	VCS Monitoring Report (Final)	03	27/04/2020
5.	ER spread sheet	01	10/02/2020
6.	ER spread sheet (corresponding to the final monitoring report)	02	27/04/2020
7.	Certificates of Calibration for all the meters	-	-
8.	Invoice issued by PP to NTPC	For the period 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020	-
9.	Monthly JMRs/ Credit Reports issued by APEPDCL	For the period 01/01/2019 to 01/02/2020	-
10.	Approved Consolidated Methodology ACM0002	19	-
11.	CEA Database	version 13	-
12.	Commissioning certificate issued by APEPDCL	-	Issued on 10/04/2017
13.	Power Purchase Agreement between RREL and APEPDCL	-	04/07/2015
14.	VCS webpage for the project, VCS ID 1805; <a href="https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1805">https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1805</a>	-	-
15.	Letter of declaration dated from PP regarding not having created or sought any other form of environmental credit for the same period	-	-
16.	Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations Notified on 17/03/2006 <a href="#">No. 502/70/CEA/DP&amp;D</a> Amendments Notified on 26/06/2010 <a href="#">No. 502/6/2009/DP&amp;D/D-I</a>	-	-
17.	VCS Standard	Version 4.0	19/09/2019
18.	VCS Program Guide	Version 4.0	19/09/2019
19.	Latest photographs of SCADA system, solar panel, invertors, transformers and energy meters installed at site	-	02/04/2020
20.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISO 9001:2015 certification for Scope of Design, Development and Operation of Solar Power plant</li> <li>Quality policy implemented at site</li> </ul>	-	-
21.	Grievance register/suggestion box placed at site office	-	-

## APPENDIX 2: ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	Full texts
ABT	Availability Based Tariff
BEF	Baseline Emission Factor
BM	Build Margin
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CEA	Central Electricity Authority
CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
CL	Clarification Request
CMS	Central Monitoring System
CMP	Conference of Parties Serving as Meeting of Parties
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DISCOM	Distribution Company
EB	Executive Board
FAR	Forward Action Request
GHG	Green House Gas
ISO	International Standards Organization
JMR	Joint Meter Reading
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt hour
MFR	Multi-Function Relay
MR	Monitoring Report
MWh	Megawatt-hour
PD	Project Description
PLF	Plant Load Factor
PP	Project Proponent
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
APEPDCL	Eastern Power Distribution Company of AP Limited
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCS	Voluntary Carbon Standard
VCSA	Voluntary Carbon Standard Association
VCS PD	VCS Project Description
VCUs	Voluntary Carbon Units

# APPENDIX 3: Findings Overview

**Table 1. Remaining FAR from validation and/or previous verification**

<b>FAR ID</b>	NA	<b>Section no.</b>	NA	<b>Date :DD/MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Description of FAR</b>				
No FAR from validation or verification				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date :DD/MM/YYYY</b>
NA				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
NA				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
NA				

**Table 1. CL from this verification**

<b>CL ID</b>	01	<b>Section no.</b>	2.2	<b>Date : 22/03/2020</b>
<b>Description of CL</b>				
<p>Please submit the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commissioning certificate</li> <li>2. PPA signed for the project</li> </ol> <p>Billing period indicated in the JMR for January 2020 is from 01/01/2020 to 01/02/2020; however the monitoring period end date is 31/01/2020. Kindly clarify the inconsistency.</p> <p>Please submit declaration confirming that the GHG Emission reductions or removals generated by the project activity will not be used for compliance with an emission trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG Emissions.</p>				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date : 26/03/2020</b>
<p>1. PP is hereby submitting the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Commissioning Certificate</li> <li>b. PPA</li> </ol> <p>2. PP would like to clarify that the JMR monthly billing cycle is from 1<sup>st</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> of every month but the electrical energy accounted represents the electricity generation for that particular month only. Like for JMR generated for the month of Jan 2020 represents the electricity generation for the whole January month only but the billing cycle is from 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb 2020. It is to be noted that end date of each month overlaps with the start date of consecutive month, however despite of overlapping there is no double counting of data because meter reading is taken at a particular time of the day (e.g. 11:30 AM). Hence the period for e.g 01/09/2019 to 01/10/2019 would denote reading till that time of 01/10/2019, next period 01/10/2019 to 01/11/2019 denotes reading after that particular time of 01/10/2019. These dates are also reflected in the monthly JMRs issued by state utility based on which ER calculation is done. It is a general practice adopted to prepare the JMR in the state by the DISCOM. However, PP has revised MR to revise the end date of this monitoring period to 01/02/2020 to be in line with the JMR.</p> <p>3. PP is hereby submitting the declaration confirming that the GHG Emission reductions or removals generated by the project activity will not be used for compliance with an emission trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG Emissions.</p>				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				

MR Version 2 Commissioning certificate PPA Declaration of no double accounting	
<b>DOE assessment</b>	<b>Date:</b> 10/04/2020
1. The project proponent has submitted the requested PPA and commissioning certificate and found to be satisfactory. 2. End date of monitoring period is corrected in the MR & ER sheet, found to be consistent with the billing cycle for January 2020 and also the clarification regarding the double counting of generation data as provided is found to be appropriate, hence accepted. 3. The project proponent has submitted the declaration confirming that the GHG Emission reductions or removals generated by the project activity will not be used for compliance with an emission trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG Emissions, found to be appropriate, hence accepted.	
CL #1 is closed.	

Table 2. CAR from this verification

<b>CAR ID</b>	01	<b>Section no.</b>	4.2.2	<b>Date :</b> 22/03/2020
<b>Description of CAR</b>				
Section 2.2 of MR: Please clarify why the mechanism for on-going communication with local stakeholders is not described.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date :</b> 26/03/2020
PP has revised MR section 2.2 to mention the mechanism for on-going communication with local stakeholders in the MR.				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
MR Version 2				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> 10/04/2020
The project proponent has appropriately described the mechanism for on-going communication with local stakeholders in section 2.2 of the MR, found satisfactory.				
CAR #1 is closed.				

<b>CAR ID</b>	02	<b>Section no.</b>	3.3	<b>Date :</b> 22/03/2020
<b>Description of CAR</b>				
Please provide the appropriate explanation of project deviation as described in section 2.3.2 of the MR.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date :</b> 26/03/2020
PP has revised MR section 2.3.2 to provide the complete explanation of project deviation.				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
Revised MR				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> 10/04/2020
As verified through the information provided in section 2.3.2 of the MR, the sub-project implemented by the developer SB Energy Four Private Limited is also registered under VCS but not considered for verification in the current monitoring period. Please clarify the reason for the same and also justify why this case is not considered as project deviation.				
CAR #2 is open				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date :</b> 27/04/2020

PP has updated the MR Section 2.3.2 to mention the deviation undertaken during the current monitoring period, “that out of 8 SPDs under the project activity 7 SPDs are seeking registration under GS mechanism, PP has updated this information under Section 1.9 of the MR as well”. So, PP has considered this as deviation. However, the deviation does not impact the applicability of the methodology, additionality or the appropriateness of the baseline scenario.

**Documentation provided by project participant**

MR Version 3

**DOE assessment**

**Date:** 30/05/2020

There are 8 solar power developers (SPDs) involved in the project activity; however during the current monitoring period sub-projects implemented by 7 SPDs are migrated to another GHG programme (Gold standard), hence not considered for verification in the current monitoring period. The project proponent has considered this instance as project description deviation in the current monitoring period.

The Project proponent has appropriately described the project deviation in the MR, hence accepted.

CAR #2 is closed.

**Table 3. FAR from this verification**

FAR ID	NA	Section No.	NA	Date :DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Description of FAR</b>				
No FAR rose during the verification.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date :DD/MM/YYYY</b>
NA				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
NA				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
NA				

## APPENDIX 4: COMPETENCY STATEMENTS

Competence Statement	
<b>Name</b>	Ravi Kant Soni
<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Education</b>	B. Tech. (Mechanical Engineering) M. Tech. (Energy Management)
<b>Experience</b>	8 Years +
<b>Field</b>	Energy and Climate Change
Approved Roles	
<b>Team Leader</b>	YES
<b>Validator</b>	YES
<b>Verifier</b>	YES
<b>Methodology Expert</b>	AMS-I.D., AMS-I.C., ACM0002

Local expert	YES (India)		
Financial Expert	No		
Technical Reviewer	No		
TA Expert	YES (TA 1.2)		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	04/06/2019
Approved by	Anshika Gupta	Date	04/06/2019

Competence Statement			
Name	Anshika Gupta		
Country	India		
Education	M.Sc. (Climate Science & Policy), TERI University		
Experience	4 Years +		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES		
Validator	YES		
Verifier	YES		
Methodology Expert	AMS-I.A., AMS-II.G., ACM0002, AMS-III.A.V.		
Local expert	YES (India)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	YES		
TA Expert	Yes (TA 1.2, TA 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	12/03/2019
Approved by	Kaviraj Singh	Date	12/03/2019