

## NVR Energy Private Limited

November 26, 2024

| Facilities/Instruments    | Amount (₹ crore) | Rating <sup>1</sup> | Rating Action |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Long Term Bank Facilities | 338.94           | CARE A-; Stable     | Reaffirmed    |

Details of instruments/facilities in Annexure-1.

### Rationale and key rating drivers

CARE Ratings has applied a combined approach for rating the bank facilities of AMPL Cleantech Private Limited (ACPL), Celestial Solar Solutions Private Limited (CSSPL), Narbheram Solar TN Private Limited (NSTNPL), NVR Energy Private Limited (NEPL), Solarcraft Infrastructure and Services Private Limited (SISPL), Solarcraft Mahasolar Private Limited (SMPL, erstwhile NVR Mahasolar Private Limited), NVR Renew Private Limited (NRPL) and RDA Energy Private Limited (REPL), herein referred to as Blupine RG, on account of the presence of an inter-company agreement for pooling of surplus cash flows from the individual entities to service shortfall in debt servicing if any, in any of these entities. The agreement is irrevocable, valid for the full tenor of the rated debt facilities.

The rating reaffirmation on the bank facilities of the combined entity, which is operating 356 MW AC (404 MWp) solar plant factors in long weighted average track record of ~6 years and satisfactory operational performance wherein the generation has been broadly in-line with the P-90 estimates as reflected by weighted average PLF of 19.15% for FY24 and 19.88% for Q1FY25 as against P-90 estimates of 19.33%.

The rating continues to factor in the long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 25 years from COD with multiple central & state counterparties at an average tariff of Rs. 4.36 per unit. Further, the RG structure also benefits on account of geographical and offtakers diversification as the assets are spread across six states in the country and ~72% of the capacity is tied up with the weaker counterparties and the remaining is tied up with moderate to strong counterparties. Furthermore, the rating continues to incorporate strong parentage by virtue of SPVs in the RG being subsidiaries of Blupine Energy Private Limited (BEPL). BEPL is the RE platform promoted and wholly owned by AE-5 for setting up wind, solar, and battery power projects in India. Given Actis' successful past track record of managing various funds in India (with considerable investments in renewable energy), the Blupine RG is expected to have strong managerial, financial and operational linkages with the parent.

The rating is however constrained due to leveraged capital structure on account of the top up debt availed through refinancing in FY23 thereby moderating projected debt service coverage ratio (DSCR). Going forward, Total Debt / EBITDA is expected to be range-bounded between 6.1-6.5x over the next three years. Further, the RG is exposed to counterparty related risks as ~72% of the capacity under the portfolio is contracted with state discoms which have weak credit risk profiles. The rating continues to factor in exposure of project cash flows to adverse variations and interest rate fluctuation risk given the single part tariff of the project whereas the financing is based on floating interest rate.

### Rating sensitivities: Factors likely to lead to rating actions

#### Positive factors

- Higher-than-envisaged generation on a sustained basis along with better-than-base case coverage and leverage metrics.
- Improvement in credit profile of parent. Ie. BEPL
- Improvement in credit risk profile of off-takers (excluding central counterparties)
- Faster than expected deleveraging of the assets

#### Negative factors

- Lower-than-envisaged generation or increase in borrowing cost significantly impacting the debt coverage indicators.
- Significant deterioration in the credit profile of the promoter or dilution in its support philosophy towards its SPVs.
- Deterioration in credit risk profile of the off-takers leading to elongation in receivable period beyond 210 days, adversely impacting the liquidity of the RG
- Slower than expected deleveraging of the assets

<sup>1</sup>Complete definition of ratings assigned are available at [www.careedge.in](http://www.careedge.in) and other CARE Ratings Limited's publications.

**Analytical approach:** CARE Ratings has applied a combined approach for rating the debt facility of the entity, on account of the intercompany agreement for pooling of surplus cash flows from the individual entities to service shortfall in debt servicing, if any, in any of these entities. The agreement is irrevocable, valid for the full tenor of the rated debt facilities and is characterised by the presence of t-minus structured payment mechanism clause between all the 8 entities.

In a 'Combined Approach', CARE Ratings evaluates the group of entities as if it were a single entity and combines the financials and business risk profiles of these entities to take a view on the ratings. All the 8 entities are subsidiaries of BEPL and are engaged in similar lines of business.

Further, CARE Ratings has notched up the rating factoring in the parentage of BEPL. CARE Ratings opines that the assets under RG holds strong importance for the parent because of strategic reason. Hence the rating of Blupine RG has been notched up factoring in support from BEPL.

#### **Outlook: Stable**

CARE Ratings believes that the Blupine RG would continue to benefit from the presence of long term PPAs for the portfolio under the RG. The operational performance of the assets and payment from counter parties is likely to remain in line with the existing trend which supports the outlook.

#### **Detailed description of the key rating drivers:**

##### **Key strengths**

**Firm investment commitment of the Actis platform along with managerial experience underpins support:** BEPL, which directly / indirectly holds the entire stake in these 8 SPVs, is a renewable energy platform promoted by Actis Capital LLP (Actis) for setting up of wind, solar and battery storage power projects in India. BEPL has strong financial backing in the form of US\$ 800 million capital commitment from AE-5. Actis has a successful track record of developing, operating and sell-off of sizable renewable portfolios in the past. Given BEPL's aggressive growth plans in India, Blupine RG's status as its foundation portfolio and Blupine RG's ability to generate consistent cash flow, the 8 SPVs are expected to benefit from the operational linkages with its parent.

**Long-term revenue visibility on account of presence of PPAs for the entire capacity:** The SPVs have entered into PPAs for off take of 355.56 MWAC for a period of 25 years from COD at fixed tariff of ₹ 4.36/unit (capacity weighted average) which is fairly competitive and provides long-term revenue visibility for the Blupine RG.

**Existence of geographical and off-taker diversification:** The RG structure benefits on account of geographical diversification as the installed capacity is spread in six states viz. Tamil Nadu (56%), Maharashtra (14%), Madhya Pradesh (11%), Karnataka (8%), Rajasthan (6%) and Telangana (4%) mitigating asset concentration risk to some extent. The off-taker profile is also diversified comprising seven counterparties i.e., Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO, 56%), M.P. Power Management Company Limited (MPPMCL, 11%) Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI, 17%), NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN, 3%) Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL, 4%), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM, 6%), and Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (MESCOM, 3%). During FY24, 25% of the PBILDT was contributed by projects having strong counterparty (ie. SECI or NVVN).

**Reasonable operational track record:** The operational track record of the RG varies between 4.7 to 11.3 years, with entire capacity having a weighted average track record of around 6 years. On an overall basis, the generation performance of the portfolio stood at 19.15% for FY24 vis-à-vis 19.0% for FY23 and P90 PLF estimate of 19.33%. The RG entities have envisaged capital expenditure for repowering of certain assets from internal accruals. While repowering has been completed for certain assets, the same for remaining assets is expected by FY2025 which will improve the generation to some extent in future.

**Presence of a co-borrower arrangement for assets under the RG:** The 8 SPVs of have formed an RG wherein these entities would be jointly and severally servicing the combined debt obligations. The shortfall in meeting the debt obligations by one entity shall be met through surplus cash flows from the other entities in the structure. The agreement is irrevocable, valid for the full tenor of the rated debt facilities and is characterised by the presence of t-minus structured payment and invocation mechanism between all the 8 entities.

##### **Key weaknesses**

**Moderate financial risk profile of off-takers** The RG is exposed to counterparty related risks as ~80% of the capacity under the portfolio is contracted with state discoms which have moderate to weak credit risk profiles. The average collection period of the portfolio was 125 days in FY24 (PY: 148 days). Nonetheless, the current receivable cycle remains comfortable as the payments are being cleared within 30-90 days of raising an invoice for almost all the off takers along with clearing of past dues. As TANGEDCO and TSSPDCL have opted to liquidate the over dues as per EMI scheme defined in the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022, collection efficiency of the RG has improved to some extent recently.

**High leverage on account of top up debt with moderate debt coverage indicators:** The capital structure of the RG is leveraged on account of the top up debt availed through refinancing in FY23 thereby moderating projected debt service coverage ratio (DSCR). Moreover, the EBITDA of the RG was impacted in FY2024 due to onetime repair and maintenance and legal expenses towards acquisition of assets from erstwhile promoters which impacted the debt coverage indicators. Going forward, Total Debt / EBITDA is expected to be range-bounded between 6.1-6.5x over the next three years.

**Vulnerability of cash flows to variation in weather conditions:** As tariffs are one part in nature, the company may book lesser revenues in the event of non-generation of power due to variation in weather conditions and/or equipment quality. This in turn would affect its cash flows and debt servicing ability.

### Liquidity: Adequate

The liquidity of the RG is adequate, as reflected by free cash and bank balances of around Rs. 129 crore and DSRA of ~Rs. 5 crore in the form of FDs and ~Rs. 105 crore in the form of BGs on a combined basis as on October 2024 end. As per sanction, DSRA requirement ranges from 1-3 quarters of debt servicing and has been maintained primarily in form of BG. Going forward, CARE Ratings expects the generation performance of assets to be in-line with the existing trend and collections to improve. The internal accruals from the structure are expected to be adequate to service its proposed debt obligations.

As per CARE Ratings' base case, gross cash accruals (GCA) for FY25 and FY26 is expected to be rangebound between ~Rs. 100 crore to ~Rs. 101 crore as against the annual repayments of ~Rs. 61 crore and ~Rs. 66 crore respectively.

### Applicable criteria

[Consolidation](#)

[Definition of Default](#)

[Factoring Linkages Parent Sub JV Group](#)

[Liquidity Analysis of Non-financial sector entities](#)

[Rating Outlook and Rating Watch](#)

[Financial Ratios – Non financial Sector](#)

[Infrastructure Sector Ratings](#)

[Solar Power Projects](#)

### About the company and industry

#### Industry classification

| Macro Economic Indicator | Sector | Industry | Basic Industry   |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|------------------|
| Utilities                | Power  | Power    | Power Generation |

NEPL is a special purpose vehicle was incorporated on December 11, 2013. In November 2022, it was acquired by the BluPine group. Currently, 51% share in NEPL is held by ACPL and rest 49% by BEPL. It is operating a 100.36 MW (AC)/ 105.99 MW (DC) Solar PV in Thennampatti village, Ottapidaram taluk, Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu. The company has signed a long-term PPA with TANGEDCO at a fixed tariff of ₹3.47/unit for a period of 25 years.

**Financial Performance - Combined**

| Brief Financials (₹ crore) | March 31, 2023 (A) | March 31, 2024 (A) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total operating income     | 254.00             | 253.00             |
| PBILDT                     | 188.00             | 214.00             |
| PAT                        | -336               | -38.00             |
| Overall gearing (times)    | 8.48               | 14.95              |
| Interest coverage (times)  | 0.37               | 1.05               |

A: Audited Note: these are latest available financial results

**Financial Performance - NEPL**

| Brief Financials (₹ crore) | March 31, 2023 (A) | March 31, 2024 (A) |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total operating income     | 54.43              | 53.84              |
| PBILDT                     | 39.07              | 46.68              |
| PAT                        | -9.97              | 4.68               |
| Overall gearing (times)    | -11.95             | -11.77             |
| Interest coverage (times)  | 1.13               | 1.07               |

A: Audited Note: these are latest available financial results

**Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA:** Not Applicable**Any other information:** Not Applicable**Rating history for last three years:** Please refer Annexure-2**Covenants of rated instrument / facility:** Detailed explanation of covenants of the rated instruments/facilities is given in Annexure-3**Complexity level of various instruments rated:** Annexure-4**Lender details:** Annexure-5**Annexure-1: Details of instruments/facilities**

| Name of the Instrument      | ISIN | Date of Issuance (DD-MM-YYYY) | Coupon Rate (%) | Maturity Date (DD-MM-YYYY) | Size of the Issue (₹ crore) | Rating Assigned and Rating Outlook |
|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Fund-based - LT-Cash Credit |      | -                             | -               | -                          | 15.00                       | CARE A-; Stable                    |
| Fund-based - LT-Term Loan   |      | -                             | -               | March 2042                 | 323.94                      | CARE A-; Stable                    |

**Annexure-2: Rating history for last three years**

| Sr. No. | Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities | Current Ratings |                              |                 | Rating History                              |   |  |   |
|---------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
|         |  | Type            | Amount Outstanding (₹ crore) | Rating          | Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2024-2025 | Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2023-2024 | Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2022-2023                    | Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2021-2022 |
| 1       | Fund-based - LT-Term Loan              | LT*             | 323.94                       | CARE A-; Stable | -   | 1)CARE A-; Stable (09-Oct-23)               | 1)CARE A-; Stable (09-Mar-23)<br>2)CARE A-; Stable (14-Feb-23) | -   |
| 2       | Fund-based - LT-Term Loan              | LT*             | -                            | -               | -   | 1)Withdrawn (09-Oct-23)                     | 1)CARE BBB (RWD) (09-Mar-23)                                   | -   |
| 3       | Fund-based - LT-Cash Credit            | LT*             | 15.00                        | CARE A-; Stable | -   | 1)CARE A-; Stable (09-Oct-23)               | -  | -   |

\*LT: Long term

**Annexure-3: Detailed explanation of covenants of the rated instruments/facilities:** Not Applicable**Annexure-4: Complexity level of the various instruments rated**

| Sr. No. | Name of the Instrument      | Complexity Level |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1       | Fund-based - LT-Cash Credit | Simple           |
| 2       | Fund-based - LT-Term Loan   | Simple           |

**Annexure-5: Lender details**

To view the lender wise details of bank facilities please [click here](#)

**Note on complexity levels of rated instruments:** CARE Ratings has classified instruments rated by it based on complexity. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careedge.in for clarifications.

### Contact us

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Media Contact</b><br><br>Mradul Mishra<br>Director<br><b>CARE Ratings Limited</b><br>Phone: +91-22-6754 3596<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mradul.mishra@careedge.in">mradul.mishra@careedge.in</a><br><br><b>Relationship Contact</b><br><br>Saikat Roy<br>Senior Director<br><b>CARE Ratings Limited</b><br>Phone: 912267543404<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:saiikat.roy@careedge.in">saiikat.roy@careedge.in</a> | <b>Analytical Contacts</b><br><br>Jatin Arya<br>Director<br><b>CARE Ratings Limited</b><br>Phone: 91-120-4452021<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jatin.Arya@careedge.in">Jatin.Arya@careedge.in</a><br><br>Shailendra Singh Baghel<br>Associate Director<br><b>CARE Ratings Limited</b><br>Phone: 91-226-837 4340<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Shailendra.baghel@careedge.in">Shailendra.baghel@careedge.in</a><br><br>Neha Garg<br>Lead Analyst<br><b>CARE Ratings Limited</b><br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Neha.garg@careedge.in">Neha.garg@careedge.in</a> |
|---|--|

### About us:

Established in 1993, CARE Ratings is one of the leading credit rating agencies in India. Registered under the Securities and Exchange Board of India, it has been acknowledged as an External Credit Assessment Institution by the RBI. With an equitable position in the Indian capital market, CARE Ratings provides a wide array of credit rating services that help corporates raise capital and enable investors to make informed decisions. With an established track record of rating companies over almost three decades, CARE Ratings follows a robust and transparent rating process that leverages its domain and analytical expertise, backed by the methodologies congruent with the international best practices. CARE Ratings has played a pivotal role in developing bank debt and capital market instruments, including commercial papers, corporate bonds and debentures, and structured credit.

### Disclaimer:

The ratings issued by CARE Ratings are opinions on the likelihood of timely payment of the obligations under the rated instrument and are not recommendations to sanction, renew, disburse, or recall the concerned bank facilities or to buy, sell, or hold any security. These ratings do not convey suitability or price for the investor. The agency does not constitute an audit on the rated entity. CARE Ratings has based its ratings/outlook based on information obtained from reliable and credible sources. CARE Ratings does not, however, guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of any information and is not responsible for any errors or omissions and the results obtained from the use of such information. Most entities whose bank facilities/instruments are rated by CARE Ratings have paid a credit rating fee, based on the amount and type of bank facilities/instruments. CARE Ratings or its subsidiaries/associates may also be involved with other commercial transactions with the entity. In case of partnership/proprietary concerns, the rating/outlook assigned by CARE Ratings is, inter-alia, based on the capital deployed by the partners/proprietors and the current financial strength of the firm. The ratings/outlook may change in case of withdrawal of capital, or the unsecured loans brought in by the partners/proprietors in addition to the financial performance and other relevant factors. CARE Ratings is not responsible for any errors and states that it has no financial liability whatsoever to the users of the ratings of CARE Ratings. The ratings of CARE Ratings do not factor in any rating-related trigger clauses as per the terms of the facilities/instruments, which may involve acceleration of payments in case of rating downgrades. However, if any such clauses are introduced and triggered, the ratings may see volatility and sharp downgrades.

**For detailed Rationale Report and subscription information,  
please visit [www.careedge.in](http://www.careedge.in)**