

## Hungarian government hitting small renewable plants



By Zsuzsanna Szabo - 27 Apr 2018 19:01 ICIS

LONDON (ICIS)-- Changes to Hungary's renewable regulation have left some producers just five days to submit applications, causing panic among investors. Hungary will potentially miss out on up to 1.5GW of new capacity in nine years due to the abrupt change.

The Hungarian government has scrapped the mandatory offtake of electricity generated by facilities using renewable technologies set out in the Regulation on Renewable Energy Support System (METAR).

One of the first decisions of the newly re-elected government was to change the regulation on renewable electricity, coming into force on 20 April. Under the modified bill, energy producers with less than 0.5 MW of capacity have until midnight 26 May to submit their applications, according to a statement from the Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Authority (MEKH).

Renewable energy producer association MANAP said the tighter deadline will have severe consequences as companies had been allowed to hand in their applications continuously since mid 2017. Preparations normally take six months to a year, it said.

The supporting scheme sets out a 10-year budget for energy producers with less than 0.5 MW capacity. Projects that miss the deadline will not get financial support.

According to Adam Szolnoki, head of MANAP, 200-250 current projects totalling 100-120MW might be affected.

And in the coming nine years, around 1,000 projects are now in jeopardy, wiping away 1.5 GW from Hungary's renewable capacity potential.

METAR, which came into force on 1 January 2017, is a mandatory renewable energy take-off regime, designed to meet EU requirements for a cleaner energy mix. [zsuzsanna.szabo@icis.com](mailto:zsuzsanna.szabo@icis.com)

