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Long-term performance analysis and power prediction of PV technology in the State of Qatar

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Abstract: "Solar photovoltaic (PV) energy in GCC"- the term seems convincing to many 12 solar PV industries due to high solar exposure in GCC region. However, long-term effects 13 such as dust accumulation and seasonal variation are major drawbacks for solar PV 14 energy. This research aims to investigate PV performance for two years in the harsh 15 environment of Qatar. For data collection, a wireless system has been developed to record 16 critical parameters such as solar irradiance, relative humidity, ambient temperature, PV 17 module temperature, dust, wind speed, and output PV power. Results show that due to 18 19 panel dusting for eight months, the PV output power decreased by 50%. Also, owing to lower ambient temperatures, clearer sky and cleaner panels due to occasional rainfall, the 20 PV panels show higher output power in Winter than in Summer season. Besides, within 21 one-month, a cloudy condition in Winter causes 20% drop in average output power. 22 23 Therefore, a strategic plan is needed to build and manage efficiently a PV solar plant in harsh environments such as of Qatar. Energy management requires prediction of energy 24 25 yield. To this end, using machine-learning, a mathematical model has been established which can predict the output power from PV panels under different environmental 26 27 conditions.

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