

Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State transmission system and other related matters) Regulations, 2017

Comments from:

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There are good reasons to build surplus transmission capacity to evacuate energy from generator to load centres. However, in order to achieve this objective in a cost-effective manner and without possible over-investment in transmission corridors, load-generation balancing within existing power system areas should be considered. This is possible through application of technologies such as Active Network Management (ANM) and innovative market mechanisms. ANM is a real-time, coordinated, intelligent control platform that actively manages existing network devices (RE, DER, etc.) within their safe operational limits, ensuring overall grid stability.

Transmission system strengthening to be carried out based on General Network Access (GNA) requirements is expected to spur infrastructure upgrades that (among other benefits) would help in evacuation of renewable energy. However, it is unlikely that these upgrades will totally alleviate the issue of renewable energy (RE) curtailment in RE-rich states where curtailment is used to address operational issues rather than those arising from system congestion. Besides measures such as accurate forecasting and higher spinning reserves etc., active network management would improve renewable energy uptake at lower costs.