



एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

**NTPC Limited**

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय/ Corporate Centre

Ref.No. 01:CD:

Date: 17.02.2023

To,

The Secretary  
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission,  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chanderlok Building,  
36, Janpath,  
New Delhi-110001

**Sub: NTPC Submissions on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023**

Sir,

Hon'ble Commission vide its notification dated 27.01.2023 has published the Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 and has invited views/ comments/ suggestions/ objections from various stakeholders on the proposed Draft Regulations, 2023.

In this regard, please find enclosed submission of NTPC on the above.

Thanking you,

( Ajay Dua )  
ED (Commercial)

**NTPC Submission on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023.**

**1. Amendment to Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:**

*Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:*

*(vii) In case of Renewable Power Park Developer, the following documents shall be submitted:*

- (a) authorisation by the Central Government or the State Government, as applicable, to undertake infrastructural activities including arrangement for Connectivity on behalf of solar power generators or wind power generators; and*
- (b) Registered Title Deed as a proof of Ownership or lease rights or land use rights for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought; and*
- (c) Auditor's certificate, certifying the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity. "*

**Submission:** Development of solar projects under solar Park Model is based on institutional mechanism i.e. solar park DPR approval by SECI/MNRE and development of power evacuation infrastructure common for Solar Projects in Park after connectivity approval from CTU.

Solar Park development schedule is fixed from date of in-principle approval by MNRE and the Solar Park approval may be revoked in case of non-adherence of timeline (subject to consideration of MNRE). Therefore, in case of development of solar projects under Solar Park model approved by MNRE there are no such issues like "squatting"/blocking of ISTS bays.

It is pertinent to mention that the submission of MNRE in CERC order dt. 29th of September, 2017 in Petition No. 145/MP/2017 page 23:

*Quote*

*"In case of Solar, most of the projects are coming in solar parks. **For solar parks, there are separate provisions for grant of connectivity and practically there is no issue of squatting**"*

*Unquote.*

In view of above, it is submitted that Solar Park developer may be relaxed to provide in-principle approval of Solar park in the name of entity by MNRE only as being sought in the existing GNA Regulation.

**Accordingly, the clause may be modified as**

*Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations shall be as under:*

*(vii) In case of Renewable Power Park Developer, the following documents shall be submitted:*

- (a) authorisation by the Central Government or the State Government, as applicable, to undertake infrastructural activities including arrangement for Connectivity on behalf of solar power generators or wind power generators.*

**2. Amendment to Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations:**

*New clause namely, clause (xi) shall be added after clause (x) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations as under:*

*“(xi) In case of Applicants which are REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding Pumped Storage Plant(PSP)) the following documents shall be submitted:*

- (a) Letter of Award (LOA) by, or Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) entered into with, a Renewable Energy Implementing Agency or a distribution licensee or an authorized agency on behalf of distribution licensee consequent to tariff based competitive bidding, as the case may be:*

*Provided that in case of Applicants being multi-located REGS, the details of locations and capacity at each location, duly certified by the Renewable Energy Implementing Agency or the distribution licensee, as the case may be, shall be submitted.*

**Or**

***(i) Registered Title Deed as a proof of Ownership or lease rights or land use rights for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought; and***

***(ii) Auditor’s certificate, certifying the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity. ”***

**Submission:** In case of ground mounted/floating solar project, the land/waterbody requirement is around 5 acres/MW, whereas other RE projects like Wind/ESS requires significant less land area (i.e., ~0.5-1.0 Acres/MW).

Further in case of Solar project, the transfer of ownership of such a large land shall take significant time for registration or lease compared to other RE sources-based project.

Considering that Conn-BG1/2/3 are required to be submitted and Connectivity can also be revoked if financial closer is not achieved within stipulated time, it is requested to relax land area requirement of solar project upto 10% of project area.

Further in line with existing Connectivity regulation-2009 clause which is already proven, the financial closure may be retained as alternative of 10% fund release document for connectivity application. This shall provide flexibility to applicant for making an application.

**Accordingly, the clause may be modified as:**

(i) *Registered Title Deed as a proof of Ownership or lease rights or land use rights for:*

**(a) 10% of the land/waterbody required for the Solar capacity for which Connectivity is sought or**

**(b) 50% of the land required for the Renewable capacity other than solar for which Connectivity is sought and;**

(ii) **Achievement of financial closure, (with copy of sanction letter) or Auditor's certificate, certifying the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity.**

**3. Amendment to Regulation 5.2 of the Principal Regulations:**

*Regulation 5.2 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:*

*"5.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 5.1, a generating station or ESS, with prior approval of CTU, shall be eligible to add, within the quantum of Connectivity granted to it, additional generation capacity or ESS, owned by the generating station or the ESS or any other entity:*

*Provided that the generating station or the ESS being the existing Connectivity Grantee shall be responsible for compliance with the Grid Code and other regulations of the Central Commission for such additional generation capacity including ESS as 'Lead ESS' or 'Lead generator' in terms of Regulation 2.1 (x)(ii) or Regulation 2.1 (y)(ii), as the case may be:*

*Provided further that net injection at any point of time shall not exceed the quantum of total Connectivity granted to the existing Connectivity grantee."*

**Submission:** The explanatory memorandum issued for above amendment, envisages that an ESS or a generating station having Connectivity for a particular installed capacity may wish to allow another generating station not owned by it so that the incoming generating station or ESS complements the generation from existing connectivity grantee such that the overall configuration becomes like an RHGS with each generating station owned by different entity.

Further the generating station or the ESS being the existing Connectivity Grantee shall be responsible for compliance with the Grid Code and other regulations of the Central Commission for such additional generation capacity.

In this regard it is submitted that as the other entity shall not be a connectivity grantee and as per the proposed amendment, the existing grantee shall be responsible for the compliances of extant regulations with no onus on the other entity for such compliances, such arrangement may lead to disputes.

Hence in order to avoid disputes in future, and to ensure the compliances of the regulations the other entity may also be considered as connectivity grantee and made responsible for compliance with the Grid Code and other regulations of the Central Commission.

In view of above the clause may be modified as follows:

*“5.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 5.1, a generating station or ESS, with prior approval of CTU, shall be eligible to add, within the quantum of Connectivity granted to it, additional generation capacity or ESS, owned by the generating station or the ESS or any other entity:*

*Provided that the generating station or the ESS being the existing Connectivity Grantee **and the other new entity** shall be responsible for compliance with the Grid Code and other regulations of the Central Commission for such additional generation capacity including ESS as ‘Lead ESS’ or ‘Lead generator’ in terms of Regulation 2.1 (x)(ii) or Regulation 2.1 (y)(ii), as the case may be:*

*Provided further that net injection at any point of time shall not exceed the quantum of total Connectivity granted to the existing Connectivity grantee.”*

#### **4. Additional Submission:**

Annexure-II of draft amendment provides “*Methodology to determine ‘Direct drawl’ by a State from a regional entity generating station*”.

Further the annexure provides that:

*b) For regional entity generating stations which are yet to be connected to STU and ISTS or only STU system as on coming into force of these regulations.*

*v. While calculating Regional transmission deviation account under Sharing Regulations, actual ISTS drawal data for such host State shall be reduced by quantum of 'Direct drawal' for each time-block as per formula at subclause (iv) of this Regulation.*

**Submission:** It is submitted that methodology has been provided for the state only for the computation of the Transmission deviation charges having direct drawal from a Regional generating station which is connected to STU and ISTS or only STU system.

However, as the power flow in the ISTS and STU lines may vary based on the system conditions i.e. the flow in ISTS lines may be more than the GNA of the Generator hence the methodology for the computation of transmission deviation charges for Regional Generator which is connected to both STU and ISTS network (e.g. upcoming station of NTPC Talcher III) needs to be provided.

The suggestive clause is:

*In case of a Regional Generator which is connected to both ISTS and STU the transmission deviation in a block shall be injection over and above the GNA of the generator and access taken from the State network.*