

**Date:** 04.03.2024

**Ref:** AMSPL/CERC/04/03

To,  
Secretary  
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission  
3rd & 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building,  
36, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001

**Subject: Comments on Draft CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

**Reference: Public Notice dated 16.02.2024 (notification No. L-1/261/2021/CERC) inviting written suggestions / objections / comments from stakeholders**

**Respected Sir,**

This is with reference to the Public Notice dated 16.02.2024 issued by Hon'ble Commission for inviting written suggestions/ objections/ comments from stakeholders on draft CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024.

Amplus Solar is Asia's leading distributed energy company providing low-carbon clean energy solutions to commercial and industrial customers by setting up on-site solar projects (rooftop and ground-mounted) and off-site solar farms. Amplus Solar has also diversified into new avenues such as battery storage, residential solar, and electric vehicle-based logistics solutions.

Amplus Solar owns and manages a portfolio of over 1 GW of distributed solar assets and serves 250+ renowned Indian and multinational firms like Yamaha, Cisco, Amazon, Walmart, Reckitt Benckiser, Schlumberger, Carlsberg, ABB, TVs, Schneider, Qualcomm, Halliburton, GE, Honda among others, tripling its customer base from 2017 to 2023.

Amplus Solar's operational plants are expected to cumulatively generate 22 billion units of electricity over their lifetime. The carbon dioxide abatement over the lifetime of these projects amounts to 21 million metric Tonnes and the environmental impact can also be equated to 24 million mature trees absorbing carbon dioxide for 40 years.

Amplus Solar is a member of the Petroleum Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS) group, Malaysia and is headquartered in Gurugram, India with regional offices in Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Bangkok, Dubai, and Kuala Lumpur. PETRONAS recently established Gentari Sdn Bhd (GENTARI) to independently pursue and deliver integrated sustainable energy solutions, and to capture opportunities in the energy transition. GENTARI offers lower carbon solutions through three initial core pillars – Renewable Energy, Hydrogen

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and Green Mobility, forming a portfolio of solutions cutting across the electron value chain to help customers achieve net zero emissions.

We are hereby submitting our comments under **ANNEXURE - I** on above referred subject for kind consideration of the Hon'ble Commission.

Thanking you,

**For Amplus Energy Solutions Private Limited**



**Vivek Ranjan**

**Manager-Regulatory**

**ANNEXURE - I**

**Comments on Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Draft (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

S. No.	Regulation/ Clause No. of the Draft Regulation	Draft Regulation Title	Provisions in Draft Regulations	Comments
1.	3.1	Amendment to Regulation 3.5 of the Principal Regulations – <b>Application for grant of Connectivity &amp; GNA</b>	3.1 The words “one week” before the words “of the receipt of application” shall be substituted with the words “Eighteen (18) days” in Regulation 3.5 of the Principal Regulations.	<p>The Hon'ble CERC, in its Draft (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024, has proposed extending the timeline for notifying deficiencies in applications for Connectivity or General Network Access (GNA) from one week to eighteen days from the date of application receipt. Additionally, Regulation 3.6 of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2022, stipulates that all Connectivity applications received by the end of a month shall be processed collectively.</p> <p>However, it is respectfully highlighted that if an Applicant submits a Connectivity or GNA</p>

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				<p>application in the second week of the month, and the Nodal Agency, CTUIL, notifies deficiencies on the 18<sup>th</sup> day after application receipt, the application automatically rolls over to the following month for processing. This delay could impact the priority of obtaining Connectivity or GNA and pose investment risks for Project Developers.</p> <p>In light of this, a request is made to the Hon'ble Commission to consider reducing the timeline for Nodal Agency notification of deficiencies in applications from eighteen days to a maximum of two weeks from the date of application receipt. It is also proposed to amend clause 3.1 of the Draft CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024, as follows:</p> <p><i>“3. Amendment to Regulation 3.5 of the Principal Regulations:</i></p>



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2.	5.1	Amendment to Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations – <b>Application for grant of Connectivity</b>	<p>5.1. The sub-clause (c) to Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted, and sub-clause (d) shall be added after sub-clause (c) as under:</p> <p>(c) For a capacity up to 1000 MW - Bank Guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh/ MW and for a capacity more than 1000 MW - Bank Guarantee of Rs. 100 Crore plus Rs. 5 lakh/ MW for capacity over and above 1000 MW, in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights of land for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought subject to provisions of Regulations 11A and 11B of these regulations; or</p> <p>(d) Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of the land along with possession documents for 100% of the land required for the capacity</p>	<p>3.1. The words “one week” before the words “of the receipt of application” shall be substituted with the words “two weeks” in Regulation 3.5 of the Principal Regulations.”</p> <p>It is commendable that Hon’ble CERC has proposed to allow Renewable Power Park Developer to apply for grant of connectivity based on Government Order issued by the concerned Govt. for allotment of the land.</p> <p>Further, it is pertinent to highlight that clause (vii) of the Regulations 5.8 of the GNA (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 requires Renewable Power Park Developers to apply for connectivity based on either 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 or Bank Guarantee (BG) of Rs. 10 Lakh/ MW in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which connectivity is sought.</p>



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			for which Connectivity is sought.	<p>The relevant extract of the Regulations is reproduced below:</p> <p><i>“4.1. Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:</i></p> <p><i>(vii) In case of Renewable Power Park Developer, the documents shall be submitted in combination of clauses (a) and (b) or combination of clauses (a) and (c) as specified hereunder:</i></p> <p><i>(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;</i></p> <p><b><u>(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;</u></b></p>



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				<p><u><i>(c) Bank Guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh/ MW in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights of land for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought subject to provisions of Regulations 11A and 11B of these regulations.</i></u></p> <p><i>(Emphasis Provided)</i></p> <p>Considering this, it's suggested that the Commission permits Renewable Power Park Developers to apply for connectivity based on possession documents for 50% of the required land, along with the Government Order for land allotment. This approach also acknowledges the seriousness of developers in executing projects, especially when they already possess a Government Order for land allotment. Consequently, it's proposed that sub-clause (d) of clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of the Draft GNA (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 be modified as follows:</p> <p><i>“(d) Government Order issued by the</i></p>

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3.	5.2	Amendment to Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations – <b>Application for grant of Connectivity</b>	<p>5.2. The sub-clause (c) to Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted, and sub-clause (d) shall be added after sub-clause (c) as under as under:</p> <p>(c) For a capacity up to 1000MW - Bank Guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh/ MW and for a capacity more than 1000MW - Bank Guarantee of Rs. 100 Crore plus Rs. 5 lakh/ MW for capacity over and above 1000MW, in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights of land for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought subject to provisions of Regulations 11A and 11B of these regulations; or</p> <p>(d) Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of the</p>	<p><i>concerned Government for allotment of the land along with possession documents for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought."</i></p> <p>It is commendable that the Hon'ble CERC has proposed to allow Renewable Energy Generating Station (REGS) or ESS to apply for a grant of connectivity based on Government Order issued by the concerned Govt. for allotment of the land.</p> <p>Further, it is pertinent to highlight that clause (xi) of the Regulations 5.8 of the GNA (First Amendment) Regulations, 2023 requires REGS or ESS to apply for connectivity based on either 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 or Bank Guarantee (BG) of Rs. 10 Lakh/ MW in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which connectivity is sought. The relevant extract of the</p>



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			<p>land along with possession documents for 100% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought.</p>	<p>Regulations is reproduced below:</p> <p>“4.2. New clause namely, clause (xi) shall be added after clause (x) of Regulation 5.8 of the Principal Regulations as under:</p> <p>“(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:</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>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</p>

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				<p>Agency or the distribution licensee, as the case may be, shall be submitted.</p> <p>Or</p> <p><u>(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;</u></p> <p>Or</p> <p><u>(c) Bank Guarantee of Rs. 10 lakh/ MW in lieu of ownership or lease rights or land use rights of land for 50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought subject to provisions of Regulations IIA and 11B of these regulations.”</u></p> <p><i>(Emphasis Provided)</i></p> <p>Considering this, it's suggested that the Commission permits REGS or ESS to apply for connectivity based on possession</p>



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4.	8.1(1)	Amendment to Regulation 11 A of the Principal Regulations – <b>Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee</b>	8.1. Clause (1), Clause (2) and Clause (3) of Regulation 11A of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:  (1) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) covered under sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or Renewable power	documents for 50% of the required land, along with the Government Order for land allotment. This approach also acknowledges the seriousness of developers in executing projects, especially when they already possess a Government Order for land allotment. Consequently, it's proposed that sub-clause (d) of clause (xi) of the Regulation 5.8 of the Draft GNA (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 be modified as follows:  “(d) Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of the land along with possession documents for <b>50% of the land required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought.</b> ”  It is humbly submitted that this Hon'ble Commission in its Draft CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 has proposed to allow Renewable Power Park Developer and REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP)

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			<p>park developer covered under sub-clause (c) of Clause (vii) Regulation 5.8, shall submit documents for land in terms of sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) or sub-clause (b) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, as the case may be, within 18 months of issuance of an in-principle grant of Connectivity or within 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity, whichever is earlier. The Bank Guarantee submitted under subclause (c) of Clause (vii) or under sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations shall be returned within 7 days of submission of stipulated documents as proof of Ownership or lease rights or land use rights.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>to apply for Grant of Connectivity based on Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of land.</p> <p>However, clause (1) of Regulation 11 (A) of the Draft CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 lacks clarity regarding the requirement for Applicants falling under REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable Power Park Developer and sought connectivity based on Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of land to submit land documents as specified in sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) or sub-clause (b) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, as the case may be, within 18 months of issuance of an in-principle grant of Connectivity or within 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity, whichever is earlier.</p>

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				<p>Therefore, in order to avoid ambiguity at a later stage it is requested to the Hon'ble Commission to include the requirement for Applicants falling under REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) covered under sub-clause (d) of clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or Renewable power park developer covered under sub-clause (d) of Clause (vii) Regulation 5.8, to submit land documents for as specified in sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) or sub-clause (b) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, as the case may be, within 18 months of issuance of an in-principle grant of Connectivity or within 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity, whichever is earlier. Consequently, we request Hon'ble Commission to kindly modify clause (1) of Regulation 11A of the Principal Regulations as depicted below:</p> <p><i>"8.1. Clause (1), Clause (2) and Clause (3) of Regulation 11A of the Principal Regulations shall be substituted as under:</i></p>

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				<p>(1) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) covered under sub-clause (c) or <u>sub-clause (d)</u> of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or Renewable power park developer covered under sub-clause (c) or <u>sub-clause (d)</u> of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8, shall submit documents for land in terms of sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) or sub-clause (b) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, as the case may be, within 18 months of issuance of an in-principle grant of Connectivity or within 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity, whichever is earlier. The Bank Guarantee submitted under subclause (c) of Clause (vii) or under sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations shall be returned within 7 days of submission of stipulated documents as proof of Ownership or lease rights or land use rights.”</p>