

F. No: MNRE/P&R/2023-24/6
Government of India
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India.
Dated 26th February, 2024

Office Memorandum

Subject: Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 – MNRE Comments.

This has reference to the draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 for comments.

2. The draft regulations have been perused and the following is suggested in this regard.
 - a. The draft regulations stipulate that 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 will be applicable.

In view of the ambitious RE targets of the country reducing the BG value progressively depending upon project capacity as mentioned below may be considered which will also encourage the developers to bring larger projects:

Project Size	BG Value
Up to 100 MW	10 Lakhs per MW
Beyond 100 MW up to 500 MW (i.e. up to additional 400 MW)	7.5 Lakhs per MW (for portion above 100 MW)
Beyond 500 MW	5 Lakhs per MW (for portion above 500 MW)

Contd. P-2

b. The following specific action points were emerged in the discussions held during the meeting on transmission issues chaired by the Hon'ble Minister (Power & NRE) on 01.11.2023.

- i) In various projects being established under the National Green Hydrogen Mission and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the sanctions granted for these projects shall be considered equivalent of LoA for the purpose of granting connectivity and GNA. The criteria and documentation requirements for applying for connectivity need to be explicitly defined.
- ii) The time-period for submitting the technical data for FTC to be reduced to 60 days before commissioning of the project.
Copy of the MoM is enclosed.

3. In view of the above, it requested that CERC may consider and include the amendments addressing the issues mentioned above.

This has approval of the Secretary, MNRE.

Encl: As above.


(Koushik Goswami) 26/2/24
Sr. DGM
P&RA Division

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

Copy to Joint Secretary (R&R), Ministry of Power, New Delhi

Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) to review the progress of pending issues related to transmission and connectivity for RE projects

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Power & NRE to review pending issues related to transmission/connectivity on 01-11-2023 at 04:00 PM in Room No. 319 (Conference Room), MNRE. The list of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

2. Advisor (NSM) welcomed all the participants and briefed about the objective of the meeting.

3. The matter regarding the status of connectivity applications was discussed. CTU informed that the matter was reviewed by the Hon'ble Minister. A brief on the present status was apprised to the Hon'ble Minister as follows:

Details of connectivity and GNA application received under GNA Regulation (April, 2023 to Sept 2023)

A. Connectivity application

Total Received	: 199 Nos. (56948.3 MW)
Granted/Agreed/ Under Process	: 162 Nos. (46902.5 MW)
Closed*/withdrawn	: 37 Nos. (10045.8 MW)
	<i>(*23 Nos. of application resubmitted)</i>

Reason for closure of applications in brief are as below:

- Invalid land documents : 18 Nos.
- Invalid LOA : 7 Nos.
- Invalid Affidavit/BR/Digital Signature : 5 Nos.
- Incorrect Authorization as RPPD : 4 Nos.
- Withdrawn by applicant : 3 Nos.

B. GNA application

Total Received	: 25 Nos. (9742.82 MW)
Granted/Agreed/Under Process	: 18 Nos. (6635.12 MW)
Closed [#] /withdrawn	: 7 Nos. (3107.7 MW)
	<i>(#3 Nos. of application resubmitted)</i>

Reason for closure of applications in brief are as below:

- Invalid Affidavit/BR/Digital Signature : 6 Nos.
- Withdrawn by applicant : 1 No.

4. CTU further informed that there are additional 46 Nos. of applications, received in the month of Oct. 2023 and these applications are currently under consideration for connectivity and will be cleared in the month of Nov. 2023. CTU also informed that power evacuation is becoming difficult due to the concentration of the projects in a particular location (as in the case of Rajasthan) and going forward this may require HVDC corridors/lines which requires more time for execution.

5. Thereafter, the status of issues related to delay in transmission was presented by CTU. The region-wise brief status of the projects is as under:

Total projects presented for review	: 52 Nos.
a) Northern Region	: 26 Nos.
• No issues	: 5 Nos.
• Intra state issues	: 8 Nos.
• Issue pending in CERC	: 1 Nos.
• Issues due to Supreme Court Order on GIB/ Supreme Court GIB Committee Clearance	: 10 Nos.
• Issues due to Location of Sikar-II Sub-station	: 8 Nos.
b) Western Region	: 25 Nos.
• No Issues	: 2 Nos.
• KPS-1 Land Issue	: 5 Nos.
• Project shifted from Rajasthan to Khavda & LTA Intimation issue	: 18 Nos.
c) Southern Region	: 1 No

During the presentation, status of the 52 projects with issues in transmission were then discussed and the project wise update, as per the discussion held is given at **Annexure -II**.

6. During the discussion, the following action points emerged:

- i) In various projects being established under the National Green Hydrogen Mission and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, where the Letters of Authorization (LoA) are not issued, the sanctions granted for these projects shall be considered equivalent of LoA for the purpose of granting connectivity and GNA. The criteria and documentation requirements for applying for connectivity need to be explicitly defined. **(Action: MoP/CEA/CTU/CERC)**
- ii) A robust reporting system should be developed by CEA to effectively monitor the status of implementation of transmission system by TSPs. **(Action: MoP/CEA/CTU)**
- iii) MNRE to modify the formats for monitoring the implementation of RE projects **(Action: MNRE)**
- iv) A letter to the GIB committee may be issued to give permission to the developers to lay overhead transmission lines for voltage exceeding 220 kV with bird diverters, as the feasibility of undergrounding of 220 kV and higher lines is not feasible as found by the expert technical committee of the CEA. **(Action: MNRE)**
- v) The application for connectivity is being asked to be submitted one year in advance. This is too much. Developers may be asked to submit the technical data to the CTU 2 months (60 days) prior to commissioning of the RE project. **(Action: CTU)**
- vi) Consider a tariff ceiling for all forthcoming bids to be invited. **(Action: MNRE/REIAs)**

- vii) Bidding agencies should make an effort to avoid shifting bid dates or extensions, thereby allowing developers to benefit ISTS waiver provisions. **(Action: REIAs/Bidding Agencies)**
 - viii) Conduct regular third-party surveys to assess the solar manufacturing capacity in India. **(Action: Grid Solar Division, MNRE)**
 - ix) There are limited number of equipment manufacturers of GIS, Transformer, Reactors, OPGW, etc in the transmission system. It impacts the project commissioning timelines. Therefore, permission may be granted by CEA /MoP to consider manufacturers from all countries, provided these equipment are manufactured in India. **(Action: MoP/MNRE/CEA)**
 - x) Review on the progress of transmission infrastructure for the 30 GW RE capacity coming up in Khavda, Gujarat. **(Action: MNRE/MoP/CEA/CTU)**
7. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all participants.
