



8th March 2024

Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi

Secretary

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

3rd & 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building,

36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

Subject: - WIPPA Comments/suggestions on Draft 2nd Amendment to CERC Connectivity and GNA Regulations, 2024

Respected Sir,

We wish to introduce the Wind Independent Power Producers Association (“WIPPA”), a national level registered body having the association of 40 Independent Power Producers (“IPPs”) of capacity around 30,000 MW with an asset base of more than Rs. 2,00,000 Crores and a healthy pipeline in the wind energy sector in India through policy advocacy and presenting independent views/ suggestions/analysis to various stakeholders at various forums to provide a fillip to the sector.

This is with reference to the CERC notification on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024 dated 16th February 2024. We are submitting our comments as **Annexure-I** for your reference.

We request CERC to kindly consider our comments/suggestions while finalizing the Draft 2nd Amendment to CERC Connectivity and GNA Regulations, 2024

Yours's Sincerely

For **Wind Independent Power Producers Association**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PS', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Parag Sharma

President

Email: president@wippaindia.in

Enclosed: Annexure - 1



ANNEXURE-1

WIPPA Comments/suggestions on Draft 2nd Amendment to CERC Connectivity and GNA Regulations, 2024

Sr no.	Original Regulations	Draft Amendment paper	Suggested change	Remarks
1.	3.5 After scrutiny, the Nodal Agency shall intimate the deficiencies, if any, in the application for grant of Connectivity or grant of GNA, to the Applicant within one week of the receipt of application, in order of date and time of receipt of application. The Applicant shall rectify the deficiency within one week thereafter, failing which the application shall be closed and 20% of the application fee shall be forfeited. Balance 80% of the application fee shall be refunded by the Nodal Agency to the Applicant within 15 days of closure of the application.	3.5 After scrutiny, the Nodal Agency shall intimate the deficiencies, if any, in the application for grant of Connectivity or grant of GNA, to the Applicant within 18 days of the receipt of application, in order of date and time of receipt of application. The Applicant shall rectify the deficiency within one week thereafter, failing which the application shall be closed and 20% of the application fee shall be forfeited. Balance 80% of the application fee shall be refunded by the Nodal Agency to the Applicant within 15 days of closure of the application.	3.5 After scrutiny, the Nodal Agency shall intimate the deficiencies, if any, in the application for grant of Connectivity or grant of GNA, to the Applicant within 18 days of the receipt of application, in order of date and time of receipt of application. The Applicant shall rectify the deficiency within one-week 18 days thereafter, failing which the application shall be closed and 20% of the application fee shall be forfeited. Balance 80% of the application fee shall be refunded by the Nodal Agency to the Applicant within 15 days of closure of the application.	In line with additional time proposed to be provided to the Nodal Agency to intimate the deficiencies, the applicants also sometime faces issues to rectify the deficiency within the provided timeline for only one week. In view of the same, it is requested to revise the timelines for rectifying the deficiencies by applicant from one week to maximum 18 days from date of intimation of deficiencies.
2.		5.8 (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: ... (d) Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of the land along with possession documents for 100% of the land	5.8 (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: ... (d) Government Order issued by the concerned Government for allotment of the land along with possession documents for 100% of the land	In the context of GOs, it is important to note that the procedure of GO is not uniform across all States, and is applicable only State of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh., Thus allowing such GOs for applying ISTS connectivity will lead to non-uniformity in connectivity applications under these Regulations.



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		<p>required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought.</p>	<p>required for the capacity for which Connectivity is sought.</p>	<p>Further, most of the GOs have been issued long back based on applications by prospective project developers and are without the underlying land. In some cases, GOs have been issued long back for the development of renewable projects in various States but have made no substantial progress, such as land acquisition or application for connectivity, etc. It may also be noted that the GOs issued by the State Government do not grant any rights to developers until they acquire land for the development of the project.</p> <p>The GNA Regulations already allows any of the developer to apply for connectivity based on 50% land or even without land (i.e. under Land-BG route). Thus, there is no need for an additional route based on GO+100% Land, when Regulations already allows connectivity application alone on the basis of 50% land/Land BG.</p> <p>Thus, the existing routes are sufficient for serious developers to</p>



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				<p>apply for ISTS connectivity. And this additional GO route for getting ISTS connectivity would be unfair to developers who are taking every step as specified in the GNA Regulations 2022.</p> <p>In light of the above, we submit that the current criteria (LoA/Land/BG) are rational, sufficient and more importantly can be implemented uniformly across all the States and there is no need to add such additional route for ISTS connectivity. This will help maintain the integrity and effectiveness of the GNA Regulations 2022 and contribute to the continued success of the RE sector in India. We thus submit that the additional clause 5.8(xi) (d) should be deleted.</p>
3.	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee</p> <p>...</p> <p>(2) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which final grant of connectivity has been issued, shall submit Auditor's certificate, certifying</p>	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee</p> <p>...</p> <p>(2) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which a final grant of connectivity has been issued shall submit an Auditor's certificate,</p>	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee</p> <p>...</p> <p>(2) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which a final grant of connectivity has been issued shall submit an Auditor's certificate,</p>	<p>At the outset, we support the linking of deadline for release of equity with the SCOD instead of date of grant of connectivity.</p> <p>However, the following is submitted for your kind consideration:</p>



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	<p>the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity within a period of 12 months from the date of issuance of final grant of connectivity.</p>	<p>certifying the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity latest by 12 months prior to the scheduled date of commercial operation of such applicant: Provided that in case of REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) who have been granted Connectivity under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or are subsequently covered under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8, the scheduled date of commercial operation for the purpose of Clause (2) of Regulation 11A shall be considered as SCOD, as extended by REIA or a distribution licensee or an authorized agency on behalf of distribution licensee from time to time, subject to the condition that any extension in the timeline to release 10% equity infusion due to extension in SCOD shall not be allowed more than 12 months from the original timeline as per initial SCOD.</p>	<p>certifying the release of at least 10% of the project cost including the land acquisition cost through equity latest by 12 6 months prior to the scheduled date of commercial operation of such applicant or 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity under the GNA Regulations, whichever is later.</p> <p>Provided that in case of REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) who have been granted Connectivity under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or are subsequently covered under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8, the scheduled date of commercial operation for the purpose of Clause (2) of Regulation 11A shall be considered as SCOD, as extended by REIA or a distribution licensee or an authorized agency on behalf of distribution licensee from time to time, subject to the condition that any extension in the timeline to release 10% equity infusion due to extension in SCOD shall not be allowed more than 12 months from the original timeline as per initial SCOD.</p>	<p>Under 2009 Connectivity Regulations, projects had to fulfil the condition of release of 10% project cost through equity 9 months prior to SCOD. Further the extended SCOD was also allowed to be considered for fulfilling such requirement of equity release.</p> <p>After subsequent transition to connectivity under GNA Regulations, developer's liability for release of equity got linked with date of transition to GNA Regulations (within 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity i.e. date of transition of Connectivity to GNA Regulations). The developers accordingly planned and realigned the phasing of capital expenditure and release of equity to meet such the regulatory requirement.</p> <p>Now, the 2nd amendment proposes to link the last date for release of equity with SCOD (i.e. 12 months prior to SCOD), however such date in some of the transition cases is falling prior to earlier deadline which was linked with the date of</p>



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				<p>final grant of connectivity under GNA Regulations (i.e. date of transition). It may now be difficult for such developers to again revise these timelines for release of equity. It is therefore requested that such cases of connectivity transition may be protected. And in view of the same, we request to consider the date for release of equity within 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity under the GNA Regulations or 12 months prior to SCOD whichever is later.</p> <p>Further, in most situations, actual spend in the project happens during the last 6-9 months of project development. Also, often REIAs provide SCOD extensions in the last phase of the SCOD timeline. Due these practical reasons developers are facing difficulties in submitting conclusive proof related to the 10% equity within the proposed 12 months before revised SCOD of project. It is therefore requested to kindly reduce such timelines from</p>



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				12 months to 6 or 9 months prior to the SCOD.
4.	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee ...</p> <p>(3) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which final grant of connectivity has been issued, shall have to achieve the financial closure for the capacity of such Connectivity, (a) within a period of 12 months from the date of issuance of final grant of connectivity, if the start date of Connectivity is within 2 years from date of issuance of final grant of connectivity or (b) a period equivalent to 50% time period between issue of final grant of Connectivity and start date of Connectivity, if the start date of Connectivity is more than 2 years from date of issuance of final grant of connectivity:</p> <p>Provided that such an applicant shall submit proof of Financial Closure of the project (with copy of loan sanction letter or proof of first disbursement of loan amount) or copy of board resolution (if internal funding is planned for 100% of</p>	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee ...</p> <p>(3) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which a final grant of connectivity has been issued shall have to achieve the financial closure for the capacity of such Connectivity, latest by 12 months prior to the scheduled date of commercial operation of such applicant:</p> <p>Provided that such an applicant shall submit proof of Financial Closure of the project (with a copy of the loan sanction letter or proof of first disbursement of the loan amount) or a copy of board resolution (if internal funding is planned for 100% of the project cost) to CTU within 15 days of achieving the financial closure:</p> <p>Provided that in case of REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) who have been granted Connectivity under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation</p>	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee ...</p> <p>(3) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station), ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer to which a final grant of connectivity has been issued shall have to achieve the financial closure for the capacity of such Connectivity, latest by 12 months prior to the scheduled date of commercial operation of such applicant or 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity under the GNA Regulations, whichever is later.</p> <p>Provided that such an applicant shall submit proof of Financial Closure of the project (with a copy of the loan sanction letter or proof of first disbursement of the loan amount) or a copy of board resolution (if internal funding is planned for 100% of the project cost) to CTU within 15 days of achieving the financial closure:</p> <p>Provided that above requirement of submitting the proof of Financial</p>	<p>At the outset, we support the linking of deadline for release of equity with the SCOD instead of date of grant of connectivity.</p> <p>However, the following is submitted for your kind consideration:</p> <p>Under the 2009 Connectivity Regulations, projects had to fulfil the Financial Closure (FC) requirements 9 months prior to SCOD. Further the extended SCOD was also allowed to be considered for fulfilling such requirement of completing the FC.</p> <p>After subsequent transition to connectivity under GNA Regulations, developer's liability to complete the FC got linked with date of transition to GNA Regulations (within 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity i.e. date of transition of Connectivity to GNA Regulations). The developers accordingly planned and realigned</p>



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	<p>the project cost) to CTU within 15 days of achieving the financial closure.</p>	<p>5.8 or are subsequently covered under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8, the scheduled date of commercial operation for the purpose of Clause (3) of Regulation 11 A shall be considered as the SCOD, as extended by REIA or a distribution licensee or an authorized agency on behalf of distribution licensee from time to time, subject to the condition that any extension in the timeline to achieve the milestone of Financial Closure due to extension in SCOD shall not be allowed more than 12 months from the original timeline as per initial SCOD.</p>	<p>Closure shall not be applicable in case of REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) who have been granted Connectivity under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or are subsequently covered under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8., the scheduled date of commercial operation for the purpose of Clause (3) of Regulation 11 A shall be considered as the SCOD, as extended by REIA or a distribution licensee or an authorized agency on behalf of distribution licensee from time to time, subject to the condition that any extension in the timeline to achieve the milestone of Financial Closure due to extension in SCOD shall not be allowed more than 12 months from the original timeline as per initial SCOD.</p>	<p>the FC and the phasing of capital expenditure to meet such the regulatory requirement.</p> <p>Now, the 2nd amendment proposes to link the last date for completion of FC with SCOD (i.e. 12 months prior to SCOD), however such date in some of the transition cases is falling prior to earlier deadline which was linked with the date of final grant of connectivity under GNA Regulations (i.e. date of transition). It may be difficult for such developers to again revise these timelines for FC. It is therefore requested that such cases of connectivity transition may be protected. And in view of the same, we request to consider the date for completion of FC within 12 months from date of final grant of connectivity under the GNA Regulations or 12 months prior to SCOD whichever is later.</p> <p>It is important to note the developers are already required to submit the proof for release of 10% project cost through equity. Also, under the LOA/PPA route</p>



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				<p>the REIA already track the status of FC as part of PPA condition. Submission of FC documents to CTUIL is creating an undue burden of additional documentation which otherwise is already monitored by REIA. Especially when developers have submitted adequate BGs and are also timely releasing the funds through equity. It is therefore requested to completely remove such requirement of submission of FC to CTUIL at least under LOA/PPA route as such parameter is already being monitored by REIA/Discoms.</p>
5.		<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee ...</p> <p>(5) In case of Applicants which have been granted Connectivity under subclause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, and whose LoA or PPA gets terminated prior to the COD of the project, for the reasons not attributable to such Applicant and in cases where LoA or PPA has been terminated by the entity and the same</p>	<p>11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee ...</p> <p>(5) In case of Applicants which have been granted Connectivity under subclause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, and whose LoA or PPA gets terminated prior to the COD of the project, for the reasons not attributable to such Applicant and in cases where LoA or PPA has been terminated by the entity and the same</p>	<p><u>Conversion of LoA based connectivity into Land BG Route:</u></p> <p>Since in case of connectivity obtained under LOA/PPA route, the developer never had the regulatory requirement of getting the 50% land within the predefined timeframe. Further to optimize the land cost, most of the developers undertook the possession / right of use of land at the latest possible date.</p>



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		<p>has also been agreed by the REIA or Distribution Licensee, such Applicant may convert the Connectivity, in full or part, granted under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations to Connectivity under sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these Regulations with no change in the start date of Connectivity consequent to such conversion and compliance to requirements of Clause (2) and Clause (3) of this Regulation as applicable to entities covered under subclause(b) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided that in case of conversion of part quantum of Connectivity from LOA or PPA to Land, balance quantum of Connectivity shall be revoked and shall be governed in terms of Regulation 24.6 of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided further that such subsequent conversion from Land to LoA or PPA, for the purpose of fulfilling requirements under Regulation 11A and Regulation 24.6 of these</p>	<p>has also been agreed by the REIA or Distribution Licensee, such Applicant may convert the Connectivity, in full or part, granted under sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations to Connectivity under sub-clause (b) and (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these Regulations with no change in the start date of Connectivity consequent to such conversion and compliance to requirements of Clause (2) and Clause (3) of this Regulation as applicable to entities covered under subclause(b) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided in case of conversion sub-clause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 to sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 the connectivity grantee shall be allowed 12 months from date of such conversion to submit possession documents for 50% of land.</p> <p>Provided that in case of conversion of part quantum of Connectivity from LOA or PPA to Land, balance</p>	<p>Now, under the scenario of termination of LOA/PPA, the 2nd amendment proposes to allow transition of connectivity to land route. However, the connectivity grantee, now has to fulfil the requirement of submission of 50% land documents on immediate basis. (i.e. as if their connectivity was granted under the Land route from the beginning).</p> <p>This creates a challenge for developers who previously planned their land acquisition strategy based on then prevailing Regulations which had no such requirement under LOA/PPA route. They may be unable to meet the 50% land requirement on immediate basis at the time of PPA termination for conversion of connectivity route.</p> <p>In order to overcome such challenge, the option to convert the LOA based connectivity to first to Land-BG route may be allowed and subsequently developers may have to submit the Land</p>



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		<p>regulations, shall not be permitted under Clause (4) of this Regulation</p>	<p>quantum of Connectivity shall be revoked and shall be governed in terms of Regulation 24.6 of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided further that such subsequent conversion from Land to LoA or PPA will be permitted however, revision for the purpose of fulfilling requirements under Regulation 11A and Regulation 24.6 of these regulations, shall not be permitted under Clause (4) of this Regulation.</p> <p>(6) In case of Applicants which have been granted Connectivity under subclause (a) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, and whose LoA or PPA gets terminated prior to the COD of the project, for the reasons not attributable to such Applicant and in cases where LoA or PPA has been terminated by the entity and the same has also been agreed by the REIA or Distribution Licensee, such Applicant may replace the existing LoA or PPA with another LoA or PPA.</p>	<p>possession documents within 12 months from such conversion.</p> <p><u>Conversion of LoA based connectivity into another LoA Route:</u> It is further requested that in case of PPA termination (for reasons not attributable to connectivity grantee), the connectivity grantee should be allowed to replace its LOA/PPA with another LOA/PPA. In such case the grantee does not have to change its connectivity route. Also, this cannot be misused as such case can be exercised only in if termination of existing LOA/PPA happens. Therefore, a new clause (6) is proposed to be added.</p> <p><u>Again conversion of BG / Land based connectivity into LoA Route:</u> Further, the second proviso of 11A (5) mentions that subsequent conversion from Land to LoA or PPA, for the purpose of fulfilling requirements under Regulation 11A and Regulation 24.6 of these regulations, shall not be permitted under Clause (4) of</p>



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				<p>this Regulation. The interpretation of above, seems that subsequent conversion of Land route to LOA/PPA route may be allowed but the timelines for 10% equity spend and FC will not change. Whereas Para 21 of the Explanatory Memorandum mentions that <i>“It has also been proposed that subsequent conversion from land route to LoA/PPA route shall not be allowed.”</i></p> <p>The generator has initially developed the project under bidding, after cancellation of bid/termination of PPA, for no fault of the generator, he is forced to retain connectivity under the land route to protect his investment. Under such a scenario, the generator would like participate in new bids.</p> <p>It is requested that post conversion of connectivity from LOA/PPA route to Land / Land-BG Route, the subsequent conversion from Land to LOA/PPA route may also be allowed, however to avoid misusing such flexibility the date</p>



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				for fulling the conditions of 10% equity and FC may remain as per original grant in such subsequent reconversion.
6.	24.6 Revocation of Connectivity (1) ... (c) Connectivity granted to an REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) shall be revoked, if LOA or PPA on basis of which Connectivity was granted, is terminated prior to the COD of the project.	No changes proposed in Draft 2 nd Amendment	24.6 Revocation of Connectivity (1) ... (c) Connectivity granted to an REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) other than those covered in clause (5) of Regulation 11A , shall be revoked, if LOA or PPA on basis of which Connectivity was granted, is terminated prior to the COD of the project.	Change suggested is to exclude the cases which are covered under Clause (5) of Regulation 11A allowing conversion of connectivity from LOA/PPA route to Land route.
7.	8. Connectivity Bank Guarantee 8.1. Connectivity Bank Guarantee shall be submitted by an Applicant in three parts, Conn-BG1 amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs, and Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3, as provided in Regulations 8.2 and 8.3 of these regulations.			It may be noted that most of new connectivity being applied are expected to get effective from year 2029/2030 i.e. around 5-6 years from now. In view of above, the BGs required to be submitted as part of connectivity application need to have validity till such period plus additional 5 years post COD of the project. It is difficult for the developers to get BGs with such long validity period. It is therefore requested to allow the applicants to submit the



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				<p>revolving BGs with 2 years of validity which can be then replaced with a new BG after 2 years.</p>
8.	<p>16. Treatment of Connectivity Bank Guarantee 16.1. Conn-BG1 shall be returned within 30 days of declaration of commercial operation of full capacity by the Connectivity grantee. 16.2. Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3 shall be returned in five equal parts over five years corresponding to the generation capacity which has been declared under commercial operation by the Connectivity grantee.</p>		<p>16. Treatment of Connectivity Bank Guarantee 16.1. Conn-BG1 shall be returned within 30 days of declaration of commercial operation of full capacity by the Connectivity grantee. 16.2. Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3 shall be returned in five equal parts over five years 60 days corresponding to the generation capacity which has been declared under commercial operation by the Connectivity grantee.</p>	<p>In the draft regulations, the Hon'ble commission mentioned that Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3, shall be returned in five equal parts over five years corresponding to the generation capacity which has been declared under commercial operation by the Connectivity grantee. This is an additional hurdle for renewable generators as the time of holding bank guarantee is quite long.</p> <p>In any case, the generator has no obligation to make payment of any transmission charges and losses after commissioning of project. It is to be noted that RE generators, specifically Wind / Solar generator has no variable cost and in any circumstance Wind / Solar generator will not backout from connected system. In view of that there is no need to hold BGs of such a huge amount for next 5 years, which will create an additional burden on for Wind /</p>



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				Solar generator to participate in upcoming bids and need to be release within 60 days after COD.
9.	<p>Clause 20.4 of 1st Amendment of GNA Reg.</p> <p>Entities covered under clauses (ii) and (iii) of Regulation 17.1 of these regulations may apply for GNARE indicating bifurcation of GNARE within the region and from outside the region, from a specified date, for a specified quantum, and for a specified period of more than eleven months:</p> <p>Provided that the entities covered under clause (ii) of Regulation 17.1 of these regulations shall furnish consent of the concerned STU in terms of availability of transmission capacity in intra-State transmission system for such quantum and period of GNARE:</p>		<p>Clause 20.4 of 1st Amendment of GNA Reg.</p> <p>Entities covered under clauses (ii) and (iii) of Regulation 17.1 of these regulations may apply for GNARE indicating bifurcation of GNARE within the region and from outside the region, from a specified date, for a specified quantum, and for a specified period of more than eleven months:</p> <p>Provided that the entities covered under clause (ii) of Regulation 17.1 of these regulations shall furnish consent of the concerned STU in terms of availability of transmission capacity in intra-State transmission system for such quantum and period of GNARE:</p> <p>Provided that the Concerned STU should provide consent in terms of availability of transmission capacity in intra-State transmission system for such quantum in a time bound manner of 15 days OR Deemed Consent from the date of application, subject to the</p>	<p>It has been observed that states are not actively providing consent for the procurement of power from Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) networks. The specific request is to introduce a provision that mandates the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) or Deemed NOCs for existing consumers in a time-bound manner of 15 days.</p> <p>Since, exiting consumer will only reschedule the priority to procure power from one source to another source, without any additional load / contract demand. In such circumstances, there are very low chance for enhancement / upgradation of transmission line and request to provide Consent in time bound manner of 15 days from the date of applications.</p> <p>Here are key points in support of your proposal:</p>



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			existing consumer is not increasing existing load / contract demand.	<p>Regulatory Compliance: The proposal aligns with the existing procedure wherein State Transmission Utilities (STUs) are responsible for checking transmission feasibility for consent. By introducing a time-bound provision for NOC issuance, it emphasizes regulatory compliance while promoting efficiency in the process.</p> <p>Enhanced Regulatory Efficiency: The suggested time-bound manner of 15 days for providing NOCs or Deemed NOCs introduces a level of efficiency into the regulatory process. This can help in reducing delays, providing clarity to developers, and fostering a more conducive environment for investment in power projects.</p> <p>Investor Confidence: Streamlining the NOC issuance process and setting a specific timeframe can enhance investor confidence. Predictability and efficiency in regulatory processes are crucial factors that contribute</p>



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				to a positive investment climate, attracting more stakeholders to participate in the energy sector.

In addition to above, we request the Commission to address the following issues:

- 1) **Partial conversion of connectivity under Land/Land BG route to LOA/PPA route and association with more than one LOA/PPA:** Regulation 24.6(1)(b) allows conversion of connectivity originally granted under Land/Land BG route, to LOA/PPA route. Also, in such cases the last date for declaration of COD of the project shall be SCOD of the project, or as extended or delayed commissioning permitted by the REIA or the Discom. The provision clearly allows conversion of connectivity from Land/Land BG route to LOA/PPA route. However, the provision is not clear regarding part conversion of such connectivity under Land/Land BG route to LOA/PPA route. It is also not clear if a connectivity under Land route can be converted to LOA/PPA route by association with more than one LOA/PPA. Further, it is also not explicitly provided in the Regulations that the LOA/PPA entered by the subsidiary company (which is executing the project) can also be used for conversion of connectivity granted to Parent company under Land/Land BG route to the LOA/PPA route.

It is thus requested that the conversion of connectivity granted under land/land BG route may be allowed:

1. For partial conversion to LoA based connectivity with remaining quantum continuing to be land based connectivity
 2. Conversion in more than one LoAs
 3. Conversion to LoA route in case the LoA is with subsidiaries/ parent
- 2) **Extension in Start Date of Connectivity to align with extended date of project COD as permitted by REIA/Discom:** Regulation 24.6 consider the project COD same as the extended SCOD of the project as permitted by the REIA /Discom. However, the Regulations do not clearly specify whether the start date of connectivity shall also be extended in line with the extended SCOD permitted by REIA/Discom. It is therefore requested that the start date of connectivity shall also be extended in line with the project COD or extension in SCOD as allowed/permitted by REIA/Discom. Please refer the following illustrations for better understanding of both above issues:

Scenario	Following should be allowed
Scenario 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity has been obtained by Parent Company “P” for 300MW under Land Route with connectivity start day 1st Jan’25. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Connectivity of 130MW should be allowed to be converted to LOA/PPA route with remaining 170MW connectivity still valid and considered under Land route. 2) The Start date of connectivity:



Scenario	Following should be allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOA/PPA has been signed by Subsidiary Company “S1” for 130MW with project SCOD as 1st Jan’26 (S1 is subsidiary of P) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start date of connectivity of 130MW converted to LOA/PPA route with association with S1, should be allowed to be considered as 1st Jan’26 ▪ Remaining connectivity of 170MW under Land route should be considered as 1st Jan’25
<p>Scenario 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity has been obtained by Parent Company “P” for 300MW under Land Route with connectivity start day 1st Jan’25. • LOA/PPA has been signed by Subsidiary Company “S1” for 130MW with project SCOD as 1st Jan’26 (S1 is subsidiary of P) • Separate LOA/PPA has been signed by Subsidiary Company “S2” for 170MW with project SCOD as 1st Jan’27 (S2 is also subsidiary of P) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Connectivity of 130MW should be allowed to be converted to LOA/PPA route using PPA of S1, similarly connectivity of 170MW be converted to LOA/PPA route using PPA of S2. 2) Start date of connectivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start date of connectivity of 130MW converted to LOA/PPA route with association with S1, should be allowed to be considered as 1st Jan’26 ▪ Start date of connectivity of 170MW converted to LOA/PPA route with association with S2, should be allowed to be considered as 1st Jan’27

In absence of above clarity, CTUIL is allowing conversion of connectivity from Land route to LOA/PPA route only in case full capacity is proposed to be converted that too only with a single LOA/PPA. In view of above challenge being faced by developers, it is requested that part conversion of connectivity from Land/Land BG route to LOA/PPA route and also the association of multiple LOA/PPAs to connectivity granted under Land route may be explicitly allowed under the GNA Regulations. Also, as Regulations allows the subsidiary company to utilise the connectivity granted to the parent company (and vice-a-versa), the conversion of connectivity from Land route to LOA/PPA route be allowed using the PPA executed by the subsidiary company.