

Date: 03.04.2025

To
The Secretary,
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission,
6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Subject: Comments on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2025.

Reference: CERC Draft Notification No.: L-1/261/2021/CERC dated 03.03.2025.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Greetings from ReNew Pvt. Ltd.!

ReNew Pvt. Ltd. is one of the largest renewable power producers in India, having an aggregated portfolio of ~20 GW, including more than 10 GW of operational capacity. We have portfolio of solar, wind & hydro assets with presence across various states in the country. The company is also the first Indian renewable company to be listed on NASDAQ.

This is in reference to the Notification issued by CERC inviting comments/ suggestions on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2025. We are herewith submitting our comments as per attachment.

We request your good office to kindly consider our comments/suggestions while finalizing the same.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,



for ReNew Private Limited



ReNew Private Limited
(Formerly known as ReNew Power Private Limited)

CIN: U40300DL2011PTC291527

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Comments on Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2025

Regulation	Draft Clause as per 4th Amendment	Proposed changes	Rationale
5.2a (c)	In case additional capacity for which approval is sought under Regulation 5.2 of these regulations is REGS (with or without ESS) or ESS (except PSP), the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity shall not be later than 18 months from date of approval by the Nodal Agency;	In case additional capacity for which approval is sought under Regulation 5.2 of these regulations is REGS (with or without ESS) or ESS (except PSP), the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity shall not be later than time period as specified in competitive bidding guidelines notified by MoP from date of approval by the Nodal Agency;	<p>As per the Regulations 5.2, a generating station or ESS are eligible to add additional generation capacity or ESS within the connectivity quantum granted to the generating station.</p> <p>Under the Regulation 5.2a(c), the Hon'ble commission has proposed a time line up to 18 months to achieve commercial operation of additional capacity. In this regard, we would like to submit that the competitive bidding guidelines issued by MoP provides timeline of 24 months for commissioning of RE capacity up to 1000MW and 30 months for capacity more than 1000MW.</p> <p>The relevant portion of the “Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for Procurement of Firm and Dispatchable Power from Grid Connected Renewable Energy Power Projects with Energy Storage Systems” is reproduced as under:</p> <p>14.2. Commencement of Supply Schedule <i>(a). The projects shall generally commence supply of power, within a period of:</i></p>

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			<p><i>(i). 24 (twenty-four) months from the date of execution of the Power Purchase Agreement, for project size not more than 1,000 MW;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) 30 (thirty) months from the date of execution of the Power Purchase Agreement, for project size more than 1,000 MW.</i></p> <p>Since, the Guidelines already provide a certain timeline for implementation of RE projects, we request the hon'ble Commission to adopt the same timeline to align the regulations with Guidelines.</p> <p>Also, the existing LOS/PPA based connectivity is linked to certain projects and in case additional capacity is implemented to utilize that connectivity during solar/non-solar hrs, there should not be any requirement of NOC from the REIA who has issued LOA/signed PPA with RE developer.</p>

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5.2a (e)	<p>The entity which has already made an application or has been granted approval by the Nodal Agency under Regulation 5.2 of these Regulations prior to the date of effectiveness of these amendments, shall furnish the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity, within a period of two weeks from effectiveness of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided that, in case such additional generation capacity is REGS (with or without ESS) or ESS (other than PSP), the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity shall not be later than 18 months from the date of effectiveness of these amendments or date of approval by the Nodal Agency, whichever is later.</p> <p>Provided also that such additional generation capacity shall also comply with Clauses (a) to (d) of this Regulation, within a period of one month from the date of</p>	<p>The entity which has already made an application or has been granted approval by the Nodal Agency under Regulation 5.2 of these Regulations prior to the date of effectiveness of these amendments, shall within three months of time after effectiveness of these regulations seek approval for additional generation capacity and shall furnish the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity, within a period of two weeks from effectiveness of these regulations:</p> <p>Provided that, in case such additional generation capacity is REGS (with or without ESS) or ESS (other than PSP), the scheduled date of commercial operation for such additional capacity shall not be later than time period as specified in competitive bidding guidelines notified by MoP from the date of effectiveness of these amendments or date of approval by the Nodal Agency, whichever is later.</p> <p>Provided also that such additional generation capacity shall also comply</p>	<p>As per the explanatory memorandum, existing connectivity applicants shall be granted a period of three months from the effective date of the amended regulations to seek approval for additional generation capacity. This provision should be explicitly incorporated into the regulations to ensure clarity and consistency.</p> <p>Furthermore, during the period between the final grant of connectivity and the Scheduled Commercial Operation Date (SCOD) specified in the connectivity application, renewable energy (RE) developers invest substantial capital—both equity and debt—while procuring land, developing project sites, and undertaking other necessary activities. Delays in project implementation may arise due to factors beyond the developer's control, such as right-of-way (RoW) issues, force majeure events, or delays in obtaining government approvals.</p> <p>For connectivity linked to Letters of Award (LOA) or Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), developers have the option to approach the Renewable Energy Implementing Agency (REIA) to seek extensions for SCOD under force majeure or Change in Law (CIL) provisions. However, in the case of land/bank guarantee (BG)-based connectivity, there is no such authority to grant extensions. Therefore, we request the Hon'ble Commission to direct CTU to first assess the project's status. If satisfactory progress is</p>

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	effectiveness of this Regulation, failing which approval for such additional generation capacity shall be revoked.	with Clauses (a) to (c) of this Regulation, within a period of one month from the <u>receipt of revised intimation from CTUIL confirming the revised SCOD date</u> date <u>of effectiveness of this Regulation</u> , failing which approval for such additional generation capacity shall be revoked.	<p>demonstrated with valid documentary evidence explaining the delay, CTU officials should conduct a site visit to verify the developer’s claims before considering connectivity revocation.</p> <p>Additionally, we urge the Hon’ble Commission to distinguish between serious and non-serious developers based on objective criteria. The revocation of connectivity sends negative signals to investors, and serious developers are often forced to engage in extensive efforts to justify genuine delays in achieving SCOD.</p> <p>Lastly, we request the Hon’ble Commission to align the timeline for achieving SCOD under the first proviso to Regulation 5.2a(e) with the timeline suggested under Regulation 5.2a(c), ensuring consistency and fairness in project implementation timelines.</p>
5.11 (b)	The In principle or final grant of Connectivity intimated to an REGS (with or without ESS) based on solar source or an RHGS with a combination of solar source with another source including ESS (including cases where GNA is effective) shall be converted as an entity with restricted access (corresponding to non-solar capacity during non-solar hours)	The In principle or final grant of Connectivity intimated to an REGS (with or without ESS) based on solar source or an RHGS with a combination of solar source with another source including ESS (including cases where GNA is effective) shall be converted as an entity with restricted access (corresponding to non-solar capacity during non-solar hours) within a period of one week after the expiry of	<p>The Hon’ble Commission has proposed these regulations based on the assumption that the breakup of generation capacities remains unchanged after the final grant of connectivity. While this approach is suitable for standalone solar and wind power projects—since they inject power either during solar or non-solar hours—it presents challenges for hybrid renewable energy (RE) projects.</p> <p>We would like to highlight that in the tenders issued by agencies such as SJVN, NTPC, NHPC, and SECI, the Request for Selection (RfS) documents include</p>

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	<p>within a period of one week after the expiry of three months from date of effectiveness of this Regulation:</p> <p>Provided that while converting to restricted access, the Nodal Agency shall consider the application which such an entity may make for additional capacity under this Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) of these regulations, within a period of three months from effectiveness of this Regulation:</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>three months from date of Financial Closure as per the PPA effectiveness of this Regulation:</p> <p>Provided that while converting to restricted access, the Nodal Agency shall consider the application which such an entity may make for additional capacity under this Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) of these regulations, within a period of three months from Financial Closure as per the PPA effectiveness of this Regulation</p>	<p>provisions allowing changes in project configuration until Financial Closure (FC). This flexibility enables developers to optimize their project structure based on financial and technical feasibility while ensuring compliance with contractual obligations.</p> <p>However, under the proposed regulations, once in-principle or final connectivity is granted, the connectivity grantee is classified as an entity with restricted access based on the initial capacity breakup. If such restrictions are imposed prematurely, developers will be unable to adjust their capacity breakup, despite the fact that RfS provisions explicitly allow for such changes. This misalignment between GNA Regulations and competitive bidding guidelines could create operational and regulatory hurdles for developers, limiting their ability to efficiently implement hybrid RE projects.</p>
5.11 (c)	<p>REGS (with or without ESS) based on a solar source or an RHGS with a combination of solar source with another source, including ESS seeking Connectivity under Regulation 4.1 of these regulations, shall be considered for grant of Connectivity as an entity with restricted access:</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>In light of this, we respectfully request the Hon'ble Commission to allow in-principle or final connectivity grantees the flexibility to modify their capacity breakups until Financial Closure. This would ensure alignment between the GNA Regulations and the competitive bidding guidelines, preventing unnecessary constraints on project development.</p> <p>Such an alignment would not only help developers meet their obligations under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) but also provide final certainty regarding transmission access availability for any additional generation capacity. By accommodating</p>

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			the practical realities of project execution, this adjustment would support the seamless integration of hybrid RE projects into the grid while maintaining regulatory consistency.
11A (6)	<p>(6) Any changes in shareholding pattern of the Connectivity grantee upto CoD of the project shall be subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) The promoters of the Connectivity grantee shall not cede control (where control shall mean the ownership, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting shares of such Company or right to appoint majority Directors) of the Company.</p> <p>(b) In case the Connectivity grantee has multiple promoters (but none of the shareholders have more than 50% of voting rights and paid-up share capital), the shareholding pattern shall be maintained and cannot be changed upto COD of the project.</p> <p>(c) Any change in shareholding pattern other than covered in sub-clauses (a) and (b) shall</p>	<p>(6) Any changes in shareholding pattern of the Connectivity grantee upto CoD of the project shall be subject to the following:</p> <p>(a) The promoters of the Connectivity grantee shall not cede control (where control shall mean the ownership, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the voting shares of such Company or right to appoint majority Directors) of the Company.</p> <p>(b) In case the Connectivity grantee has multiple promoters (but none of the shareholders have more than 50% of voting rights and paid-up share capital), the shareholding pattern shall be maintained and cannot be changed upto COD of the project. This condition shall not be applicable for connectivity grantee which is a listed entity.</p> <p>(c) Any change in shareholding pattern of non-listed entities, other than covered in sub-clauses (a) and (b)</p>	Change in shareholding pattern should be permitted for Connectivity grantee which is listed on stock exchanges. Such an entity shall not require prior approval of the nodal agency. This is in line with the RfS issued by REIAs.

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	<p>require prior approval of the nodal agency and shall be filed for information of commission within 45 days of such approval. Nodal Agency may allow such application considering the practical requirement for change in shareholding.</p> <p>(d) In case any change in control or shareholding pattern of the Connectivity grantee is carried out in contravention to sub-clauses (a) to (c) of this Clause, the Connectivity shall be revoked, Bank Guarantee submitted under sub- clause (c) of Clause (vii) or sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations shall be encashed, and Conn-BG1, Conn-BG2 and Conn- BG3 shall be treated in terms of Regulation 24.2 or Regulation 24.3 of these regulations, as applicable.</p>	<p>shall require prior approval of the nodal agency and shall be filed for information of commission within 45 days of such approval. Nodal Agency may allow such application considering the practical requirement for change in shareholding.</p> <p>(d) In case any change in control or shareholding pattern of the Connectivity grantee is carried out in contravention to sub-clauses (a) to (c) of this Clause, the Connectivity shall be revoked, Bank Guarantee submitted under sub-clause (c) of Clause (vii) or sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations shall be encashed, and Conn-BG1, Conn-BG2 and Conn- BG3 shall be treated in terms of Regulation 24.2 or Regulation 24.3 of these regulations, as applicable.</p>	