

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 472/TL/2025

Coram:

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 28th June, 2025

In the matter of

Application under Sections 14 & 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 with respect to Transmission License to Banaskantha Transco Limited.

And

In the matter of

Banaskantha Transco Limited,

(A 100% wholly owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited)

Registered office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016.

Address for correspondence:

C/o ED (TBCB), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29,
Gurgaon-122001.

...Petitioner

Vs

1. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited,

Saudamini, Plot no.2, Sector -29,
Gurgaon-122001.

2. REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited,

REC Corporate Head Quarter,
D Block, Plot No. I – 4,
Sec – 29 Gurugram–122001.

3. Sprng Energy Private Limited,

Upper Ground, Office A-001, Pentagon 5,
Magarpatta City, Hadapsar,
Pune-411013, Maharashtra.

4. Sprng Energy Private Limited,

Upper Ground, Office A-001, Pentagon 5,
Magarpatta City, Hadapsar,
Pune-411013, Maharashtra.

5. Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited,

CSPDCL, Post: Sundernagar, Dangania
Raipur-492013

6. Goa Electricity Department-WR,

Goa Electricity DeptCurti,
Ponda-403401

7. Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited,

Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan,
Race Course, Vadodara-390007

8. Heavy Water Board,

O Floor, Vikram Sarabhai Bhawan,
Trombay, Anushaktinagar,
Mumbai-400094, Maharashtra.

9. HVDC Bhadrawati, PGCIL,

PGCIL RHQ, WR-I, Sampriti Nagar, Off
National Highway No. 8, Taluka: Kamrej,
PO: Uppalwadi, Nagpur-440026, Maharashtra.

10. HVDC Vindhyachal, PGCIL,

PGCIL RHQ, WR-I, Sampriti Nagar, Off
National Highway No. 8, Taluka: Kamrej,
PO: Uppalwadi, Nagpur- 440026, Maharashtra.

11. M.P. Power Management Company Limited,

14, Shakti Bhawan, Rampur,
Jabalpur-482008.

12. MSEDCL,

Plot No 9, "Prakashgad", A K Marg,
Bandra East, Mumbai-400051.

13. ACB India Limited,

7th Floor, Corporate Tower, Ambience Mall,
NH-8, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana.

14. Torrent Power Limited,

Torrent Power Ltd., Naranpura Zonal Office,
Sola Road, Ahmedabad-380013.

15. Thermal Powertech Corporation India Limited,

6-3-1090, Clock C, Level 2, TSR ,

Order in Petition No. 472/TL/2025

Towers, Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda ,
Hyderabad- 500082, Telangana.

16. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre,
Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai,
Maharashtra- 400085.

17. GMR Warora Energy Limited,
Plot B-1, GMR Warora Energy Ltd.,
Mohabala MIDC Growth Centre,
Post-Warora, District Chandrapur-442907,
Maharashtra.

18. HVDC Champa,
PGCIL RHQ, WR-I, Sampriti Nagar,
Off National Highway No. 8, Taluka: Kamrej,
PO: Uppalwadi , Nagpur- 440026, Maharashtra.

19. West Central Railway Head Office,
General Manager's Office, Electrical Branch,
Jabalpur-482001.

20. Western Railway,
Office of Chief Electrical Engineer,
Mumbai.

21. DB Power Limited- Untied,
Opp Dena Bank, C-31, G- Block,
Mumbai.

22. Chhattisgarh State Power Trading Company Limited,
2nd Floor, Vidyut Sewa Bhawan,
Raipur.

23. TRN Energy Private Ltd-Untied,
7th Floor, Ambience Office Block,
Gurugram.

24. Adani Power (Mundra) Limited,
Adani Corporate House, Shantigram,
Near Vaishnavdevi Circle, S G Road,
Ahmedabad-382421.

25. Raigarh HVDC Station,
RPT HVDC Office, Hebbal,
Bangalore-560094.

26. Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Limited,
27, AMNS House, 2th KM Surat Hazira Road,
Hazira-394270, Gujarat.

27. Central Railway,
Pcee's office, 2nd Floor, Parcle Building,
CSMT, Mumbai-400001.

**28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and
Daman & Power Distribution Corporation, Limited,**
1st & 2nd Floor, Vidyut Bhavan, NexSilvassa & Daman.

29. MPSEZ Utilities Limited,
3rd Floor, Adani Corporate House,
Ahmedabad.

....Respondents

Parties present:

Shri Vikas Kumar, BTL
Shri Rohit Jain, BTL
Shri Kamal, RECPDCL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Banaskantha Transco Limited, has filed the present Petition for the grant of a transmission licence under Sections 14 and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms, and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “the Transmission Licence Regulations”) to establish “Augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS)” on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) consisting of the following elements:

Sr. No	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD	Percentage of Quoted Transmissi on Charges recoverable on Scheduled COD of the Element of the Project	Element(s) which are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD) of the respective Element
1.	Augmentation of transformation capacity at	24 months from date of	100%	All Elements are required

	Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) by 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs (3rd and 4th) • 500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs: 2 Nos. • 400 kV ICT bays: 2 Nos. (+ 2 Nos. for dia completion with provision of Switchable LR). • 220 kV ICT bays: 2 Nos.	SPV acquisition (24.3.2027)		to be commissioned simultaneously as their utilization is dependent on commissioning of each other.
--	---	------------------------------------	--	---

2. The Petitioner has made the following prayers:

“(a) Grant Transmission Licence to the Applicant; and

(b) Allow the sharing and recovery of Transmission Charges for Inter-State Transmission System for “Augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS)” as per Sharing of Inter-state Transmission Charges and Losses CERC Regulations 2020 and any other amendment thereon issued from time to time by CERC;

(c) Pass such other order / orders, as may be deemed fit and proper in the facts & circumstances of the case.”

Hearing dated 30.5.2025

3. Notice was issued to the parties to file the reply and rejoinder. During the course of the hearing, the representative of the Petitioner submitted that there was a delay of two days in filing the instant Petition due to the non-reflection of the filing fees on the e-portal, and accordingly, prayed to condone the said delay.

4. Vide Record of Proceedings (hereinafter referred to as “RoP”) for the hearing dated 30.5.2025, CTUIL was directed to furnish the details of the inter-connecting upstream and downstream transmission systems, as well as the details of connectivity and GNA granted and/or applications received at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS). Considering the submissions made, the Commission reserved the matter for orders.

5. CTUIL, in compliance with the RoP dated 30.5.2025, vide affidavit dated 10.6.2025, has submitted as under:

- Details of Inter-Connecting Upstream and Downstream Transmission System:**

S.N o.	Particulars	Details of the transmission System	STU/ STS	Implementing Agency	Implementation Mode	Commissioning Schedule/ Status
1.	Upstream Transmission System	Nil*				
2.	Downstream Transmission System	Raghanesda PS – Banaskantha 400 kV D/c line (Twin AL-59)	ISTS	POWERGRID	RTM	Existing

**Augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) scheme comprising of 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICT (3rd & 4th) would facilitate immediate injection of about 300 MW power (beyond 950 MW) from Sprng Energy Pvt. Ltd. (200 MW) & Sprng Vayu Vidyut Pvt. Ltd. (50 MW) generation projects (Refer table below) at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) & also maintain N-1 compliance of 400/220kV ICTs.*

- The details of the connectivity/ GNA granted and/ or applications received at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS):**

Sl. No.	Name of the applicant	Date of application	Type of application	Connectivity Quantum (MW)	Start date of connectivity	Conn BGs Furnished
1.	Sprng Energy Pvt. Ltd.	29.12.2023	REGS	150	30.06.2027*	Conn-BG1 for Rs.0.5 Cr. Conn-BG3 for Rs.3 Cr.
2.	Sprng Energy Pvt. Ltd.	29.12.2023	REGS	100	24.03.2027*	Conn-BG1 for Rs.0.5 Cr. Conn-BG2 for Rs.3 Cr. Conn-BG3 for Rs.2 Cr.
3.	Sprng Vayu Vidyut Pvt. Ltd.	31.01.2024	REGS	50	30.06.2027*	Conn-BG1 for Rs.0.5 Cr. Conn-BG3 for Rs.1 Cr.

**Start date of connectivity shall be with the availability of common transmission system augmentation for connectivity under GNA. The same is attached at Annexure A.*

6. No reply has been filed by the Respondents despite notice.
7. The Petitioner has submitted that in accordance with the “Guidelines for Encouraging Competition in Development of Transmission Projects” and “Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Guidelines for Transmission Service” (hereinafter referred to as “the Guidelines”) issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, under Section 63 of the Act, REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (hereinafter referred to as “RECPDCL”) was notified by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, vide Gazette Notification. No. 753 [ADVT.III/4/Ext./523/2024-25] dated 25.9.2024 as the Bid Process Coordinator (hereinafter referred to as “BPC”) for the purpose of selection of bidder as Transmission Service Provider (hereinafter referred to as “TSP”) to establish Inter-State Transmission System for “Augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS)” on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis.
8. PFCL, in its capacity as the BPC initiated the bid process on 30.9.2024 and completed the same on 24.3.2025 in accordance with the Guidelines. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited was selected as the successful bidder having quoted the lowest transmission charges of Rs. 195.22 million in order to provide the transmission services to the beneficiaries of the transmission system.
9. The RfP was issued on 30.09.2024. At the RfP (Technical and Financial) stage, two bidders, namely, (i) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited; and (ii) KCC Buildcon Private Limited submitted their offers. The RfP (Technical) bids of the bidders were opened by Bid Opening Committee in the Central Electricity Authority on 10.2.2025 in the presence of a representative of the bidders. Based on the recommendation of the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC). The RfP (Financial) Bids-

Initial Price Offer of the bidders were opened on 18.2.2025. Lowest Initial Price Offer discovered (Best Deal) at the MSTC portal was Rs. 307.45 million. The details of the quoted transmission charges by the bidders are given below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Bidder	Quoted Transmission Charges from the Initial Offer (in Rs. Million)	Rank
1.	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	307.45	L1
2.	KCC Buildcon Private Limited	391.00	L2

10. As per Clause 2.5 of the RfP document, initial offers shall be ranked on the basis of ascending order for the determination of the qualified bidders. The bidders holding the first fifty per cent of the ranks (with any fraction rounded off to a higher integer) or four Bidders, whichever is higher, shall be considered to be qualified for participating in the electronic reverse auction stage and submitting their final offer.

11. The e-reverse auction was conducted on the MSTC portal on 19.2.2025 and was concluded on 21.2.2025. The following transmission charges, as quoted by each bidder, emerged:

Sr. No.	Name of the Bidder	Quoted Transmission Charges from the Initial Offer (in Rs. Million)	Final Quoted Transmission Charges (in Rs. million)	Rank
1.	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	307.45	195.22	L1
2.	KCC Buildcon Private Limited	391.00	195.71	L2

12. As per the Bid Evaluation Report dated 27.2.2025, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited emerged as the successful bidder with the lowest quoted transmission charges of Rs. 195.22 million. BEC, vide its certificate dated 27.2.2025, has

certified that the entire bid process has been carried out in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power under Section 63 of the Act. BEC has further certified that the transmission charges discovered through the e-reverse auction are acceptable.

13. Consequent to its selection as the lowest bidder, a Letter of Intent (hereinafter referred to as “LoI”) was issued to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited by the BPC on 3.3.2025, which was accepted by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited. Under the terms of RfP and the Letter of Intent, the successful bidder is obligated to accomplish the following tasks:

- (a) Provide Contract Performance Guarantee in favour of Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (hereinafter referred to as “CTUIL”);
- (b) Execute Share Purchase Agreement and Transmission Service Agreement;
- (c) Acquire, for the Acquisition Price, 100% share equity share Banaskantha Transco Limited from RECPDCL along with all its related assets and liabilities;
- (d) Make an application to this Commission for adoption of transmission charges, as required under Section 63 of the Act; and
- (e) Apply to this Commission for the grant of a transmission licence;

14. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has furnished the Contract Performance Guarantee (hereinafter referred to as “CPG”) in favour of the Nodal Agency, i.e., CTUIL, for Rs. 6.00 crores on 24.3.2025 and has acquired hundred percent equity holding in Banaskantha Transco Limited on 24.3.2025. The

Petitioner entered into a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) with CTUIL on 24.3.2025.

15. Section 14 of the Act provides that the Appropriate Commission may, on an application made under Section 15 of the Act, grant a licence to any person to transmit electricity as a transmission licensee in any area as may be specified in the licence. The word “person” has been defined in Section 2(49) of the Act to include any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or artificial juridical person. The Petitioner has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013. The main objective of the Petitioner Company is as under:

“To plan, promote and develop an integrated and efficient power transmission system network in all its aspects including planning, investigation, research, design and engineering, preparation of preliminary, feasibility and definite project reports, construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines, sub-stations, load dispatch stations and communication facilities and appurtenant works, coordination of integrated operation of state, regional and national grid system, execution of turn-key jobs for other utilities/organizations and wheeling of power in accordance with the policies, guidelines and objectives laid down by the Central Government from time to time”

16. Section 15 (1) of the Act provides that every application under Section 14 of the Act shall be made in such manner and in such form as may be specified by the Appropriate Commission and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The Commission has specified Transmission Licence Regulations in this regard. Regulation 4 (1) of the Transmission Licence Regulations provides that eligibility for the grant of a licence for inter-State transmission of electricity is contingent upon the entity being selected either through the competitive bidding process under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 or by

the Central Government or its authorized agency to implement a project under the regulated tariff mechanism. Regulation 10 (1) of the Transmission Licence Regulations provided that in case the licensee has been selected for implementation of the project in accordance with the competitive bidding guidelines, the transmission tariff in terms of the Transmission Service Agreement shall be adopted by the Commission under Section 63 of the Act. The Project under consideration has been identified for development under competitive bidding by a competent authority, and the selection of the Project developer has been certified to have been made in accordance with the Guidelines for competitive bidding.

17. Regulation 5 of the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024 provides for the procedure for granting of transmission licence as under:

“(1) The application for the grant of licence shall be made to the Commission in Form-I appended to these regulations and shall be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Act.

(2) The application shall be supported with an affidavit in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023.

(3) The applicant shall submit the original application in electronic form along with enclosures on the e-filing portal of the Commission and electronically serve a copy of such application on all the concerned DICs of the project and the Central Transmission Utility. The application shall be served through e-mail on the concerned DICs of the project who are not registered on the e-filing portal of the Commission.

(4) The applicant shall also upload the complete application along with annexures on its website, in English. The applicant shall also upload on its website, the details as per Form-I and Form-II appended to these regulations in the Indian language of the State or the Union Territory where an element of the project or concerned transmission line is situated or proposed to be situated. The application shall be kept posted on the website of the applicant till such time the application is disposed of by the Commission.

(5) The applicant shall, within 3 working days of filing the application, publish a notice of its application in Form-II appended to these regulations in at least

two leading daily digital newspapers, one in English language and another in the Indian language of the State or Union Territory where an element of the project or concerned transmission line is situated or proposed to be situated, inviting comments from the general public. The notice shall also be kept posted on the website of the applicant.

(6) The Registry of the Commission shall carry out a preliminary scrutiny of the application and convey the defects, if any, as far as possible within 7 days of receipt of the application. The defects shall be rectified by the applicant within a period of 7 days from the date of such intimation from the Registry of the Commission.

(7) In the notice published in the digital newspapers and on the applicant's website under this Regulation, it shall be indicated that the suggestions and objections to the application, if any, may be filed by any person within 15 days of publication of the notice to The Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission at the address where the office of the Commission is situated and at email id: registry@cercind.gov.in. Any suggestion or objection received in response to the public notice shall be shared with the applicant and the respondents by the Registry of the Commission.

(8) The applicant shall within 3 working days from the date of publication of the notice in terms of Clause (5) of this Regulation submit to the Commission on affidavit the details of the notice published, names of the digital newspapers in which the notice has been published, the dates and places of their publication and enclosing the relevant pages of the publication of notice.

(9) The CTUIL shall send its recommendations, if any, to the Commission on the proposal for grant of licence made in the application as far as practicable within a period of 10 (ten) days from the date of receipt of the application with a copy to the applicant: Provided that if CTUIL is unable to submit its recommendations within a period of 10 days, it shall inform the Commission the reasons for the same and submit its recommendations within a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of the application: Provided further that along with its recommendations, CTUIL shall submit the copy of approval of the transmission project by the Central Government in terms of Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-state Transmission Charges) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time. Explanation: The recommendations of the Central Transmission Utility shall not be binding on the Commission.

(10) The applicant may file its comments, duly supported by an affidavit, on the recommendations made by CTUIL and the suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice within 7 working days of receipt of such suggestions and objections, with an advance copy to the CTUIL and the person, if any, who has filed the suggestions and objections on the proposal made in the application.

(11) The Commission after considering the suggestions and objections received from the DICs and in response to the public notice published by the applicant, and the recommendations, if any, received from CTUIL may either propose to grant the licence to the applicant or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application.

(12) Before granting a licence, the Commission shall publish a notice of its proposal on the Commission's website and in two daily digital newspapers, having wide circulation, as the Commission may consider appropriate, stating the name and address of the person to whom it proposes to grant the licence, details of the project for which it proposes to grant a licence, location or route of the elements of the project, and any other details that the Commission may consider appropriate, to invite further suggestions and objections on its proposal within 15 days of the publication of the notice.

(13) The Commission may, after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice in terms of Clause (12) of this Regulation, grant licence to the applicant in Form-III appended to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application.

(14) The Commission shall before granting licence or rejecting the application under the provisions of this Regulation provide an opportunity of hearing to the applicant, CTUIL, the concerned DICs, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other interested person.

(15) The Commission shall, within 7 days of making the order to grant the licence to an applicant send a copy of the licence to the Central Government, the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Transmission Utility, the applicant and the concerned DIC(s)."

18. The Petitioner has approached the Commission with a separate application for the adoption of transmission charges in respect of the transmission system, which is presently under consideration of the Commission, and the order in that Petition will be issued separately. The Petitioner has filed the present Petition for the grant of a transmission licence in accordance with the provisions of the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024. The Petitioner has submitted proof of service of the copies of the application on the BPC, CTUIL and the beneficiaries and proof of web posting of the complete application. The Petitioner has further undertaken to pay the applicable licence fee upon the grant of a transmission licence in terms of the

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012.

The Petitioner has prayed for the grant of a transmission licence to Banaskantha Transco Limited with respect to the transmission system as per the details given in paragraph 1 above.

19. The Petitioner has made the Application as per Form-I and paid the fee of Rs. one lakh as prescribed by the Central Government. As per the direction of the Commission, the Petitioner has served a copy of the Application on the beneficiaries of the transmission project for the Project. The transmission charges quoted by the Petitioner, which have been recommended by the Bid Evaluation Committee for acceptance, is Rs. 195.22 million. The Petitioner has also enclosed copies of the recommendations of the Bid Evaluation Committee.

20. The Petitioner has published the notices on its website in Form-II in English and in the Vernacular language. The Petitioner has also published the notices in the Free Press Gujarat and Divya Bhaskar on 8.4.2025. In response, no objection has been received from the general public to the notices.

21. The Petitioner has served the copy of the Application on the Central Transmission of Utility of India Limited as required under Section 15(3) of the Act and Regulation 5(3) of the Transmission Licence Regulations. CTUIL, vide its letter dated 11.4.2025, has recommended the grant of a transmission licence to the Petitioner. The Relevant portions of the said letter dated 11.4.2025 are extracted as under:

“This has reference to the Transmission License Petition having Diary no. 184/2025 dated 03.04.2025 filled by M/s Banaskantha Transco Limited (BTL) before Hon’ble Commission vide which M/s BTL has requested CTU for

issuance of its recommendation for grant of Transmission License for subject transmission scheme. In this regard, following is submitted:

1. *M/s Banaskantha Transco Limited (BTL) has filed a petition under Section 14,15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with CERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 for grant of transmission license for “Augmentation of transformation Capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS)” project on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis as ISTS. The detailed scope of the scheme is enclosed at Annexure-I.*
2. *M/s Banaskantha Transco Limited (BTL) has mapped Nodal Agency i.e. CTUIL on the e-portal of Hon’ble Commission, to serve a copy of the applications for the grant of Transmission License, for the above transmission system as per section 15(3) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulations 5(3) of Transmission License Regulations, 2024 for recommendation required u/s 15(4) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulations 5(9) of Transmission License Regulations, 2024.*
3. *In reference to the Transmission Scheme “Augmentation of transformation Capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS)”, the following is submitted:*
 - i. *Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) is an existing substation of POWERGRID with 2x500MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs. It was planned as a part of Green Energy Corridor to cater to evacuation of 700 MW RE power from GPCL’s Radhanesda Ultra Mega Solar Power Park. Subsequently, in view of the target set by Govt. of India for 500GW non-fossil generation by 2030, additional 250MW was also accommodated at Banaskantha PS for evacuation of solar power from Sprng Power Earth Pvt. Ltd. Solar Park through the existing 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs.*

However, to cater to applications received (for 300MW) beyond 950MW at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) and to meet N-1 reliability criteria, installation of additional 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs (3rd & 4th) was planned. The Radhanesda-Banaskantha 400kV D/c line (Twin AL-59) (existing) is sufficient to evacuate this 1,250 MW evacuation requirement from Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) S/s.

*The subject scheme involves augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) by 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs (3rd & 4th) & will facilitate compliance of N-1 contingency criterion besides integration of additional 300MW RE injection into the ISTS network for which applications have already been granted. The detailed scope of the transmission scheme is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.*

- ii. *The subject transmission scheme was agreed upon in the 27th Consultation meeting for Evolving Transmission Schemes in WR (CMETS-WR) meeting held on 01/04/2024. Extract of the minutes of the above meeting is enclosed at **Annexure-II**.*
 - iii. *The subject transmission system was discussed & agreed in the 21st NCT meeting held on 06/08/2024. The extract of the minutes of the NCT meetings are enclosed at **Annexure-III**.*
 - iv. *Central Electricity Authority, Govt. of India, vide Gazette notification dated 25/09/2024 had appointed REC power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) as the Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) for the purpose of selection of Bidder as Transmission Service Provider (TSP) to establish the subject ISTS through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process on build, own, operate & transfer basis. Copy of Gazette notification is enclosed at **Annexure-IV**.*
4. *Pursuant to the process of competitive bidding conducted by the BPC, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited emerged as the successful bidder. Thereafter, the BPC issued a Letter of Intent in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited on 03/03/2025. Subsequently, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited acquired Banaskantha Transco Limited on 24/03/2025, after execution of the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and completing all procedural requirements specified in the bid documents. The scheduled COD for the proposed ISTS scheme is 24 months from the effective date as per TSA, i.e. 24/03/2027.*
5. *In line with Section 15(4) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulations 5(9) of Transmission License Regulations, 2024, based on details furnished by M/s Banaskantha Transco Limited, CTU recommends the grant of transmission license to M/s Banaskantha Transco Limited for executing the transmission scheme as mentioned in Para-1 above."*

22. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner, BPC, and CTUIL. The proviso to Clause 2.15.2 of the RfP provides that "if for any reason attributable to the BPC, the said activities are not completed by the Selected Bidder within the above period of ten (10) days as mentioned in this clause, such period of 10 days shall be extended, on a day to day basis till the end of the Bid validity period". As per the above provision, the selected bidder was required to complete all the activities, including the acquisition of SPVs, by 13.3.2025. Though the LoI was issued on 3.3.2025, BPC, vide its letter dated 24.3.2025 in terms of Clauses 2.15.2 of the RfP, Order in Petition No. 472/TL/2025

extended the date up to 1.4.2025 for completion of all activities by the successful bidder. The selected bidder furnished the Contract Performance Guarantee in favour of the Nodal Agency (CTUIL) for an amount of Rs. 6.00 crores on 24.3.2025 and acquired a hundred per cent equity holding in the applicant company on 24.3.2025 after execution of the Share Purchase Agreement. As per clause 2.15.4 of the RfP, the TSP is required to apply to the Commission for the grant of a transmission licence within five working days of the acquisition of the SPV by the successful bidder. The successful bidder, namely Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, acquired the SPV on 24.3.2025. Accordingly, the TSP has filed the instant Petition through e-filing for the grant of a transmission licence on 3.4.2025. The Petitioner has submitted that there has been a delay in filing of the Petition due to the non-reflection of the filing fees of the Petition on e-portal and requested to condone the delay of 2 days in the filing of the instant Petition. Since the Petitioner could not file the Petition due to procedural lapse, we condone the said delay.

23. We note that the instant transmission scheme involves augmentation of transformation capacity at Banaskantha (Raghanesda) PS (GIS) by 2×500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs (3rd & 4th) and that CTU has submitted the downstream system for instant transmission scheme as Banaskantha PS- Raghanesda PS 400 kV D/c line which is an existing transmission system. We also note that SCOD of instant augmentation is 24.03.2027 matching with start date of connectivity for the REGS which is 24.03.2027 and onwards. Accordingly, there is no evident mismatch of upstream and downstream elements for the instant transmission scheme.

24. Considering the material on record, we are *prima-facie* of the view that the Petitioner satisfies the conditions for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence

under Section 15 of the Act read with the Transmission Licence Regulations for construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission system as described in para 1 of this order. We, therefore, direct that a public notice in two daily digital newspaper and on the Commission`s website under clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be published to invite suggestions or objections to the grant of a transmission licence aforesaid. The objections or suggestions, if any, be filed by any person before the Commission by **13.7.2025**.

25. The Petitioner has undertaken that it shall implement the Project as per the provisions of the TSA. The Petitioner has also undertaken that the time overrun and cost overrun, if applicable, shall be claimed by the Petitioner in accordance with the applicable provisions of the TSA read with the provisions of the Act, the bidding documents, and the regulations of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

26. It is observed that as per Article 5.1.1 of the TSA, the TSP, at its own cost and expense, shall be responsible for designing, constructing, erecting, testing, and commissioning each element of the Project by scheduled COD in accordance with the various regulations of the Central Electricity Authority regarding Technical Standards and Grid Standards, Prudent Utility Practices and other applicable laws. Further, Article 5.4 of the TSA provides that the TSP shall ensure that the Project is designed, built and completed in a good workman-like manner using sound engineering and construction practices and using only materials and equipment that are new and of international utility-grade quality such that the useful life of the Project will be till the expiry date. Further, the design, construction, and testing of all equipment, facilities, components and systems of the Project shall be in accordance with Indian Standards and Codes issued by the Bureau of India Standards. In this

regard, the Petitioner has submitted that it would implement the Project as per the provisions of the TSA, i.e., Articles 16.4, 5.1.1, and 5.4. It is expected that while carrying out the survey, the Petitioner has complied with the provisions of clause 2.5.7.3, clause 2.5.7.4 and clause 2.5.7.5 of the RfP. The Petitioner will comply with the provisions of the bidding documents and the TSA for the commissioning of the Project within the SCOD.

27. The Petition shall be listed for hearing on **15.7.2025**.

sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member