

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 755/TL/2025

Coram:

Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 17th November, 2025

In the matter of

Petition under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for the grant of transmission licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 for the grant of transmission licence to NER Expansion Transmission Limited.

And

In the matter of

NER Expansion Transmission Limited,

RMZ Infinity, 5th Floor,

Plot No. 15, Udyog Vihar,

Gurugram– 122008, Haryana.

...Petitioner

Vs

1. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited,

Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29,

Gurgaon – 122001, Haryana.

2. PFC Consulting Limited,

First Floor, Urja Nidhi,

1, Barakhamba Lane,

Connaught Place,

New Delhi – 110001.

3. Department of Power, Government of Arunachal Pradesh,

Vidyut Bhawan, Zero Point Tinali,

Itanagar – 791111, Arunachal Pradesh.

4. Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited,

3rd Floor, New Directorate Building, Near 2nd MR Gate,

Imphal Dimapur Road,
Imphal West – 795001, Manipur.

5. Power and Electricity Department, Mizoram, P&ED,
Govt. of Mizoram, Kawlphetha Building,
MINECO, Aizawl – 796001.

6. Department of Power, Government of Nagaland,
Electricity House, AG Colony,
Kohima – 797001, Nagaland.

7. Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited,
Office of The Deputy General Manager (Commercial & Tariff),
Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited,
Agartala – 799001, Tripura.

8. Assam Power Distribution Company Limited,
Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Nagar,
Guwahati – 781001, Assam.

9. Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited,
Lumjingshai, Short Round Road,
Shillong – 793001, Meghalaya.

10. East North Interconnection Company Limited,
Unit No. 101, First Floor, Windsor,
Village Kole Kalyan, Off CST Road,
Vidyanagari Marg, Santacruz (East),
Mumbai – 400098, Maharashtra.

11. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector 29,
Gurgaon – 122001, Haryana.

....Respondents

Parties present:

Shri TAN Reddy, NERETL
Shri Sandeep Rajpurohit, NERETL
Ms. Anisha Chopra, NERETL
Ms. Harneet Kaur, NERETL
Shri Akshayvat Kislay, CTUIL

ORDER

The Petitioner, NER Expansion Transmission Limited, has filed the present Petition for the grant of a transmission licence under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) 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 the inter-State transmission system for “North Eastern Region Expansion Scheme-XXV (NERES-XXV) Part-A” (hereinafter referred to as “Project”) on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis, consisting of the following elements:

SI. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD	Element(s) which are pre-required for declaring the commercial operation (COD) of the respective element
a)	Establishment of new 400 kV Bornagar (ISTS) switching station in Assam (765kV and 220 kV levels to be established in future 420 kV, 1x125 MVar Bus Reactor: 2 Nos. 400 kV bus reactor bays: 2 Nos. 400 kV line bays: 2 Nos. each with provision for installation of 1x80 MVar switchable line reactor [for termination of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) - Bornagar (ISTS) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line from Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end to Bornagar (ISTS) S/s] 2 Nos. [for termination of Bongaigaon (POWERGRID)-Bornagar (ISTS) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line formed after LILO of both circuits of existing Bongaigaon (POWERGRID)-	36 months from effective date (23.07.2028)	All elements at SI. No. a), b), c), d), and e) are required to be commissioned simultaneously as their utilization is dependent on commissioning of each other.

	Balipara (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line at Bornagar (ISTS)] iii. 2 Nos. each with provision for installation of 1x63 MVA switchable line reactor [for termination of Bornagar (ISTS) - Balipara (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line formed after LILO of both circuits of existing Bongaigaon (POWERGIRD) - Balipara (POWERGIRD) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line at Bornagar (ISTS)] Additional Space for Future expansion: • 6x1500 MVA, 765/400 kV ICTs (19x500 MVA single phase including one spare unit) along with associated ICT bays at both voltage levels • 5x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs along with associated ICT bays at both voltage levels • 765 kV line bays (along with space for switchable line reactor) for future lines: 8 Nos. • 400 kV line bays (along with space for switchable line reactor) for future lines: 8 Nos. • 220 kV line bays: 10 Nos. • 4x330 MVA, 765kV Bus Reactors (13x110 MVA single phase including one spare unit) along with associated bays. • 3x125 MVA, 420 kV Bus Reactors along with associated bays. • 765 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set. • 400 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set • 220 kV Bus Sectionalizer: 1 set • 220 kV Bus Coupler bays: 2 No.		
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	• 220 kV Transfer Bus Coupler bays: 2 No		
b)	LILO of both circuits of existing Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) - Balipara (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line at Bornagar (ISTS)		
c)	Disconnection of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line from Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end and extension of the line for termination at Bornagar (ISTS) S/s so as to form Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bornagar (ISTS) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line		
d)	Installation of 420 kV, 1x80 MVAR switchable line reactor (along with 500-ohm NGR and NGR bypass arrangement) at Bornagar (ISTS) end in each circuit of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) - Bornagar 400 kV D/C (Quad) line formed after shifting of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line from Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end to Bornagar (ISTS) S/s • 420 kV, 1x80 MVAR switchable line reactor (along with 500 ohm NGR and NGR bypass arrangement) – 2 Nos. • Switching equipment for switchable line reactor of 420 kV, 1x80 MVAR – 2 Nos.		
e)	Installation of 420 kV, 1x63 MVAR switchable line reactor (along with 400 ohm NGR and NGR bypass arrangement) at Bornagar (ISTS) end in each circuit of Bornagar (ISTS) - Balipara (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line formed after		

	LILO of both circuits of existing Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) - Balipara (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line • 420 kV, 1x63 MVar switchable line reactor (along with 400 ohm NGR and NGR bypass arrangement) – 2 Nos. • Switching equipment for switchable line reactor of 420 kV, 1x63 MVar- 2 Nos		
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Note:

i. *Siliguri (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line was implemented by M/s East North Interconnection Company Limited (M/s ENICL, SPV of M/s Sterlite). Line bays at both ends were implemented by POWERGRID. Further, this line was LILOed at Alipurduar (POWERGRID) S/s by POWERGRID along with implementation of line bays for termination of line, resulting in formation of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line. The Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line (partly owned by M/s ENICL and partly by POWERGRID) is to be disconnected from Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end and extended for termination at Bornagar (ISTS) S/s so as to form Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bornagar (ISTS) 400 kV D/C (Quad) line. Upon shifting of line, the line section left unutilised at Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end needs to be kept anti-theft charged so that the same can be used in future for termination of new line. Further, upon shifting of Alipurduar (POWERGRID) – Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) line from Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) S/s to Bornagar (ISTS) S/s, connectivity of all operational communication links through Bongaigaon has to be ensured. For the same additional OPGW and FOTE needs to be planned as per requirement. ISTS licensee implementing the NERES-XXV Part-A scheme needs to coordinate with M/s ENICL for line shifting and keeping the unutilised line section at Bongaigaon (POWERGRID) end anti-theft charged.*

ii. *The line lengths mentioned above are approximate as the exact line length shall be obtained after the detailed survey.*

2. Based on the competitive bidding carried out by the PFC Consulting Limited (PFCCL), in its capacity as the Bid Process Coordinator (BPC), in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India under Section 63 of the Act, Resonia Limited was declared a successful bidder with the lowest quoted annual

transmission charges of Rs. 1894.40 million per annum.

3. The Commission, after considering the application of the Petitioner in light of the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, in its order dated 30.10.2025, *prima facie* proposed to grant a transmission licence to the Petitioner. The relevant extracts of the order dated 30.10.2025 are extracted as under:

“23. 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 newspapers 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, shall be filed by any person before the Commission by 6.11.2025.”

4. A public notice under Sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act was published in all editions of the Hindustan Times (English) and Amar Ujala (Hindi) on 4.11.2025. No suggestions/ objections have been received from members of the public in response to the public notice.

Hearing dated 11.11.2025

5. The matter was called out for the hearing on 11.11.2025. During the course of the hearing, the learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that no objection had been received in response to the public notice published by the Commission under sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act. He prayed to be granted a transmission licence.

6. As regards the grant of a transmission licence, Clauses (13) and (14) of Regulation 5 of the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations provide as under:

“(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.”

7. In our order dated 30.10.2025, we had proposed to grant a transmission licence to the Petitioner company and directed the issue of public notice. In response to the public notice, no suggestions/objections have been received. CTUIL, in its letter dated 4.8.2025, has recommended the grant of a transmission licence to the Petitioner. We find that the Petitioner company meets the requirements of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024, for the grant of a transmission licence for the subject Transmission System mentioned in paragraph 1 of this order. Considering the submissions of the Petitioner and CTUIL, we direct that a transmission licence be granted to the Petitioner, 'NER Expansion Transmission Limited,' to establish the inter-State transmission system for "North Eastern Region Expansion Scheme-XXV (NERES XXV) Part-A" on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis as per the details given in paragraph 1 above.

8. The grant of the transmission licence to the Petitioner (hereinafter referred to as "the licensee") is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions throughout the period of the licence:

- (a) The transmission licence shall, unless revoked earlier, remain in force for a period of 25 years from the date of issue;
- (b) The transmission licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms, and Conditions for grant

- of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 or any subsequent enactment thereof during the period of subsistence of the licence;
- (c) The licensee may make an application, two years before the expiry of the initial licence period, for the grant of the transmission licence for another term in accordance with Regulation 9 (2) of the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, which shall be considered by the Commission in accordance with law;
 - (d) The licensee shall not enter into any contract for or otherwise engage in the business of trading in electricity during the period of subsistence of the transmission licence;
 - (e) The licensee shall have the liability to pay the license fee in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012, as amended from time to time or any subsequent enactment thereof. Delay in payment or non-payment of the licence fee or a part thereof for a period exceeding sixty days shall be construed as a breach of the terms and conditions of the licence;
 - (f) The licensee shall comply with the directions of the National Load Despatch Centre under Section 26 of the Act, or the Regional Load Despatch Centre under sub-section (3) of Section 28 or sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Act, as may be issued from time to time for maintaining the availability of the transmission system;
 - (g) The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of inter-State transmission licensees) Regulations, 2012 or subsequent enactment thereof;

- (h) The licensee shall provide the non-discriminatory open access to its Transmission System for use by any other licensee, including a distribution licensee or an electricity trader, or generating company or any other person in accordance with the Act; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2023; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023, as amended from time to time or any subsequent re-enactments thereof;
- (i) The licensee shall not undertake any other business for optimum utilization of the Transmission System without prior intimation to the Commission and shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Revenue Derived from Utilization of Transmission Assets for other business) Regulations, 2020;
- (j) The licensee shall remain bound by provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020, as amended from time to time;
- (k) The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Act, the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, in particular the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, the Grid Code, the Standards specified by the Central Electricity Authority, orders and directions of the Commission issued from time to time;
- (l) The licensee shall ensure the execution of the Project as per the Technical Standards and Grid Standards of CEA;

- (m) The licensee shall submit all such reports or information as may be required under 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, Standard of Performance Regulations or any other regulation of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission as may be issued from time to time;
- (n) The licensee shall ensure that the EPC contract for the execution of work under the scope of the project is awarded through a competitive bidding process.

9. CTUIL and the Central Electricity Authority shall monitor the execution of the Project and bring to the Commission's notice any lapse on the part of the licensee in meeting the schedule for further appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Transmission Service Agreement executed between the licensee and the Nodal Agency, the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations.

10. It is expected that while carrying out the survey, the Petitioner has complied with the provisions of clauses 2.5.7.3, 2.5.7.4, and 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 in letter and spirit.

11. An extract copy of this order is to be sent to CTUIL, CEA, and BPC for information and necessary action.

12. Petition No. 755/TL/2025 is allowed in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Harish Dudani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson