

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

**Petition (Diary) No. 139/2026 along with IA (Diary) No.144/2026**

Subject : Petition under Section 79 (1 )(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with and Regulation 41 and 42 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022, seeking harmonisation of timeline for financial closure and Project Commissioning with the extended start date of connectivity.

Petitioner : AK Renewable Infra Private Limited (ARIPL)

Respondent : Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)

Date of Hearing : **11.3.2026**

Coram : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson  
Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member  
Shri Harish Dudani, Member  
Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Parties Present : Shri Anand K. Ganesan, Advocate, ARIPL  
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, CTUIL  
Ms. Pallavi Saigal, Advocate, CTUIL

**Record of Proceedings**

The learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the present Petition has been filed seeking extension of the project commissioning timeline i.e., SCOD and extension of the timeline for achievement of financial closure under Regulation 11A (2) of the GNA Regulations, amended from time to time, to six months prior to the start date of connectivity, in order to align the timelines with start date of connectivity, now revised to 12.12.2026 due to delay in construction/operationalisation of the transmission system attributable solely to the CTUIL. The learned counsel mainly submitted as under:

(a) The Petitioner is developing a 300 MW solar generating station at Akadiyawala, Bikaner, in the State of Rajasthan (the 'Project') and has obtained final grant of connectivity on 5.3.2025 for the Project using the land route. As per the final grant of connectivity, the start date of connectivity was 22.8.2026. In accordance with Regulation 11A(2) of the GNA Regulations, the Petitioner is required to achieve financial closure six months prior to the start date of connectivity. Further, the Project must be commissioned prior to the start date of connectivity.

(b) However, the common transmission system on which the connectivity has been granted has been delayed. The expected date of commissioning of the common transmission system has already been extended till 31.12.2026. However, the



above date is also not expected to be met, as it is understood that the augmentation system development is being severely affected by the right-of-way issues. The expected dates may be revised from time to time in the quarterly meetings of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC). During the quarterly JCC Meetings of the Northern Region held on 24.9.2025, 29.12.2025, and 30.12.2025, it is stated to the Petitioner that the connectivity will be operationalised only after the commissioning of the transmission system, following which the Project will be able to commence power injection into the grid.

(c) Since the connectivity is now expected to be operationalised at the earliest only by 31.12.2026, the timelines for financial closure and project commissioning ought to be correspondingly aligned with the revised connectivity start date. The Petitioner cannot reasonably be expected to undertake time-bound financial commitments or incur financing and interest costs based on timelines that have already been extended for the development of the Project. Otherwise, finance and interest expenses would continue to accrue unnecessarily, thereby imposing an undue financial burden on the Petitioner.

(d) The Project implementation is underway. The Petitioner undertakes to ensure that the Project commissioning is not delayed beyond the start date of connectivity, as provided by CTUIL upon completion of the augmentation system. However, during the interactions between the Petitioner and CTUIL, the Petitioner was given to understand that, notwithstanding the delay in the construction and commissioning of the augmentation system and the connectivity to the project, the Petitioner would still be required to achieve financial closure and commission the project by August 2026, unless the Petitioner seeks extension of time from the Commission.

(e) Meanwhile, CTUIL has issued a communication dated 5.3.2026 to the Petitioner threatening revocation of the connectivity granted to the Petitioner and encashment of the bank guarantees furnished under the Connectivity Agreement, on the ground that the timeline for submission of financial closure documents expired on 22.2.2026. By the said communication, the Petitioner has been directed to deposit the bank guarantee amount within seven days, i.e., by 12.3.2026, failing which the Respondent has stated that the bank guarantees furnished by the Petitioner are liable to be invoked. The said action is wholly unjustified in the facts of the present case, particularly when the delay in operationalisation of the transmission system is not attributable to the Petitioner, and the connectivity itself cannot be operationalised prior to the commissioning of the common transmission system.

(f) Refusal to grant the extension would cause irreparable injury to the Petitioner, since if connectivity is revoked, then the Petitioner will be at a grave risk of loss of its connectivity and the investments it has made towards implementing the Project. Accordingly, the Petitioner has also filed IA (Diary) No. 144/2026 and is pressing for an interim direction to CTUIL to stay the operation of the Respondent CTUIL's letter dated 5.3.2026, and further to direct CTUIL to maintain *status quo* with respect to the Petitioner's 300 MW connectivity, and not to take any precipitative steps in relation to the connectivity so granted until the main Petition is decided.

2. In response, the learned counsel for the Respondent, CTUIL, submitted that a notice dated 13.01.2026 had been issued to the Petitioner requesting submission of its financial closure in accordance with Regulation 11A(2) of the GNA Regulations, with the due date specified as 22.02.2026. However, the Petitioner did not even respond to the said notice. It was only when CTUIL, by an email dated 5.03.2026, intimated the Petitioner that, since no documents for the financial closure were received within the due date, its connectivity was liable to be revoked along with the encashment of the bank guarantees, the Petitioner chose to raise the purported grievance of “extended firm start date of connectivity”. The learned counsel further referred to the GNA Regulations and submitted that, in terms of the said Regulations and the amendments thereto, the firm start date of connectivity is to be confirmed at the time of the final grant of connectivity, which in this case is 22.8.2026, and the Petitioner has conflated the effective date with the start date of connectivity.

3. After considering the submissions made by the learned counsel for the parties, the Commission ordered as under:

(a) Admit.

(b) The Respondent is to file its reply, if any, within a week, with a copy to the Petitioner, who may file its rejoinder within 2 days thereafter.

(c) As to the interim reliefs, the Commission noted that the prayers in this case have been sought by invoking the Commission’s Power to Relax (Regulation 41) and Power to Remove Difficulties (Regulation 42) under the GNA Regulations and hence, it would not be appropriate to issue any direction, at this stage, restraining CTUIL from acting in accordance with the provisions of GNA Regulations. Needless to add, any such action by CTUIL will be subject to the outcome of the present proceedings. Also, in the event that CTUIL proceeds to revoke the Petitioner’s connectivity, such quantum shall not be reallocated to third parties until further order.

4. The Petition will be listed for the hearing on **25.3.2026**.

**By order of the Commission**  
**Sd/-**  
**(T.D. Pant)**  
**Joint Chief (Law)**