

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 856/MP/2025 along with IA 129/2025

Coram:

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

Date of Order: 13.05.2026

In the Matter Of:

Petition under Section 79(1)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 42 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 *inter alia* seeking directions to the Central Transmission Utility of India.

AND

In the Matter Of:

ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (ACME)

Plot No, 152, Kanhai Colony,
Sector 44, Gurugram, Haryana 122003

...Petitioner

Versus

Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)

First Floor, Saudamini, Plot No.- 2,
Sector- 29 Near IFFCO Chowk, Metro Station
Gurugram, Haryana 122001

...Respondent

Parties Present:

Shri Venkatesh, Advocate, ACSPL
Shri Shryeshth Sharma, Advocate, ACSPL
Shri Akash Lamba, Advocate, ACSPL
Shri Kunal Veer Chopra, Advocate, ACSPL
Ms. Priya Dhankar, Advocate, ACSPL
Shri Manav Bhatia, Advocate, ACSPL
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, CTUIL



Ms. Pallavi Saigal, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Kaavya Madaan, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Priyansi Jadiya, CTUIL
Shri Swapnil Verma, CTUIL

ORDER

The instant petition has been filed under Section 79(1)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 42 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 ('GNA Regulations') inter alia seeking directions to the CTUIL to allow change of the source of connectivity with partial conversion from Land BG route to LoA route.

2. The Petitioner has made the following prayers vide the instant Petition:

- (a) *Direct CTUIL to decide the Petitioner's application dated 15.09.2025 for change of source of connectivity from solar to wind as per Regulation 9.3 of the GNA Regulations (inserted by way of the Third Amendment) forthwith without any delay and preconditions including the delay on account of transition;*
- (b) *Direct CTUIL to issue final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner in accordance with Regulation 9 of GNA Regulations;*
- (c) *Direct CTUIL to evaluate the documents submitted by Petitioner towards compliance of Regulation 11A based on wind source and allow conversion of connectivity from Land BG route to LoA route as requested by Petitioner.*
- (d) *Direct CTUIL to restrain from taking any coercive action against the Petitioner, including under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations; and*
- (e) *Pass any other or further order(s) as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case and in the interest of justice.*

Petitioner has also sought the following interim reliefs vide the instant Petition:

- (a) *Pass an ad-interim ex-parte order restraining the Respondent from taking any coercive action against the Petitioner, including under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations, during the pendency of the present Petition; and*
- (b) *Pass any other or further order(s) as this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case and in the interest of justice.*



3. Petitioner vide IA Number 129/2025 has made the following prayers:

- (a) *Allow the present Application;*
- (b) *List, hear and consider the Petition bearing No. 856/MP/2025 titled ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited v. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited for urgent hearing on 09.12.2025 or 11.12.2025, whichever is convenient to this Hon'ble Commission, in terms of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 05.12.2025;*
- (c) *In continuation of the interim relief sought before this Hon'ble Commission in the present petition, it is most humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Commission stay the letter dated 04.12.2025 issued by CTUIL thereby revoking the in-principle grant of connectivity of the Applicant's 400 MW Project.*

And/or

- (d) *Pass any other order(s)/direction(s) as deemed necessary in the interest of justice and equity.*

Submissions of the Petitioner:

4. Petitioner has submitted as under:

- (a) On 12.01.2024, the Petitioner applied for the grant of connectivity for a 400 MW solar project under the LAND BG route at the Pachora PS in Madhya Pradesh. Petitioner also furnished a bank guarantee in lieu of Land dated 12.01.2024, amounting to Rs. 40 Crore. CTUIL granted in-principle connectivity to the Petitioner on 10.04.2024. Thereafter, Petitioner submitted Conn-BG1, Conn-BG2, and Conn-BG3 on 09.05.2024. Accordingly, under Regulation 9 of the GNA Regulations, CTUIL was obligated to issue final connectivity to the Petitioner by 14.05.2024, i.e., 15 days from the date of submission of the bank guarantee by the Petitioner. However, CTUIL has not to date issued final connectivity to the Petitioner.
- (b) Petitioner is obligated to submit land documents within 18 months of issuance of an in-principle grant of connectivity or within 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity, whichever is earlier, as per Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations. The Petitioner may also convert its connectivity from the Land BG route to the LoA route by submitting a valid LoA in terms of regulation 5.8(xi)(a) of the GNA Regulations; however, such conversion is



also allowed post issuance of the final grant in terms of regulation 11A (4) of the GNA Regulations.

- (c) In the instant case, Petitioner is required to submit the above documents by 10.10.2025, being 18 months from the issuance of the in-principle grant of Connectivity issued on 10.04.2024.
- (d) In the meantime, the Petitioner participated in the bidding conducted by NTPC by way of Request for Selection bearing no. NTPC/RECS/202324/Hybrid/BOO8 dated 19.07.2023 for selection of ISTS-connected wind-solar hybrid power projects (Tranche-I). It is pertinent to highlight that the Petitioner was selected as the successful bidder by NTPC by way of the LoA dated 11.01.2024 for the development of a 400 MW wind-solar hybrid project (300 MW contracted capacity), comprising 300 MW of solar capacity and 100 MW of wind capacity. Petitioner on 07.05.2025 raised a request to NTPC for a change in location and point of interconnection of the wind component in the LoA issued by NTPC. NTPC, in response, issued Amendment No. 3 dated 22.08.2025, amending Clause 7.0 of the LoA to record the changed project location.
- (e) Accordingly, the Petitioner was desirous of converting the in-principle connectivity granted by way of letter dated 10.04.2024 from the Land BG route to the LoA route for 100 MW and the Land Route for the balance 300 MW. Additionally, the Petitioner was also desirous of changing the source of connectivity from solar to wind.
- (f) Petitioner *vide* its letter dated 05.05.2025 and 8.5.25 sought amendment of the project location to coincide with the project location of the wind component under the LoA. CTUIL, *vide* its letter dated 29.05.2025, stated that the project location can only be amended once the Petitioner attains the status of connectivity grantee upon execution of the connectivity agreement.
- (g) CTUIL *vide* its email dated 05.08.2025, requested the Petitioner to submit its land-readiness compliances under Regulation 11A(1) of GNA Regulations, in relation to the Petitioner's 400 MW Project



- (h) Commission on 09.09.2025 issued the Third Amendment, whereby *inter alia* Regulation 9.3 was inserted to permit a change in the source of connectivity even prior to the grant of final connectivity. Petitioner, vide its email dated 15.09.2025, issued a letter requesting CTUIL to issue a final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner, permit the Petitioner to change the source of connectivity under the Third Amendment,
- (i) Regulation 11A (2) of the GNA Regulations (inserted vide the second amendment effective from 15.07.2024) permits conversion of connectivity granted under the Land BG route to the LoA route. Further, as per Para 5(xiii) of the Detailed Procedure for Connectivity and General Network Access (GNA) to the ISTS approved by this Commission vide order dated 14.10.2022 ("Detailed Procedure") permitted applicants who have been granted connectivity to ISTS for the generation projects based on particular renewable energy source(s) to change to another renewable energy source(s) for the same granted connectivity in part or full, subject to approval by CTUIL.
- (j) Prior to the Third Amendment, while conversion from the Land BG route to the LoA route was permitted for applicants of connectivity, a change in source was permitted only for entities that are a "connectivity grantee," i.e. those entities whose Cat-1 is signed. This direction is in accordance with the order dated 12.05.2024, 09/MP/2024 titled *Acme Cleantech Solutions Private Limited & Anr. vs. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited*, . Since, in the present case, CTUIL had inordinately delayed the grant of final connectivity to the Petitioner, the Petitioner could not have changed the source of the in-principle connectivity granted to it prior to the Third Amendment.
- (k) However, this Commission on 09.09.2025 issued the Third Amendment, whereby Regulation 9.3 has been inserted, permitting change of source of connectivity within 18 months of the grant of in-principle connectivity or 18 months prior to the effective date of GNA, whichever is later. In the present case, the 18-month period from the grant of in-principle connectivity expired on 10.10.2024, and the 18-month period prior to the effective date of connectivity was on 30.10.2024. Accordingly, the Petitioner immediately after



issuance of the Third Amendment, i.e., on 15.09.2025, applied for a change in source of connectivity from solar to wind.

- (l) However, CTUIL vide its email dated 07.10.2025 stated that it would process the source change request of the Petitioner as per Regulation 9.3 of GNA Regulations, upon completion of the transition of already granted Connectivity(ies) to solar and non-solar access, as per the Third Amendment, which would require more than 3 months in line with Regulation 5.11(b). CTUIL, on the same date, issued another email to the Petitioner calling upon the Petitioner to submit the land documents as per the original source in terms of Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations, by 10.10.2025, failing which CTUIL would initiate action under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations.
- (m) Petitioner is a serious developer and not a fly-by-night operator. Petitioner vide its email dated 08.10.2025 submitted the requisite land and project documents in compliance with Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations, albeit for the changed source of the project. Petitioner, vide its email dated 08.10.2025, submitted the LoA granted to the Petitioner by NTPC and the documents substantiating the procurement of the requisite quantum of land for 300 MW.
- (n) However, since the source of connectivity granted to the Petitioner has not been changed from solar to wind either on account of delay in grant of final connectivity by CTUIL or on account of transition from GNA Regulations to the Third Amendment (both of which are beyond the control of the Petitioner), CTUIL vide its email dated 10.10.2025 has refused to accept the documents submitted by the Petitioner.
- (o) As a result, CTUIL has been treating the Petitioner as non-compliant with the obligation under Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations and threatening to take coercive action against the Petitioner under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations. This is despite the fact that there is no non-compliance or contravention attributable to the Petitioner, and Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations is not applicable to the Petitioner (since the Petitioner is not a connectivity grantee under the GNA Regulations).



- (p) Petitioner submitted that these issues or similar other issues may arise in the transition pursuant to the Third Amendment, and this Commission may consider resolving such issues by dovetailing the pre-amendment GNA Regulations 2022 with the Third Amendment, enabling a smoother transition window and eradicating the possibility of any coercive action against generators akin to the case of the Petitioner.

Hearing dated 10.11.2025

5. During the hearing, learned counsel for Petitioner submitted the facts of the case.
6. Considering the submission made by the learned counsel for the Petitioner, the Commission directed as under:

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- (a) *Admit and issue notice to the Respondent, subject to just exceptions.*
- (b) *The Petitioner was directed to file, on an affidavit, why the land documents, for 300 MW capacity for which a source change from solar to wind is sought, are submitted in the name of four different SPVs. Further to clarify, whether the 100 MW wind capacity is also being developed by any SPV. File the current status of implementation of each project.*
- (c) *The Respondent (CTUIL) was directed to file information as under, along with its reply, if any, within two weeks, with a copy to the Petitioner, who may file its rejoinder, if any, within a week thereafter:*
- (i) *Reason for not issuing the final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner and reasons for linking configuration change with solar/ non solar access finalisation.*
- (ii) *Expected timeline for the effectiveness of the Petitioner's GNA.”*

Submissions vide IA 129/2025 :

7. The Petitioner has made the following submissions vide IA dated 06.12.2025:
- (a) Application was filed seeking urgent hearing in terms of the directions passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 05.12.2025 in W.P. (C) No. 18486 of 2025 (“Writ Petition”). The Hon'ble High Court vide its order inter alia passed the following directions:

“Considering the submissions made before this Court, the CERC is requested to take up the petitioner's application for interim stay on the next date, i.e., 09th December, 2025, or 11th December, 2025. It is directed that status quo shall be maintained and no precipitative action or steps shall be taken by the respondent



no. 1 qua the bank guarantees submitted by the petitioner or with respect to the electricity connectivity granted to the petitioner. It is clarified that the present status quo order is being passed for a limited period till the matter is taken up for hearing and considered by the CERC.”

- (b) The need to approach the Hon’ble High Court was necessitated because of the act of CTUIL to attempt to invoke the Bank Guarantee and revoke the grant of in-principle connectivity for the Applicant’s 400 MW project at the Pachora Pooling Station in Madhya Pradesh.
- (c) The revocation of the in-principle connectivity, as conveyed by CTUIL vide its letter dated 04.12.2025, has grave and immediate consequences on the ongoing project development activities. In particular, lenders strictly require an active and subsisting grant of connectivity before undertaking the disbursement of loan amounts. In the absence of such connectivity, no financial institution will disburse funds, thereby jeopardising the financial closure process and crippling the ability to undertake even essential project activities.
- (d) The revocation thus threatens to bring the entire 400 MW project to a standstill, causing irreversible financial and contractual harm. Therefore, in the interest of justice and to prevent frustration of the pending Petition itself, the operation of the revocation letter dated 04.12.2025 issued by CTUIL, thereby revoking the in-principle grant of connectivity of the Applicant’s 400 MW Project, warrants an immediate stay by this Commission.

Submissions of CTUIL:

8. The Respondent-CTUIL vide affidavit dated 08.12.2025 submitted as under:

- (a) CTU vide letter dated 10.04.2024 issued intimation for in-principle grant of connectivity for 400 MW (Solar Project) at Pachora PS (Existing), identifying Augmentation (other than ATS) under Part-1: Rajgarh Phase-I (Commissioned), Part-2: Rajgarh Phase-II (SCOD-14.02.2026), and Part-3: Rajgarh Phase-III (part System) (tentatively by 31.01.2027). For the implementation of Part-3, the scheme “Transmission system for Evacuation of Power from RE Projects in Rajgarh (1500 MW) SEZ in MP- Phase III and Evacuation of Power from RE Projects Neemuch (1000 MW) SEZ in MP--Phase II”, has been awarded on 25.10.2025 to RNTL with SCOD of 29.09.2027.



- (b) As per GNA Regulations (prior to the Third Amendment), the final grant had to be issued along with the firm start date of connectivity, which could only be ascertained after the award of all elements of the required transmission system.
- (c) As per Regulation 11A (1), REGS/ESS/RPPD are required to submit land documents within 18 months of an in-principle grant or 12 months of a final grant, whichever is earlier, failing which revocation under Regulation 11B (1) follows. Accordingly, the due date for submission of the land documents was 10/10/2025, but the applicant failed to submit them. Thus, even after the 3rd amendment, the final grant could not be issued due to the non-submission of land documents for compliance with Regulation 11A(1), rendering the connectivity liable for revocation under Regulation 11B(1). Subsequently, the connectivity granted to M/s ACSPL was revoked by CTU vide letter dated 04.12.2025 on account of non-compliance with Regulation 11(A) & 11(B) of the GNA Regulations.
- (d) As per Regulation 9.3.4, applications received for seeking a change in source from solar to non-solar (wind) can only be processed after ascertaining the extent of non-solar access, which has not been granted to any other entity (in line with Regulation 9.3.4). That the same can be ascertained upon completion of the transition of already granted Connectivity to solar and non-solar access, as per the 3rd amendment. Applicant sought source change from Solar to Wind (Non-Solar) vide e-mail dated 15.09.2025 (after the notification of Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations), and hence the applicant was advised to submit land documents as per the original grant (Solar) vide CTUIL's e-mail dated 07.10.2025, in order to avoid noncompliance with provisions of the GNA Regulations.
- (e) Petitioner's Connectivity has been revoked vide CTUIL letter dated 04.12.2025. However, as per the latest commissioning schedule for the elements identified for grant of connectivity to M/s ACSPL, the timeline for the effectiveness of the Petitioner's GNA would have been as follows: for 350 MW, it is 30.04.2026, and for 50 MW, it is 29.09.2027.

Submissions of Petitioner:

9. Petitioner, vide affidavit dated 08.12.2025, submitted as under:



- a) Regarding submissions of land documents in the name of a subsidiary, it is submitted that Proviso to Regulation 15.1 of the GNA Regulations permits connectivity granted to a parent company to be utilised by its subsidiary and *vice versa*. Further, the acquisition of land for the execution of projects is a time-consuming process. Any developer starts acquiring land in the initial stages, prior to PPA signing, so that the project can be completed in a timely manner in accordance with the PPA timelines. In view of the above, the Petitioner had also begun acquiring land in the name of its various SPVs, as the land acquisition process takes substantial time. Accordingly, land has been acquired in different SPVs with a view to utilising it in its multiple projects.
- b) Regarding 100 MW wind capacity being developed by any SPV, it is submitted that the balance 100 MW of wind capacity for which in-principle connectivity has been granted to the Petitioner is part of a hybrid project developed through a subsidiary of the connectivity grantee. The said subsidiary has already executed the power purchase agreement, and the corresponding solar component of the said hybrid project is being developed at Bikaner-III.
- c) Further, regarding the current status of the implementation of the project, Petitioner has submitted that:
- (i) Petitioner is installing 100 WTGS of 4 MW each for the project. Out of this, the Petitioner has entered into a contract and issued a purchase order to SANY for the procurement of 41 WTGs. The Petitioner is in the process of placing an order for balance WTGs.
- (ii) Petitioner is required to procure land at 100 locations for the installation of the WTGs. Out of this, the Petitioner has entered into a lease deed for 44 locations, and the Petitioner is in the process of entering into a lease deed for the remaining 56 locations. It is pertinent to note that the lease deeds executed for 44 locations clearly state that the leased land is for a wind power project. Further, the land required for setting-up the PSS has been fully acquired by the Petitioner.
- (iii) The Petitioner has also issued purchase orders for the procurement of other electrical and grid infrastructure, namely:



Equipment	Supplier	Purchase Order Date	Current Status / Remarks
GIS	Taikai	02.05.2025	Manufacturing clearance granted; manufacturing in process
Power Transformer	Bharat Bijlee	Not specified	Delivery expected by March 2026
33 kV HT Panels	Schneider Electric	Not specified	Purchase Order issued
CTs, VTs & CVTs	Mehru Electricals	Not specified	Manufacturing clearance granted; manufacturing in process
Control Panels & Related Equipment	Hitachi	Not specified	Purchase Order issued
USS Transformer	Toshiba	Not specified	Purchase Order issued
33 kV Transmission Line & Route Survey	KVGGN Synergy	Not specified	Route survey in process, delivery of 33 kV poles expected by the 2nd week of December 2025, erection expected in the same period for installation of approx. 1461 poles covering about 77 km

(iv) The Petitioner has undertaken foundation works for 31 locations out of 109 and erected 5 towers. However, the stringing work is pending due to the pendency of Section 68 approval.

(v) The foundation works for MCR & switchgear and building works for the same are in progress.

(vi) Petitioner, vide its letter dated 05.05.2025, sought amendment of the project location to coincide with the project location of the wind component under the LoA, but CTUIL vide its letter dated 29.05.2025 stated that the project location can only be amended once the Petitioner attains the status of connectivity grantee after execution of the connectivity agreement.

Hearing dated 11.12.2025

10. During the hearing, learned counsel for Petitioner submitted that CTUIL has initiated the steps for revocation of the Petitioner's connectivity and invocation of Bank Guarantees (BGs) during the pendency of the instant Petition. Being aggrieved by this, the Petitioner approached the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (C) No. 18486 of 2025, wherein the Hon'ble High Court vide order dated 5.12.2025 has directed that the status quo be maintained and no precipitative steps shall be taken by CTUIL qua the invocation of the BGs and the



revocation of the in-principle connectivity granted to the Petitioner for a limited period till the Petitioner's application is taken up for hearing and considered by this Commission. Accordingly, the present IA 129/2025 has been filed. He also apprised the Commission that the Petitioner's grievance is squarely covered now by the order dated 8.12.2025 in Petition No. 14/SM/2025, whereby the Commission has exercised its power to remove difficulties for effective implementation of the Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations, 2022, and, according to the Petitioner, nothing survives in the matter. In the alternative, the learned senior counsel pressed for interim relief, including a stay on the revocation of the in-principle grant of connectivity to the Petitioner.

Learned counsel for the Respondent, CTUIL, submitted that the compliance affidavit dated 10.11.2025 filed by CTUIL comprehensively addresses the queries and issues involved in the matter, and as such, no separate reply has been filed in the matter. He further submitted that the connectivity of the Petitioner was revoked prior to the Hon'ble High Court's order, and as such, the Petitioner cannot take the benefit of the order passed by the Commission in Petition No. 14/SM/2025.

11. After hearing the parties, the Commission directed the issuance of notice on the IA. The Respondent, CTUIL, was also directed to file its written note/ submissions to the IA, with a copy to the Petitioner, and, in the meantime, the interim direction issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 5.12.2025 shall continue till the next date of hearing.

Written Note by CTUIL:

12. Respondent CTUIL vide written submissions dated 22.12.2025 has submitted as below:
 - a) On 08.12.2025, this Commission passed a Suo-moto Order in 14/SM/2025, wherein it was recognised that the Applicant shall be given at least one chance to change source(s) under Regulation 9.3, post the effectiveness of the Third Amendment. In view of the foregoing, it was stated that the Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations introduced a transition framework under which all existing Connectivity must first be transitioned to solar and non-solar access. Until this transition exercise is completed, CTUIL cannot conclusively ascertain the quantum of non-solar access that has already been allocated and the



balance, if any, that remains available for consideration of source-change requests.

- b) ACME sought a change of source from solar to wind (non-solar) vide email dated 15.09.2025, i.e., after the Third Amendment was notified. Since the availability of solar/ non-solar access had not yet been ascertained, CTUIL could not process ACME's request for source change at that stage.
- c) Further vide Suo-Motu Order dated 08.12.2025 passed in Petition No. 14/SM/2025, this Commission has observed that an applicant may be permitted to seek a change of source under Regulation 9.3 after the Third Amendment came into effect. However, CTUIL revoked ACME's connectivity on 4.12.2025, prior to the passing of the Order dated 08.12.2025.
- d) In view of the above, it was stated that CTUIL, however, would abide by the directions of this Commission in this regard. This Commission may also be pleased to pass a generic direction, if any, so that the same can be applied by CTUIL in all such similar cases.

Hearing dated 23.12.2025

13. During the hearing, the Commission reserved the matter for Order.

Analysis and Decision:

14. Petitioner has filed the instant Petition inter alia seeking directions to the Respondent, CTUIL, (a) to decide the Petitioner's application dated 15.9.2025 for change of source of connectivity from solar to wind as per Regulation 9.3 of the GNA Regulations (inserted by way of the Third Amendment) without any delay and preconditions including the delay on account of transition, (b) to issue final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner in accordance with Regulation 9 of the GNA Regulations, and (c) to evaluate the documents submitted by Petitioner towards compliance of Regulation 11A based on wind source and allow conversion of connectivity from Land BG route to LoA route, as requested by Petitioner.



15. Petitioner has submitted that it had, on 12.1.2024, applied for a grant of connectivity for a 400 MW solar project at the Pachora PS in Madhya Pradesh and furnished a bank guarantee amounting to Rs. 40 Crore in lieu of land documents in terms of Regulation 5.8(xi)(c) of the GNA Regulations. Respondent, CTUIL, granted in principle connectivity to the Petitioner on 10.4.2024. CTUIL is yet to issue the final grant of Connectivity to the Petitioner. Prior to the notification of the Third Amendment, the change in source was permitted only for entities that are a 'connectivity grantee'. The Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations, effective from 9.9.2025, provides Regulation 9.3, which permits a change of source of connectivity within 18 months of the grant of in-principle connectivity or 18 months prior to the effective date of the GNA, whichever is later. In the present case, the 18-month period from the grant of in-principle connectivity expires on 10.10.2025, and the Petitioner immediately after issuance of the Third Amendment, i.e., on 15.9.2025, applied for a change in source of connectivity from solar to wind. Petitioner was selected as a successful bidder pursuant to a Letter of Award dated 11.01.2024 issued by NTPC Limited for the development of a 400 MW wind-solar hybrid project, including a 100 MW wind component. In view of the LoA, the Petitioner was desirous of converting the in-principle connectivity from the Land BG route to the LoA route for 100 MW and retaining the Land BG route for the balance 300 MW, and sought to change the source of connectivity from solar to wind for the full 400 MW.

16. CTUIL vide its email dated 7.10.2025 stated that it would process the source change request of the Petitioner as per Regulation 9.3 of GNA Regulations, upon completion of the transition of already granted Connectivity(ies) to solar and non-solar access, as per the Third Amendment. CTUIL, on the same date, issued another email to the Petitioner, calling upon the Petitioner to submit land documents as per the original source, in terms of Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations by 10.10.2025, failing which CTUIL would initiate action under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations.

17. Petitioner has submitted that since the source of connectivity granted to the Petitioner has not been changed from solar to wind either on account of delay in grant of final connectivity by CTUIL or on account of transition from GNA Regulations to the Third Amendment (both of which are beyond the control of the Petitioner), CTUIL, vide its email dated 10.10.2025, has refused to accept the



documents submitted by the Petitioner. As a result, CTUIL is treating the Petitioner as non-compliant with the obligation under Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations and threatening to take coercive action against the Petitioner under Regulation 11B of the GNA Regulations.

18. The Petitioner submitted that it had fulfilled its obligations under Regulation 11A by way of submitting the requisite quantum of land for a 300 MW wind project and LoA for 100 MW wind capacity vide email dated 08.10.2025. CTUIL vide email dated 10.10.2025 refused to accept the documents on the grounds that the source of connectivity had not been changed from solar to wind. CTUIL issued a letter dated 04.12.2025 revoking the in-principle grant of connectivity under Regulation 11B.

19. CTUIL submitted that vide letter dated 10.04.2024, in-principle grant of connectivity for 400 MW (Solar Project) at Pachora Pooling Station was issued to the Petitioner under augmentation without ATS. The augmentation elements required for the grant of connectivity included Rajgarh Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III, and the implementation of certain elements depended on the award and commissioning of the identified transmission system. As per the GNA Regulations prevailing prior to the Third Amendment, a final grant of connectivity could be issued only after the firm start date of connectivity was ascertained; hence, CTUIL could not issue a final grant of Connectivity to the Petitioner. CTUIL submitted that, as per Regulation 11A(1) of the GNA Regulations, the Petitioner was required to submit documents towards ownership or lease rights or land use rights within 18 months of the in-principle grant of connectivity or 12 months of the final grant, whichever is earlier. Accordingly, the due date for submission of land documents was 10.10.2025. However, the Petitioner failed to submit the required land documents under Regulation 11A (1). Since the Petitioner did not comply with Regulation 11A(1) by the due date, CTUIL revoked the in-principle connectivity vide letter dated 04.12.2025. CTUIL further submitted regarding the request for the change of source from solar to wind that Regulation 9.3, inserted by the Third Amendment, provides that a change of source can be considered only to the extent that non-solar access has not been granted to other entities, as stipulated under Regulation 9.3.4. The availability of such non-solar access can only be ascertained after the transition of already granted connectivity from solar to non-solar access is complete.



20. CTUIL submitted that since the transition exercise pursuant to the Third Amendment had not been completed at the relevant time, the Petitioner's application dated 15.09.2025 for a change of source could not be processed. Accordingly, CTUIL advised the Petitioner, vide email dated 07.10.2025, to submit land documents as per the original grant of connectivity (solar) to avoid non-compliance with the provisions of the GNA Regulations.

21. CTUIL further submitted that although this Commission, vide Suo Motu Order dated 08.12.2025 in Petition No. 14/SM/2025, observed that applicants may be permitted to seek a change of source post Third Amendment, the Petitioner's connectivity had already been revoked on 04.12.2025 prior to the said order. CTUIL submitted that it would abide by any directions issued by this Commission and also sought generic directions to deal with similarly placed cases arising during the transition phase.

22. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner and the Respondent. The issues which arise for consideration of this Commission are as follows:

Issue No.1: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to decide the Petitioner's application dated 15.09.2025 for change of source of connectivity from solar to wind as per Regulation 9.3 of the GNA Regulations without any preconditions, including the delay on account of transition;

Issue No. 2: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to evaluate the documents submitted by Petitioner towards compliance with Regulation 11A based on the wind source?

Issue No.3: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to issue the final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner in accordance with Regulation 9 of GNA Regulations?

Issue No.4: Whether Petitioner can be allowed conversion of connectivity from the Land BG route to the LoA route?

Issue No. 5: Whether the letter dated 04.12.2025 issued by CTUIL, thereby revoking the in-principle grant of connectivity of the Applicant's 400 MW Project, is required to be stayed?

The issues are addressed in subsequent paragraphs.

Issue No.1: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to decide the Petitioner's application dated 15.09.2025 for change of source of connectivity



from solar to wind as per Regulation 9.3 of the GNA Regulations without any preconditions, including the delay on account of transition;

23. We note that the main issue in the instant Petition is about the change of source for the Petitioner's project. Petitioner applied for a solar project and wished to convert it to a Wind Project. We have perused the in-principle grant of Connectivity issued to the Petitioner dated 10.4.2024, quoted as under:

1.	Intimation No	:	CTU/WR/ CONN-INT-1A /2200000502
	Date	:	10.04.2024
2.	Ref. Application No.	:	2200000502
	Date	:	12.01.2024
3.	Name of the Applicant	:	ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (ACSPL)
4.	Address for Correspondence	:	Shri Rajesh Sodhi Head Secretarial ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. 152, Sector-44, Gurugram, Haryana – 122002 rajesh.sodhi@acme.in ; yogesh@acme.in ;
5.	Location of the Generating Station	:	Shajapur
	Latitude	:	23.681237
	Longitude	:	76.008183
	State	:	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Nature of the Applicant	:	Generating station(s), including REGS(s), without ESS
7.	Installed Capacity [Thermal/ Hydro/ Nuclear/ Wind/ Solar/ PSP/ BESS etc.]	:	400MW (Solar)
B Connectivity Details			
7	ISTS Connectivity details	:	
i.	Point at which connectivity is granted	:	Pachora PS
ii.	Voltage level of allocated terminal bay	:	220 kV
iii.	Terminal bay at ISTS end already available	:	No
iv.	Terminal bay at ISTS end to be constructed under ISTS	:	Yes
v.	Bay no. and SLD	:	220kV Bay No. 218 (SLD enclosed)
vi.	Capacity (MW) for which connectivity is granted	:	400MW



8	Dedicated Transmission Line (DTL)	:	• ACSPL – Pachora PS 220kV S/c line along with 220kV line bay at generation station (Under the scope of M/s ACSPL). • 1 no. 220kV line bay at Pachora PS shall be implemented under ISTS as a part of the Rajgarh Phase-II Scheme.
9	ATS/ Augmentation	:	
9a	Associated Transmission System (ATS)	:	
i.	Scheme details	:	Not applicable
ii.	Scheduled commissioning date of ATS	:	Not applicable
iii.	Estimated Cost of ATS	:	Not applicable
9b	Augmentation (Other than ATS)	:	
i.	Scheme details	:	Common Transmission System Augmentation for Connectivity under GNA as per Annexure-I
ii.	Scheduled commissioning date of Augmentation	:	Part-1: Rajgarh Phase-I (Commissioned) Part-2: Rajgarh Phase-II (SCOD-14.02.2026) Part-3: Rajgarh Phase-III (part System) (tentatively by 31.01.2027)
10	Start date of Connectivity	:	350MW: 30.04.2026 50MW: 31.01.2027* [Subject to the availability of Common Transmission System Augmentation for Connectivity under GNA].
C Bank Guarantees to be submitted			
i.	Amount of Conn-BG1	:	Rs. 0.5 Cr.
ii.	Amount of Conn-BG2	:	Rs. 3 Cr.
iii.	Amount of Conn-BG3 @2 lakh/MW	:	Rs. 8 Cr.

As per above, the start date of Connectivity is noted as 30.4.2026 for 350 MW and 31.1.2027 (tentative) for 50 MW.

24. Petitioner has submitted that a change in source was permitted only for entities that are connectivity grantee, i.e., those entities whose Cat-1 is signed, as per the order dated 12.05.2024 in Petition No. 09/MP/2024, prior to notification of Third Amendment. In the present case, CTUIL had inordinately delayed the grant of final connectivity to the Petitioner; the Petitioner could not have changed the source of the in-principle connectivity granted to it prior to the Third Amendment.

25. On a query from CTU as to why the final grant of Connectivity has been delayed in the instant matter, CTU has submitted that the award of the Part-3 system

identified under augmentation for the instant case was delayed and has been awarded on 25.10.2025 to RNTL with SCOD of 29.09.2027. CTUIL submitted that, under the GNA Regulations (prior to the Third Amendment), the final grant had to be issued with a firm start date for connectivity, which can only be ascertained after the award of all elements of the required transmission system. As per Regulation 11A (1), REGS are required to submit land documents within 18 months of an in-principle grant or 12 months of a final grant, whichever is earlier, failing which revocation under Regulation 11B (1) follows. As per CTUIL, the due date for land documents was 10.10.2025, but the applicant failed to submit the aforesaid documents and accordingly, even after the Third Amendment, the final grant could not be issued due to non-submission of land documents for compliance under Regulation 11A (1), rendering connectivity liable for revocation under Regulation 11B(1).

26. Petitioner requested a change of source on 15.9.2025, after the effectiveness of the Third Amendment (9.9.25), which permitted a change of source after the in-principle grant of Connectivity. Relevant extract of letter dated 15.9.25 by Petitioner to CTUIL is quoted as under:

2. Change of Generation Source (Solar to Wind):

As per Clause 9.3.1 for change of generation source, which states:

"An Applicant who has been issued an in-principle grant of Connectivity or final grant of Connectivity to ISTS, for the generation project based on particular renewable energy source(s) (with or without ESS), may, for the same connectivity quantum, change to another renewable energy source(s) (with or without ESS) in part or full, by making an application to the Nodal Agency for approval for such change within 18 months from the in-principle grant of Connectivity or 18 months prior to the effective date of GNA, whichever is later"

After an internal review of site feasibility, we have found the location to be better suited for a Wind Generation Project instead of Solar. Accordingly, we are developing the Wind Project at Pachora Pooling Substation, and the project activities are already underway. We hereby request CTUIL to kindly approve the change of generation source from Solar to Wind.

CTUIL, vide email dated 10.10.2025, stated that it cannot process the source change request of the Petitioner before finalising solar/ non-solar hour capacities for all Connectivity grantees, quoted as under:



Subject: Re: Submission of Land Documents for Compliance under Regulation 11A (1) of CERC GNA Regulations against application no 2200000502
Date: Friday, 10 October 2025 at 3:24:33 PM India Standard Time
From: ctu.openaccess
To: Rahul Kumar
CC: Tushar Goyal, Nikhil Dhingra, Yogesh Kumar Sanklecha, Ajay Pradhan, Jasmine Singh
Attachments: image001.jpg

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] : Be careful with mail content, embedded links and attachments.

Dear Sir,

The documents submitted in the trailing mail for the compliance for application no. 2200000502 under Reg. 11A. (1) have been received. As per the In-principal grant of connectivity for 400 MW solar project issued to you against your application no. 2200000502, the due date for submission of the land documents in compliance of Reg. 11A (1) is 10.10.2025. However, instead of submission of the land document for 400 MW solar project, you have submitted the land documents of your subsidiary for 300 MW wind project and the amendment of LoA of NTPC for 100 MW Wind project at Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh issued to M/s ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited.

These documents cannot be accepted because of following reasons: -

1. The request for source change submitted by you vide email dated 15.09.2025 cannot be accepted before the finalization of Solar/ Non-solar capacities of all the existing grantee/ applicants in line with amended provisions of the CERC GNA regulation, 2022 as informed to you vide email dated 07.10.2025 by planning department. Accordingly, the land documents submitted by you for the revised source (i.e wind instead of solar) cannot be accepted at this stage.
2. The request for route change (from Land BG route to LoA) cannot be accepted at this stage as the final grant of connectivity has not yet been issued to you, inline with Reg. 11A (4) of the amended provision of the CERC GNA regulation, 2022 which states:

" An entity, which has applied for Connectivity under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 and has been issued final grant of Connectivity, is issued LOA or enters into a PPA, as eligible under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8, either for part capacity or full capacity, may apply to the Nodal Agency for conversion of its Connectivity under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 to clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8,"

Kindly submit the revised documents within 15 days in line with "Advisory for conditions subsequent to be satisfied by Connectivity Grantee under GNA Regulations" at CTU website, in order to avoid any suitable action as per Reg. 11B of the GNA Regulations 2022.

As per the above, CTUIL opined that the source change request for the Petitioner cannot be accepted prior to the finalisation of solar/ non-solar capacities for all existing grantees/ applicants.

27. We have perused the GNA Regulations as amended by the third amendment and effective from 9.9.2025, quoted as under:

9.3 Change of Source(s)

9.3.1 An Applicant who has been issued an in-principle grant of Connectivity or final grant of Connectivity to ISTS, for the generation project based on particular renewable energy source(s) (with or without ESS), may, for the same connectivity quantum, change to another renewable energy source(s) (with or without ESS) in part or full, by making an



application to the Nodal Agency for approval for such change within 18 months from the in-principle grant of Connectivity or 18 months prior to the effective date of GNA, whichever is later.

9.3.2 On receipt of a request for a change of source, the Nodal Agency may carry out system studies, as required, and approve or reject the change of renewable energy source(s) within 30 days of application by the Applicant. Upon approval of such a change in renewable energy source(s), the entity shall submit the technical connection data for the changed renewable energy source(s), and the Nodal Agency shall then incorporate the necessary change in the connectivity agreement, if already signed.

9.3.3 An Applicant covered under clause (xi)(b) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations who has been issued in principle grant of connectivity or final grant of connectivity, shall not be permitted to revise the energy source if the requirement of 50% of land for the revised source (as per Regulation 5.9 of these regulations) is more than quantum of land documents already furnished, except if such requirement has arisen due to award of LOA or signing of PPA for a particular source.

9.3.4 Change of source under Regulation 9.3 of these regulations shall be considered for an entity with solar hour access only to the extent the non-solar hour access has not been granted to another entity(ies).

9.3.5 Change of renewable energy source(s) shall be permitted only once for any Connectivity Grantee.

9.3.6 Nodal Agency shall issue a procedure prescribing conditions to be fulfilled for allowing the change in renewable energy source(s), to ensure diligent declaration of source by developers at the time of application."

As per the above, an entity can request a source change, and while processing the application for source change within a period of 30 days from the date of application, CTUIL shall consider the fact that a change of source for an entity with solar hour access shall be permitted only to the extent the non-solar hour access has not been granted to another entity(ies).

28. Now, let us peruse how the above-said Regulation 9.3 is applicable to the instant case. We note that the entity in the instant case is an entity to whom in-principle Connectivity has been granted. The entity, when it applied for a source change on 15.9.2025, had not yet become an entity with solar-hour access. Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“

(b)A REGS (with or without ESS) or RPPD, based on solar source or an RHGS with a combination of solar source with another source (with or without ESS), where in principle or final grant of Connectivity has been intimated or where GNA is effective, shall be converted as an entity with solar hour access (with injection scheduling rights corresponding to Connectivity, quantum for solar hours and corresponding to capacity other than solar source during non-solar hours limited to the quantum of Connectivity) within a period of one week after the expiry of three months, from the date of effectiveness of this Regulation:



Provided that such entity shall have the right of making an application for an additional capacity under Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) of these regulations within a period of three months from the effectiveness of this Regulation and while converting such entity to an entity with solar hour access, the Nodal Agency shall consider such application made for the additional capacity under Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) of these regulations:
...

As per the above, the entities that are based on solar sources shall be converted into an entity with solar hour access within a period of one week after the expiry of three months from the date of effectiveness of this Regulation. As per this, such a conversion was to be carried out within 3 months and 1 week after 09.09.2025. We note that subsequently, the three months were extended by 75 days by Order dated 25.10.2025 in Petition No. 14/SM/2025.

29. We note that the Petitioner applied for a change of source on 15.9.2025 when it was not an entity with solar hour access. Hence, we do not agree with the interpretation of CTUIL, vide email dated 10.10.2025, that it would not be able to process the change of source before finalising the solar/ non-solar capacities of all grantees. Such a requirement is not envisaged in the GNA Regulations. The third amendment was effective from 9.9.2025, including Regulation 9.3. Accordingly, Petitioner's application for source change was required to be processed within 30 days of such application, i.e., by 14.10.2025.

30. CTUIL has submitted that CTUIL would abide by the directions of this Commission in this regard and that this Commission may also be pleased to pass a generic direction, if any, so that the same can be applied by CTUIL in all such similar cases.

31. We note that the source change application under Regulation 9.3 by entities during the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) period (9.9.25 plus 3 months plus 75 days) and after expiry of the ROFR period is required to be clarified.

I. During the transition period, i.e., till 21.02.2026, the following steps may take place:

Step-1 : An entity with solar source 'A' eligible to seek a change of source under Regulation 9.3 of the GNA Regulations makes an application for source change during the ROFR period. It has yet to be converted into an entity with solar hour access.



Step-2 : Another entity 'B' makes an application for non-solar access at a substation at which 'A' is connected, based on the tentative list of non-solar access declared by CTUIL on its website, during the ROFR period.

Step-3: Another entity 'C' with solar source exercised its ROFR rights and made an application under Regulation 5.11 (a) to seek non-solar access.

For the above-said applications, applications under Step-1 shall have to be processed within 30 days of the date of application. Then the Application under Step-3 shall be processed after completion of the ROFR period. Application under Step-2 shall be processed after completion of the processing of applications under Step-3.

II. Cases after completion of the ROFR period

(A) After completion of the ROFR period, the following steps may take place:

Step-1 : All entities with solar source would be converted to entities with specific solar hour access in terms of the Regulations.

Step-2 : Non-solar hour access of an entity 'A' (which has been converted as an entity with solar hour access on expiry of ROFR period) under Step (1) is sought for by another entity 'B'.

Step-3 : Entity with solar-hour access 'A', applies for source change after step (2) has been carried out.

In case an entity under Step 1 which has been declared as an entity with solar hour access, applies for change of source (change from solar to wind or ESS requiring non-solar hour access) after its non-solar hour access has been sought for by another entity 'B', then application of 'B' shall be processed followed by application at Step-3 and in case 'B' is granted non-solar capacity of 'A', something which has been committed to another entity ('B) cannot be given back to 'A' if it makes application under Step 3.

Illustration:

Entity 'A' is granted in-principle connectivity with solar source for 400 MW on 1.10.2024. Entity 'A' is declared as an entity with solar hour access on 1.3.2026. Entity 'B' makes an application for non-solar access of entity 'A' on 5.3.2026. Entity 'A' applies for a change of source to wind on 20.3.2026.



CTUIL shall process each application with a date and time stamp and, accordingly, process the application of entity 'B' first, and then source change application of entity 'A'. Hence, it will grant non-solar hours access to 'B' and then would not be able to consider the application of 'A' for a source change from solar to wind.

(B) Suppose an entity 'A' based on ESS (non ROFR entity) makes an application under Regulation 5.11(a) on 1.11.2025 (during ROFR period) on tentative locations, or another entity 'B' based on ESS (non ROFR entity) makes an application under Regulation 5.11(a) on 23.02.2026, the application of such entity shall be processed after 21.02.2026 based on date and time stamp of such application after completion of processing applications under Regulation 5.2 or 5.11(a) by ROFR entities or source change applications received till 21.02.2026 by existing entities to whom in-principle or final grant has been issued. After 21.02.2026, the application for change of source vs application made by 'A' or 'B' shall be processed based on date and time stamp priority.

(C) A fresh entity based on solar source which made an application of Connectivity after 21.02.2026, shall ab-initio apply under Regulation 5.11(c), as an entity with solar hour access. After CTUIL has completed the transition of entities based on solar source as entities with solar hour access on completion of the ROFR period, the application of such entity shall be processed as under :

Step-1: An entity based on solar source seeks Connectivity under Regulation 5.11 (c) as an entity with solar hour access on 1.6.2026. The in-principle or final grant to such an entity shall be issued as an entity with solar-hour access 'A' .

Step-2: Non-solar hour access of the entity under Step-1 can be applied for by another entity 'B'.

Step-3 : Entity with solar hour access 'A' seeks a source change after the date and time stamp in Step-2.

CTU shall process the application under Step 2 and Step 3 as per the date and time stamp and accordingly process the application of entity 'B' (being made before the application at Step 3) first, followed by a source change application of entity 'A'. Hence, it will grant non-solar hours access to 'B' and then will not be able to consider the application of 'A' for a change of source to wind.

32. As we have concluded under Para 29 that the instant case squarely falls under Regulation 9.3 for a change of source, CTUIL is directed to process the change of



source application for the Petitioner within a period of 30 days from the issue of this Order.

33. Issue No. 1 is answered accordingly.

Issue No. 2: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to evaluate the documents submitted by Petitioner towards compliance with Regulation 11A based on the wind source?

Issue No.3: Whether directions are required to be issued to CTUIL to issue the final grant of connectivity to the Petitioner in accordance with Regulation 9 of GNA Regulations?

34. Petitioner vide email dated 19.9.25 submitted as under:

From: Rahul Kumar <rahul1.kumar@acme.in>
Sent: 19 September 2025 11:16
To: Bhaskar Laxmanrao Wagh (भस्कर लक्ष्मण वाघ); Laxmi Kant (लक्ष्मी कान्त)
Cc: Partha Sarathi Das (पार्थ सारथि दास); Tushar Goyal
Subject: RE: Intimation for in-principle grant of Connectivity for 400MW to M/s ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (ACSPL) for its proposed REGS at Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh
Attachments: Request for Final Connectivity Grant and Change in DTL & Generation Source_2200000502.pdf

Dear Sir,

The timeline of compliance under 11(A) Regulation is due on 10-Oct-2025 after which the Land BG may be encashed. It is informed that this connectivity is planned to be partially converted to LOA and partially converted to Land Route. Further, we have required LOA and Land documents in place, however, in absence of final grant, we are unable to convert it into LOA Route as 3rd Amendment provides that Entity can convert BG to LOA route after final grant. Also, the Regulations provides that Final Grant is to be issued within 15 days post submission of CONN BGs.

In view of the above, it is requested that our present request be considered urgently, and final grant be issued immediately along with change of source from Solar to Wind.

We request your kind cooperation in this regard.

As per the above, the Petitioner wished to furnish land documents for part quantum (300 MW Connectivity) and partly to convert from LAND BG to LOA (100 MW).

35. CTU vide email dated 7.10.25 requested for submission of land documents as under :



From: Himanshu Rathi (Himanshu Rathi) <himanshu.rathi1998@powergrid.in>
Sent: 07 October 2025 15:16
To: Rajesh Sodhi <rajesh.sodhi@acme.in>; Yogesh Kumar Sanklecha <yogesh@acme.in>
Subject: Re: Submission of Land Documents for Compliance under Regulation 11A (1) of CERC GNA Regulations against application no 2200000502

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] : Be careful with mail content, embedded links and attachments.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the trailing mail, the land documents yet to be received. Kindly submit the requisite documents for application no. 2200000502 by due date i.e. 10-10-2025. It may be noted that in case of non-submission of the required documents by the due date as specified in the Reg. 11A(1) of the GNA Regulations 2022, suitable action will be taken as per Reg. 11B(1) of the GNA Regulations 2022

Himanshu Rathi

अभिप्रेत

सेटल ट्रांसमिशन यूटिलिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड

(a wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRID)

गुरुग्राम (हरियाणा)

Petitioner vide letter dated 8.10.2025 submitted the land documents as follows:



To,
Shri. Laxmi Kant
Deputy General Manager
Central Transmission Utility of India Limited
5th to 10th Floor,
Ircon International Tower, Tower no-1,
Plot no -16, Sector-32,
Gurugram, Haryana-122003

Sub: Submission of Documents in Compliance with Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations, 2022 for Application No – 2200000502

Ref.:

1. CTU connectivity application no. 2200000502 dated 12.01.2024 by Acme Cleantech Solutions Private Limited.
2. In-principal Grant of Connectivity issued by CTUIL vide Ref No. CTU/WR/Conn-INT-1A/2200000502 dated 10.04.2024
3. Our letter dated 15.09.2025 requesting issuance of the Final Grant of Connectivity

Dear Sir,

ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited (ACSPL) received an *in-principle* grant of connectivity for 400 MW at Pachora Pooling Station on 10.04.2024 with source as solar, pursuant to its connectivity application referenced above.

Vide our letter dated 15.09.2025 and subsequent reminders dated 19.09.2025 and 29.09.2025, we have submitted a representation to CTUIL seeking issuance of the final grant of Connectivity along with the change of generation source from Solar to Wind. The approval in this regard is still awaited.

Following documents are being submitted for compliance:

- a) LOA issued by NTPC for 300 MW Hybrid Project having 100 MW Wind component
- b) Registered lease documents/sale deed of 38 Nos of wind locations considering 4 MW WTG capacity:

SPV	No of Location with minimum 1 Acre/WTG
Acme Alpha Renewables Private Limited	08
Acme Solartech Private Limited	13
Acme Urja One Private Limited	10
Acme Venus Urja Private Limited	07
Total	38

Further ACSPL hereby submits the following documents to demonstrate compliance with the land requirements.

1. Board Resolution of Acme Alpha Renewables Private Limited, Acme Solartech Private Limited, Acme Urja One Private Limited & Acme Venus Urja Private Limited (SPVs)
2. Copy of Sale Deed /Lease deed as per the above table
3. Undertaking towards submission of Land Document by SPVs of ACSPL
4. Title Report with associated appendix
5. Relationship Certificate between ACSPL and SPVs of ACSPL
6. Shareholding details of SPVs confirming its status as a subsidiary of ACSPL
7. LOA issued by NTPC for 300 MW Hybrid Project having 100 MW wind component
8. Justification on land requirement
9. KMZ File indicating the precise location of each WTF
10. Inter WTG Distance details for all 38 locations

We believe the above submissions fulfil the obligations under Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations, 2022. Kindly let us know if any additional documents are required by our end.

We request that the Bank Guarantee amounting to Rs. 40 Crore, submitted against the connectivity application, be returned at the earliest.

We look forward to your confirmation regarding the acceptance of the aforementioned documents.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of **ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited**



As per the above, the Petitioner submitted an LOA for 100 MW and land documents for 38 Nos. WTG locations, assuming 4 MW per WTG.

36. We note that Petitioner has been issued an in-principle grant of Connectivity as a solar source. Hence, under Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations, it is required to furnish land documents for the solar capacity. Instead, Petitioner furnished the documents for the wind capacity. We have already noted in Issue No. 1 that Petitioner applied for a change of source, which was not processed by CTU due to the transition period. We note that the Petitioner applied for a change of source on 15.9.25; even if CTU had processed it within 30 days, i.e., by 14.10.25, the Petitioner would still have had to furnish the land documents by 10.10.25 to meet the requirements of Regulation 11A. We note that an entity could have applied for a change of source prior to the third amendment if it is a Connectivity Grantee. After the effectiveness of the third amendment, source change can be applied by an entity to whom an in-principle grant has been issued. Since, in the instant case, due to the non-grant of final Connectivity by CTUIL, the petitioner was not eligible to apply for source change prior to the Third Amendment. Keeping in view these circumstances, we are of the view that the Petitioner may be considered for an



opportunity for source change in case it is found technically feasible after processing of the application by CTU.

37. We are of the view that a change of source is not a right to be granted, but an option which may be rejected by CTU in case system studies do not permit them to do so. An entity that has made an application under LAND BG should be prepared to furnish land documents, as per the regulations, when the entity made such an application. Petitioner itself had applied for solar source in its application. Hence, the Petitioner cannot take shelter under the non-processing of the change of source application by CTUIL. We also note that Petitioner's application is dated 12.1.2024, whereas it seeks the start date of connectivity as April 26, i.e., 27 months from the date of application. Petitioner was granted in-principle connectivity on 10.4.2024, leaving 24 months for the project's development. Petitioner applied for a change of source in September 2025; there is no record of when it decided to change the source from solar to Wind. Petitioner, vide Affidavit dated 8.12.25, has furnished some registries dated May 25/ June 25. An application for a change of source on 15.9.2025 implies that the project will start after the request is processed, leaving less than 12 months for the development of the project. We are of the view that the Petitioner should have undertaken a deeper study and analysis before submitting an application under the LAND BG with solar source. Converting an application from full solar to full wind displays does not reflect that due diligence was exercised.

38. Petitioner is stated to have furnished land documents for Connectivity corresponding to 300 MW, i.e., for 50% of the 300 MW. We also note that for 100 MW Connectivity quantum, Petitioner has furnished an LOA issued by NTPC quoted as under:





Ref. No.: NTPC/RE-CS/2023-24/Hybrid/BOO-8-LOA-220/AMNDT-03

Date: 22.08.2025

M/s ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Limited
Plot No.: 152, Sector 44, Gurgaon-122002
Haryana, India

Kind Attn.: Sh. Yogesh Kumar Sanklecha

Sub: Amendment no. 3 to Letter of Award (LOA) for Selection of Hybrid Power Generators for Setting up of 1500 MW ISTS-connected Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Projects anywhere in India (NTPC-Tranche-I) - IFB No. NTPC/RE-CS/2023-24/Hybrid/BOO-8 dated 19.07.2023- Letter of Award (LOA) for 300 MW contracted capacity

Dear Sir,

- 1.0 This has reference to the Letter of Award (NOA) No. **NTPC/RE-CS/2023-24/Hybrid/BOO-8-LOA-220, dated 11.01.2024, its amendment no.-1 dated 15.02.2024 and amendment no.-2 dated 21.05.2024.**
- 2.0 Based on your request vide letter dated 07.05.2025 regarding change in location and point of interconnection of wind component of the project in terms of provisions of RfS, the details of the project mentioned at clause no.-7.0 of Letter of award (LOA) is hereby amended as under:

Sl NO.	Capacity of Project (MW)	Location of Project	Interconnection point details
A	Details of solar project		
1	300	Village - Kelan, Tehsil - Chatargarh, District-Bikaner, Rajasthan	765/400/220kV Bikaner-III PS
B	Details of wind project		
1	100	Village - Udaypur, Tehsil Badod, District- Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh	Pachora PS
Total Contracted Capacity of Hybrid Power Project (MW)		300 MW	Declared CUF – 38%

As per the above, 100 MW capacity is indicated for the Pachora PS. It has been noted that the original LOA dates back to 11.1.2024, and the above-quoted LOA is the third amendment to the original LOA, in which the previous versions listed the location of the wind project as Bhuj-II.

39. As per Regulation 11A(4) of the GNA Regulations, LAND BG to LOA conversion is permitted only after the final grant has been issued. In the instant case, the final grant was not issued by CTUIL due to the delay in the award of augmentation. An



entity which converts from LAND BG to LOA route prior to the last date of submission of land documents is not required to furnish land documents since an entity under the LOA/ PPA route does not furnish land documents under Regulation 11A(1) of the GNA Regulations. For 100 MW, Petitioner did not furnish any land documents till the last date of submission of land documents on 10.10.2025, but instead furnished an LOA for 100 MW for Wind. In this light, let us analyse whether such a conversion from LAND BG to LOA for 100 MW can be permitted in the instant case.

40. We have perused Regulation 11A(4) of the GNA Regulations quoted as under:

“11A. Conditions subsequent to be satisfied by the Connectivity Grantee, which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) or Renewable power park developer

...

(4) *An entity, which has applied for Connectivity under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 and has been issued final grant of Connectivity, is issued LOA or enters into a PPA, as eligible under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8, either for part capacity or full capacity, may apply to the Nodal Agency for conversion of its Connectivity under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 to clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8, subject to the following:*

(a) *If LOA or PPA is for a renewable source(s) (with or without storage) other than the renewable source(s) (with or without storage) provided in the Connectivity application applied under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8, such an entity shall be required to first obtain approval of change of renewable source(s) (under Regulation 9.3 of these regulations) prior to seeking conversion of Connectivity under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8:*

Provided that the application for change of renewable source(s) and conversion of Connectivity under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8, may be applied together.

(b) *Installed capacity indicated in the Connectivity application made under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 may be modified while seeking conversion of Connectivity under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8, subject to the condition that connectivity quantum shall not undergo any change.*

(c) *Where part capacity of the Connectivity granted under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 is converted to Connectivity under clause (xi)(a) of Regulation 5.8:*

(i) *The Nodal Agency shall issue revised Connectivity intimation for each part treating each part as a separate Connectivity within a period of one month from the date of application.*

(ii) *The entity shall submit a separate Conn-BG1 for each part within one*



week of revised Connectivity intimation by the Nodal Agency.

(iii) *Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3, as submitted towards Connectivity granted under clause (xi)(b) or clause (xi)(c) of Regulation 5.8 shall be revised and resubmitted, as applicable, for each part calculated on a pro-rata basis based on the quantum of such part of capacity within one week of revised Connectivity intimation by the Nodal Agency.*

„ (iv) *The minimum capacity for conversion of Connectivity shall be 50 MW.*

As per the above, an entity that has been issued a final grant of Connectivity and has also been issued an LOA becomes eligible to submit an application for conversion of part or full capacity, and, in case a part capacity is converted, an elaborate procedure is to be followed by CTUIL. Further, if a change of source is also sought, the application for such a change in source may be submitted prior to or along with the application under Regulation 11A(4). In the instant case, the above-said clause is not applicable, as the Petitioner was not issued the final grant of Connectivity. Even presuming that the final grant was issued to the Petitioner, the above-said LOA with the changed configuration would not become an eligible document until the source change is approved by CTUIL.

41. We are of the view that the provision of conversion from LAND BG to LOA route can be exercised by an entity in terms of the provisions of the Regulations. Since, in the instant case, Petitioner has not been issued a final grant of Connectivity, it is not eligible to apply for conversion under Regulation 11A(4) for the LAND BG to LOA route. Also, in the instant case, the LOA was issued much earlier in January 2024; the Petitioner chose to amend the location as late as August 2025.

42. Considering the above discussions, we note that Petitioner was required to furnish the land documents for the 400 MW solar project by 10.10.2025. As a result, it claims to have furnished land documents for Wind for 300 MW connectivity. It did not furnish land documents for 100 MW Connectivity, but instead furnished an LOA of WIND. Accordingly, we direct as under:

(a) We have already directed under Issue No.1 that the source change application for the Petitioner be processed within 30 days of the issue of this Order. CTUIL shall issue the final grant of Connectivity upon processing the source change application. In case of rejection by CTUIL in terms of Regulation 9.3.2 on



- technical grounds, the connectivity quantum of 400 MW shall be revoked, and LAND BG and Conn-BGs shall be dealt with in terms of the GNA Regulations
- (b) Considering the transition case, we allow, as a one-time dispensation, that if CTU permits the source change application for Petitioner, CTU shall process the land documents furnished by the Petitioner for a 300 MW Connectivity quantum.
- (c) In case CTU permits the source change application, Petitioner shall be given a one-time dispensation of 15 days from the date of source change permission by CTU, to furnish the land documents for 100 MW Connectivity quantum. Since last date to furnish the land documents is already over on 10.10.2025 and Petitioner did not furnish the land documents as per the Regulations, Petitioner would be required to deposit compensation for delay in submission of land documents @ 5% of Land BG for 100 MW Connectivity (Rs 50 lacs) starting from 10.10.2025 till the allowed time to furnish the land documents for such quantum. If the Petitioner fails to furnish the compensation amount within the specified timeline, the connectivity quantum of 100 MW shall be revoked, and the LAND BG and Conn-BGs with respect to the quantum of connectivity revoked shall be dealt with in terms of the GNA Regulations
- (d) In case the land documents under clause (b) or clause (c) are not in order or the petitioner is unable to furnish the land documents under clause (c) the Connectivity quantum corresponding to appropriate land documents furnished by the Petitioner shall be retained and balance Connectivity shall be revoked, and LAND BG and Conn-BGs with respect to the quantum of connectivity revoked shall be dealt with in terms of the GNA Regulations

43. Issue No. 2 and Issue No 3 are answered accordingly.

Issue No.4: Whether Petitioner can be allowed conversion of connectivity from the Land BG route to the LoA route?

44. We have already noted under Issue No.2 that Petitioner becomes eligible for conversion from LAND BG or Land route to LOA/PPA route only after final grant of connectivity has been issued and subject to other conditions as per Regulation 11A(4). Accordingly, Petitioner shall be eligible to apply for such conversion under regulation 11 A(4) of the GNA Regulation on issuance of final grant of Connectivity,



provided subject to meeting any other conditions as required under the GNA Regulations.

Issue No. 5: Whether the letter dated 04.12.2025 issued by CTUIL, thereby revoking the in-principle grant of connectivity of the Applicant's 400 MW Project, is required to be stayed?

45. We note that CTUIL revoked the Connectivity of 400 MW of the Petitioner vide letter dated 4.12.2025 quoted as under:

In instant case, applicant sought source change from Solar to Wind (Non-Solar) vide e-mail dated 15.09.2025 and was accordingly advised to submit land documents as per original grant (Solar) as per below details:

- The in-principal grant of Connectivity was issued on 10.04.2024.
- Accordingly, the due date for submission of land documents was 10.10.2025.
- The 3rd Amendment to GNA Regulations became effective from 09.09.2025, which included specific provisions for change in source (Regulation 9.3).
- M/s ACSPL vide email dated 15.09.2025 requested for the issuance of the Final Grant of Connectivity, along with approval for change of generation source from Solar to Wind.
- In this respect, CTU vide email dated 07.10.2025 informed the following to M/s ACSPL:

Quote,

After the 3rd Amendment to GNA Regulations, the request for source change can only be processed as per Regulation 9.3 of GNA Regulations, upon completion of transition of already granted Connectivity(ies) to solar and non-solar access, as per 3rd amendment which would require more than 3 months in line with Reg. 5.11(b). In view of the above, land documents may be submitted to our Open Access Team for the source as per the original grant.

Unquote

Further, a notice was also issued by CTU vide email dated 07/10/2025 requesting ACSPL to comply with the above timeline (ref. 3) for the source as per the original grant.

- Subsequently, the applicant vide email & letter dated 08.10.2025 (ref. 4) submitted the land documents for the changed source (i.e. wind project instead of Solar).
- Accordingly, the documents were reverted on 10.10.2025 (ref. 5), requesting for submission of the revised documents for original source (Solar) in line with "Advisory for conditions subsequent to be satisfied by Connectivity Grantee under GNA Regulations" at CTU website within 15 days in order to avoid any suitable action as per Reg. 11B of the GNA Regulations 2022.

As per Advisory dated 03.02.2025 at CTU website, the connectivity grantee shall promptly rectify the deficiency(ies), if any within next 15 days failing which connectivity shall be revoked and treatment of Bank Guarantees shall be as per Regulation 11B of GNA Regulation. However, applicant has failed to submit the land documents for original source (Solar) till date and hence has failed to achieve the land compliance within the timeline specified in Regulation 11A(1).



In view of the above, the 400MW Connectivity granted to M/s ACSPL for its 400MW REGS at Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh.(ref. 2) is hereby revoked under Regulation 11B(1) of CERC GNA Regulations, 2022, on account of failure to comply with Regulation 11A(1) within the stipulated timelines.

Further, M/s ACSPL shall be liable for all associated consequences under the applicable CERC Regulations, Detailed Procedures and any amendments thereof. The treatment of the Bank Guarantees shall be governed as per the provisions of applicable Regulations/Procedure and CERC directions issued from time to time. This revocation shall be without prejudice to the rights, contentions, receivables, etc. of CTUIL under the above grants.

Thanking you,

As per the above, CTUIL stated that since the Petitioner failed to furnish the land documents, the Connectivity is revoked.

46. Petitioner approached the Delhi High Court against the invocation of the Bank Guarantee and revocation of Connectivity. Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 05.12.2025 in W.P. (C) No. 18486 of 2025 ("Writ Petition") directed as under:

"Considering the submissions made before this Court, the CERC is requested to take up the petitioner's application for interim stay on the next date, i.e., 09th December, 2025, or 11th December, 2025. It is directed that status quo shall be maintained and no precipitative action or steps shall be taken by the respondent no. 1 qua the bank guarantees submitted by the petitioner or with respect to the electricity connectivity granted to the petitioner. It is clarified that the present status quo order is being passed for a limited period till the matter is taken up for hearing and considered by the CERC."

47. The Petition was listed for hearing on 11.12.2025, where vide ROP it was directed that the interim direction issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 5.12.2025 shall continue till the next date of hearing.
48. The Order in the main petition and the IA was reserved for Order during the next hearing on 23.12.2025.
49. We are of the considered view that the letter dated 4.12.2025 issued by CTU revoking the Connectivity is required to be set aside, keeping in view that we have directed CTU to process the application of source change, issue a final grant of Connectivity and process the land documents, apart from giving time to the Petitioner to furnish land documents for 100 MW Connectivity with payment of compensation. In case Petitioner fails to comply with the directions under this Order, CTU may take action in terms of the GNA Regulations.



50. Issue No. 5 is addressed accordingly.

51. Petition No 856/MP/2025 and IA 129/2025 are disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/ (Ravinder Singh Dhillon)	Sd/ (Harish Dudani)	Sd/ (Ramesh Babu V)	Sd/ (Jishnu Barua)
Member	Member	Member	Chairperson

