

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 14/SM/2025

Coram:

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 08.12.2025

In the matter of:

Removal of Difficulties in giving effect to certain provisions of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022.

ORDER

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 (referred to as “Principal Regulations”) were notified on 7th June, 2022, the first amendment, second amendment and third amendment to the Principal Regulations were notified on 1st April, 2023, on 19th June 2024 and on 31st August 2025, respectively, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “GNA Regulations”).

2. The Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations introduced the concept of solar hour access and non-solar hour access. The Third Amendment to the Principal Regulations came into effect from 09.09.2025. Subsequent to the effectiveness of the Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations, various RE Developers and RE Developer’s Association have highlighted the issues being faced by them and accordingly requested the Commission to issue suitable direction/ clarification to address the challenges.

3. The issues raised by the RE Developers and RE Developer’s Association and its



treatment are detailed herewith in subsequent paragraphs.

Issue No. 1: Extension in time line for converting the 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), as an entity with solar hour access.

4. Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations provides as follows:

“5.11 Entities with Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access

.....

(b) An 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:

Provided further that if the quantum of Connectivity that can be made available for non-solar hours is less than 50 MW, such REGS or RHGS shall not be considered for conversion as an entity with solar hour access, and such entity shall continue to be an entity with full day access.”

5. As per the above, an 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 within one week after expiry of three months of the effectiveness of Third Amendment to the Principal Regulations. Such entity shall have right to apply for an additional capacity under Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) of the GNA Regulations, within a period of three months from the effectiveness of Third Amendment and the Nodal Agency shall consider such application while converting such entity as an entity with solar hour access.

6. Subsequent to the effectiveness of the Third Amendment, RE Developers and their Associations have requested to extend the timeline of three months for converting



an 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) as an entity with solar hour access. They have submitted that they need more time for taking decision as well as approval from their company for making investment for installing additional generation capacity either under Regulation 5.2 or under Regulation 5.11(a) of the GNA Regulations.

7. NSEFI vide letter dated 11.11.2025 has submitted as under:

“As per Clause 5.11 and 5.2, both modes provide a commissioning timeline of 24 months for the project. Taking a decision on new connectivity, along with management’s decision to deploy the entire CAPEX within the 24 month period, is highly challenging. Many companies have multiple connectivity applications, and therefore, taking such a significant CAPEX decision within such a limited timeframe becomes extremely difficult.

In this regard, our request is that at least 6 months may kindly be granted, after which the connectivity may be converted into solar access.”

8. Azure vide its letter dated 25.11.2025 has submitted as under:

“All our solar project evacuation infra was built for self-use and has accordingly been financed by lenders & investors. Therefore, it is very important for us to be able to avail the non-solar connectivity and develop ourselves. Accordingly, we request an extension of the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) application deadline by three (3) months, as several essential pre-conditions, market developments, and procedural clarifications are still evolving.

Key Grounds for Requesting Extension

1. Market Development and Tender Visibility - We are working with multiple REIAs to structure bids for non-solar hour power supply aligned with DISCOM demand. However, in the absence of tender visibility or PPAs, it is difficult to commit to a 24-month execution schedule for the full 3.5 GW quantum.

2. Land BG Requirements - Without tenders or LOAs, applications must be filed through the Land BG route. Arranging Land BGs of approximately INR 350 crore within the existing timeframe is challenging. We therefore intend to apply in tranches once market clarity improves.

3. Land and Site-Level Due Diligence - Each ISTS-connected project requires assessment of land availability, feasibility of integrating BESS into existing pooling substations (PSSs), and potential augmentation requirements. This evaluation is ongoing and will determine the project-wise quantum of feasible non-solar hour capacity.

4. Supply Chain and ESS Ecosystem Constraints With ~300 GW of solar ISTS connectivity existing today, the supply chain, skilled manpower, and ESS technology ecosystem are not currently scaled to support execution of large volumes within short timelines. Additional time is essential for realistic planning.



5. *Pending Procedures from CTUIL and NLDC - Procedures that directly impact the preparation of a complete and compliant application are yet to be issued by CTUIL and NLDC.*

6. *Risk of Interpretation Gaps for First-Time Applications - As Non-Solar Hour Access will be granted for the first time, documentation and interpretation gaps are expected among stakeholders. Any inadvertent rejection of applications due to procedural ambiguity would result in a significant opportunity loss for connectivity holders, as unused capacity may be opened to other developers.*

7. *Clarity Needed for Solar Park Connectivity under Clause 5.11(b) For Solar Parks, Clause 5.11(b) requires the RPPD to apply for non-solar hour capacity addition as the connectivity holder. However, there is no clarity on the application process or on how ROFR benefits will be passed to SPDs, creating uncertainty for both RPPDs and SPDs.*

Given the above constraints, the current three-month ROFR window is insufficient for submitting applications for large-scale non-solar hour capacity and may result in a significant opportunity loss for the incumbent IPP that has already developed the existing solar project and associated evacuation infrastructure. While we fully appreciate that optimal utilisation of ISTS connectivity is in the broader sectoral interest, it is equally important that the legitimate interests of existing connectivity holders are protected, especially when they are willing and inclined to utilise the non-solar hour access themselves.

We therefore request the Hon'ble Commission to extend the ROFR deadline for submission of Non-Solar Hour Access applications by an additional three months beyond 09 December 2025, so that developers can file accurate and regulation-compliant applications once procedural clarity is available from CTUIL and NLDC."

9. Similar request for extension of the timeline for submission of application by an entity under 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations has been made by the Eden, vide its letter dated 10.11.2025, Sunsire vide its letter dated 04.12.2025, WIPPA and Zelestra vide their letters dated 05.12.2025.

10. We have considered the request of extension of the timeline for submission of application either under Regulation 5.2 or under Regulation 5.11(a) of the GNA Regulations by an entity under Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations. Timeline of three months was proposed in the draft amendment issued in April 2025, which we are of the view is sufficient for the entities to plan for applications. However, considering that the concept of solar hour access has been introduced newly, extension of two and half month (75 days) from 09.12.2025, as a onetime measure is allowed. Accordingly, we relax Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations and permit five and half months from date of effectiveness of Third amendment (i.e. 9.9.2025) in place of three months



under Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations.

11. Further, NSEFI vide letter dated 11.11.2025 has submitted that Regulation 37.10(g) puts obligation on RPPDs to declare SCODs within a fixed three-month period, failing which regulatory action may be taken under Regulation 24.6 of the GNA Regulations. Many parks were developed under earlier frameworks that did not impose such obligations, the identification and commissioning of generating stations depend on multiple external factors, including regulatory approvals, financial closure, and project timelines, which are beyond the RPPD's control. NSEFI has requested for deletion of Regulation 37.10(g) of the GNA Regulations.

12. We have considered the NSEFI submission and perused Regulation 10.11 and Regulation 37.10(g) of the GNA Regulations, which provide as under:

“10.11 The Renewable Power Park Developer shall furnish the scheduled date(s) of commercial operation of all the generating station(s) under the Park within three months of intimation of firm start of Connectivity, failing which firm Start date of Connectivity shall be considered as SCOD for the generating station(s) for which such SCOD has not been communicated within the stipulated timeline.”

As per the above, RPPD which shall furnish the SCOD of all the generating station(s) under the Park within three months of intimation of firm start of Connectivity, failing which firm Start date of Connectivity shall be considered as SCOD for the generating station(s).

37.10.(g) RPPD where the generation capacity within such RPPD is yet to achieve Commercial operation for the quantum totaling to Connectivity capacity, shall furnish the scheduled date of commercial operation of the generating station under the Renewable Power Park within 3 months of effectiveness of these regulations, failing which firm start date of connectivity for such RPPD shall be taken as SCOD and accordingly Regulation 24.6 of these regulations shall be made applicable on such SCOD.”

13. As per the above, RPPD, which are yet to achieve generation capacity of the total quantum of Connectivity, are required to furnish the SCOD of the generating station under the Renewable Power Park within three months of the effectiveness of the Regulations, falling which firm start date of Connectivity shall be considered as SCOD.

14. Thus, Regulation 37.10(g) provides for transition of RPPD which has already been issued Connectivity prior to the Third Amendment. Therefore, NSEFI's request



for deletion of Regulation 37.10(g) of the GNA Regulations is not considered. However, as the timeline under Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations has been extended by giving an extension of two and half month (75 days) from 09.12.2025, on the similar lines, the timeline under Regulation 37.10(g) for furnishing the SCOD of the generating station within the Park is also extended by two and half months (75 days) from 09.12.2025, as a onetime measure.

Issue No. 2 : Installation of additional capacity by the Connectivity grantee, in the form of inverters, WTGs, or equivalent equipment deployed solely for reactive power compensation or losses or any other technical compliance at the Point of Injection (POI)

15. NSEFI vide its letter dated 11.11.2025 has submitted as under:

“CERC Renewable Energy Tariff Regulations, 2024 define IC for Solar PV as “means the summation of the nameplate capacities of all the units of the generating station or the capacity of the generating station (reckoned at the generator terminals). In the case of Solar PV power projects and Floating solar projects, installed capacity shall be the sum of nameplate capacities (Nominal AC power) of the inverters of the project; In case of Solar Projects, extra inverters are being installed to account for losses and CEA reactive compliances (0.95 lag-0.95 lead) (so as to achieve connectivity quantum granted at POI) (e.g. for a 300 MW solar project, 354 MVA inverters are required). However, CTU at CON-4 stage is considering these additional inverters as Installed capacity and insisting on application for balance 54 MVA inverter capacity (beyond connectivity capacity) under reg. 5.2 to process FORMAT CONN-TD 1/CON-4 application. Since this 54 MVA capacity is not for active injection and neither be issued by Grid India for Trial run certificate for Installed Capacity, additional application under 5.2 should not be asked.

- Even if this philosophy is to be followed, it should be consistent for Thermal/Nuclear as well to account for the losses etc.*
- Further, under 5.2, land/land BG requirement cannot be based on inverter capacity requirement as applicant not installing extra SOLAR DC capacity. Under the GNA Regulations (clause 5.1), connectivity can be sought equal the Installed Capacity. Since in above case connectivity is 300 MW but installed capacity is 354 MW (as per CTU), this would not be in consistency with CERC Reg. 5.1. or alternatively, reg 5.1 can be modified for allowing Connectivity quantum less than installed capacity in such RE cases.”*

16. We have considered the submissions of NSEFI. We note that RE developers are required to install additional inverters, WTGs, or equivalent equipment, solely to meet the reactive power compensation at the Point of Injection (POI) or internal losses. This is required to meet injection of active power at POI equal to Connectivity quantum.

Regulation 5.1 of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“5.1. An Applicant, which is a generating station including REGS, shall apply for grant of Connectivity to the Nodal Agency for the quantum equal to the installed capacity of the generating station:



Provided that if such an Applicant already has Connectivity to intra-State transmission system for part of its installed capacity, it may apply for Connectivity to the ISTS for a quantum not exceeding the balance of the installed capacity:

Provided further that if such an Applicant is a REGS making an application based on LOA or PPA under Regulation 5.8(xi)(a) of these regulations or Renewable Hybrid Generating Station or REGS with storage, it may apply for grant of Connectivity for a quantum less than or equal to the installed capacity.”

17. As per the above said Regulation, the generating station including the REGS is required to apply the Connectivity for the quantum equal to the installed capacity for the generating station.

18. We have perused CEA Standards and Commission's Tariff Regulations which provides definition of Installed capacity. The relevant extracts of the said Regulations are as under:

- a. Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019

“(16A) “installed capacity”,

.....

(ii) in case of wind generating stations and generating stations using inverters, means the summation of the name plate capacities of wind turbines or solar generating units, as the case may be;”

- b. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Tariff determination from Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2024

“2. Definitions and Interpretation

- 1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,*

.....

n) ‘Installed capacity’ or ‘IC’ means the summation of the nameplate capacities of all the units of the generating station or the capacity of the generating station (reckoned at the generator terminals). In the case of Solar PV power projects and Floating solar projects, installed capacity shall be the sum of nameplate capacities (Nominal AC power) of the inverters of the project;”

19. As per the above, for the wind generating station and solar generating station, the installed capacity is the summation of nameplates capacities of all the units of the generating station and the summation of nameplates capacities of all the inverters of

the project, as the case may be.

20. The RE Developers have submitted that they need to install additional inverters to meet the reactive power compensation at POI and install additional capacity to meet the internal losses (DTL loss). It has been informed by CTU that such additional inverter capacity for reactive power compliance or losses is added at the time of taking Conn-4 approval. However, the same may need to be applied in application while seeking Connectivity under Regulation 5.1.

21. We are of the view that such additional capacity which has been installed to meet reactive power compliance or for meeting losses or any other technical compliance should not be considered as an additional capacity for purpose of seeking additional Conn-BGs, as capacity under Regulation 5.2 of the GNA Regulations.

22. Considering the above and in the interest of the sector, we relax the provision under Regulation 5.1 of the GNA Regulations only for the REGS and allow the RE Developers to install additional inverters, WTGs, or equivalent equipment for meeting technical compliances at the Point of Injection (POI). There shall not be any requirement of furnishing additional Conn-BGs and compliance of Regulation 5.8 of the GNA Regulations for such additional capacity to meet the reactive power compensation, internal losses (DTL loss), or any other technical compliance at the Point of Injection (POI), either applied under Regulation 5.1 or applied under Regulation 5.2.

23. CTUIL shall confirm such additional capacity through system studies conducted for Conn-4 and allow the additional capacity for the quantum which is required only to meet the reactive power compensation, internal losses (DTL loss), or any other technical compliance at the Point of Injection (POI) and that active power injection shall not exceed quantum of Connectivity granted at POI.

Issue No. 3: Drawal under T-GNA by ESS till the Nodal Agency completes the drawal study.

24. NSEFI vide letter dated 01.12.2025 has submitted that as per Regulation 37.10(e) of the GNA Regulations, applications for ESS under Regulation 5.2 have been permitted to draw the power from grid for charging of ESS. However, final intimation for BESS (under Regulation 5.2) is being issued by CTUIL without permission of drawal for charging of BESS from grid, due to pending drawal study by CTUIL. CTUIL under its grant has mentioned the maximum drawal from ISTS as 'NIL' along with the note that drawal requirement sought by the applicant is not being granted at this stage and the same shall be considered for the studies and the maximum drawal permitted shall be intimated separately after completion of detailed system studies. Given that CTUIL has mentioned drawal permission as 'NIL' under the intimation for final grant, RLDC has denied drawal of ESS charging from Grid under T-GNA.

25. Accordingly, NSEFI requested to allow charging of ESS from grid as per real time margins available in the grid till the time studies are completed.

26. We have considered the NSEFI submission and perused Regulation 37.10(e) of the GNA Regulations, which provides as under:

"37.10. Transition provisions in respect of the third amendment of these regulations:

.....

(e) An REGS with storage, which have already applied for Connectivity or are connected to the Grid as on date of effectiveness of these regulations, shall be eligible to make an application to the Nodal Agency seeking maximum quantum of injection and maximum quantum of drawal requirement (for purpose of charging power for storage) from the Grid within the quantum of Connectivity applied for or granted, as the case may be, which shall be processed by the Nodal Agency within a period of 60 days from the date of application. For drawal of start-up power or auxiliary power, the transmission charges under T-GNA or TDR shall be payable by such entity in accordance with the Sharing Regulations."

27. As per the above said regulation, maximum quantum of injection and maximum quantum of drawal requirement (for purpose of charging power for storage) from the Grid within the quantum of Connectivity applied for or granted may be made and the

application shall be processed by the Nodal Agency within a period of 60 days from the date of application.

28. From the submission of NSEFI, we note that CTUIL in its intimation about the final grant for the application for installing BESS under Regulation 5.2 has mentioned the drawal quantum as 'NIL' due to pending drawal study by CTUIL.

29. We also note that the ESS which are either commissioned or ready to be commissioned requires the charging power from the Grid. However, the requirement of augmentation, if any, to permit such charging can be ensured only after conducting of drawal study by the Nodal Agency. However, till the time such study is completed for grant of drawal quantum by CTU, such entities need to be permitted to draw power from Grid under T-GNA on the existing margins.

30. Considering the above, we are of the view that such ESS, who have been issued Connectivity with drawal quantum as 'NIL' due to pending studies by CTUIL or cases of REGS with ESS, which have to be transitioned under Regulation 37.10(e), shall be allowed to draw charging power from the Grid under T-GNA, limited to Connectivity quantum granted, based on the margins till the Nodal Agency completes the drawal study and implements the augmentation (if required). After the completeness of the drawal study by CTU, the drawal from the Grid shall be done under the GNA as per the drawal quantum allowed by the Nodal Agency. CTU is directed to complete the drawal studies expeditiously within four months from the issuance of this order.

Issue No. 4: Location Change: 50% land parcels under Regulation 5.8 (Transition Cases).

31. NSEFI vide letter dated 01.12.2025 has submitted that in case applicant has changed the location of land parcels submitted under Regulation 5.8 or under Regulation 11A of the GNA Regulations prior to Third amendment, such entity should



be allowed to change the land parcel at least once post effectiveness of the Third Amendment.

32. We have considered the NSEFI submission. We note that prior to the Third Amendment there was no restriction on the number of changes in the land parcel. Third Amendment provides that the land parcel can be changed only once by an entity. We are of view that it will be fair to not consider the changes made in land parcel prior to the effectiveness of the Third Amendment for restriction of availing such option only once. Therefore, the restriction of only one change in land parcel shall be applicable for the request made after the effectiveness of the Third Amendment, i.e any entity which has already changed land parcels before Third Amendment shall also be eligible to seek change in land parcel once post the effectiveness of the Third Amendment.

Issue No. 5: Allow the RPPD to make application for non-solar hour access

33. NSEFI vide letter dated 11.11.2025 and 01.12.2025 has submitted that RPPD may also be included as an eligible entity to apply for restricted access as they may install ESS with Solar behind it using restricted access in park model. Accordingly, RPPD need to be added under Regulation 5.11(a), else RPPD who are not a grantee can neither apply under Regulation 5.2 nor under Regulation 5.11(a) under Right of First Refusal (ROFR).

34. We have considered the NSEFI submission and perused the provisions under Regulation 5.11 of the GNA Regulations and Clause (4) of Annexure IV of the GNA Regulations.

35. Regulation 5.11 of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“5.11 Entities with Solar Hour Access and Non-Solar Hour Access

(a) An REGS based on Wind source (with or without ESS) or ESS may seek Connectivity with non-solar hour access for a quantum of 50 MW and above at a terminal bay of an ISTS substation:

(i) through a separate dedicated transmission line, or



(ii) which is already allocated to another REGS or Renewable Power Park, with solar hour access.

.....

(b) An 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:

.....”

36. As per the above, an 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 the 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 under sub-clause (b). Further, such entity shall have the right to file an application for an additional capacity under Regulation 5.2 or Regulation 5.11(a) within the stipulated timelines.

37. Clause (4) of Annexure-IV of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“(4) As on date of the effectiveness of this Regulation, the Applicant(s) whose application for grant of Connectivity is under process and in principle grant of Connectivity is yet to be intimated, shall also be given three months from the date of effectiveness of this Regulation to make an application under Regulation 5.11 (a) of these regulations for non-solar hours.”

38. As per the above, an applicant whose connectivity application is under process and intimation for in-principle grant of Connectivity has not been intimated may also make an application under Regulation 5.11(a) for non-solar hour access. Thus, such applicant shall also have the right to apply under Regulation 5.11(a) for non-solar hour

access under ROFR.

39. Regulation 5.2 of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“5.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in Regulation 5.1, an entity covered under Regulation 4 of these regulations, with prior approval of the Nodal Agency, within the quantum of Connectivity granted to it, shall be eligible to install additional generation capacity, or ESS, including the capacity owned by any other entity, with the following conditions:

- (a) The existing Connectivity Grantee shall make an application seeking Connectivity for additional capacity. The application shall be processed by the Nodal Agency for in-principle grant of Connectivity and final grant of Connectivity as per provisions of Regulations 6 to 8 of these regulations, with the exception that no augmentation to ISTS shall be considered for grant of Connectivity to such additional capacity for purpose of injection and such additional capacity shall be considered within the Connectivity quantum already granted to the existing Connectivity Grantee.*

.....”

40. As per the above, the “existing Connectivity Grantees” are eligible to make an application seeking Connectivity for additional capacity under Regulation 5.2 of the GNA Regulations.

41. A combined reading of clauses 5.11(b), 5.11(a), clause (4) of Annexure-IV and Regulation 5.2 of the GNA Regulations leads to a conclusion that REGS or RPPD which is based on solar source or 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 or where Connectivity has been applied prior to effectiveness of Third Amendment, shall be eligible to make an application either under Regulation 5.11(a) or Regulation 5.2 of the GNA Regulations to install capacity for availing non-solar hours access under RoFR. It is also clarified that in line with the extension of the timeline under Regulation 5.11(b), the timeline under Clause (4) of Annexure IV of the GNA Regulations is also extended to five and half months from the effectiveness of the Third Amendment. It is also clarified that RPPD is made eligible to apply for non-solar hours access under RoFR only under the GNA Regulations. RPPD is otherwise not an eligible entity to apply under regulation 5.11(a) of the GNA

Regulations to avail non-solar hours access other than for availing right of first refusal under Regulation 5.11(b) of the GNA Regulations.

Issue No. 6: Energy Source Change (Transition case).

42. NSEFI vide letter dated 1.12.2025 have submitted as under:

“Prior to the 3rd amendment, there was no restriction on the applications for change of energy source in terms of either deadline or land requirement (i.e. wind to solar). However, applications which were under process with CTU, for conversion from wind to solar, has now been paused/stopped, putting developers’ substantial investments at risk.

2. There are some applications which were pending for conversion but since there is a deadline for energy source change under 3rd amendment, such old applications are NOT being processed applying 3rd amendment.

3. There were some applications which had changed energy source once in past and has applied for source changed post notification of 3rd amendment, such applications have now been denied for processing citing the clause 9.3.5, wherein the change of energy source is permitted once, i.e. CTU is applying the clause retrospective.

One time change in the energy source must be permitted post issuance of 3rd amendment, whether the grantee had earlier opted for energy source change in past or not. Further, the applications which were submitted prior to the 3rd amendment and were eligible for conversion (for example, Wind to Solar and Solar to wind were permitted) as per the then applicable regulation, should be allowed.”

43. We have considered the submissions of NSEFI. We note that Regulation 9.3 as per the Third Amendment of the GNA Regulations provides 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 firm start date of Connectivity, whichever is later.

.....

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

As per above, change of source is permitted only upto a defined date and is allowed to be carried out only once for a connectivity grantee.

44. We note that prior to Third amendment, change of source was permitted with no



limits on end date of such application and no limit on number of times. Further, source change was permitted post an entity became Connectivity grantee.

45. There may be an issue, where an entity was not issued final grant of Connectivity till issuance of Third Amendment and 18 months from in-principle grant expired, such entity could not apply for change in source. Considering the request of NSEFI, we are of the considered view that an entity to which in-principle grant of Connectivity was issued prior to effectiveness of Third Amendment, shall be given at least one chance to change source(s) under Regulation 9.3, post the effectiveness of Third Amendment, irrespective of whether such an entity has already changed source(s) prior to the Third Amendment or the condition of 18 months from in-principle grant has expired.

Issue No. 7: Regulation 11A (Land BG cases)

46. NSEFI vide letter dated 1.12.2025 have submitted as under:

“CTU have not issued final grant for those who were issued in-principle & submitted CONN BGs (incl. HVDC cases). As part of 11A, CTU insists on land BG compliance based on the 18- month in-principle grant where the final grant isn't issued (e.g., HVDC projects), instead of allowing the nine-month period from date of tentative coordinate information post final connectivity. it is requested that CTU be advised not to compel land demonstration in such cases, with a general clarification issued else it may get connectivity revoked for land BG cases.”

47. We note that Regulation 11A(1) as amended under the Third Amendment provides as under:

(1) An applicant which is REGS (other than Hydro generating station) or ESS (excluding PSP) covered under sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 or Renewable power park developer covered under sub-clause (c) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 shall submit documents for land in terms of sub-clause (b) of Clause (xi) or sub-clause (b) of Clause (vii) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations, as the case may be, 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. The Bank Guarantee submitted under subclause (c) of Clause (vii) or under sub-clause (c) of Clause (xi) of Regulation 5.8 of these regulations shall be returned within 7 days of acceptance of the submitted land documents by the Nodal Agency,

Provided that, in case final grant of Connectivity has been intimated at an ISTS substation where neither the final coordinates nor the tentative coordinates are communicated along with final grant of Connectivity by the Nodal Agency, the applicant shall furnish the required land documents by the later date of subclause (a) or (b) specified below:



- (a) *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, or*
- (b) *within nine months from the date of communication of tentative coordinate of the substation at which Connectivity has been granted in terms of clause (b) of Regulation 10.5 of these regulations.”*

48. As per above, for the cases where tentative or final coordinate have not been communicated, at least 9 months are permitted to furnish land documents from date of such communication of tentative coordinates. CTU has informed that the above shall be applicable only for cases where final grant of Connectivity has been issued. However, for cases where final grant is not issued by CTU due to various reasons, the timeline of 18 months from in-principle grant shall be the governing timeline.

49. We are of the view that in case final grant of Connectivity is delayed by CTU, and no coordinate is furnished by CTU to such entity, such an entity should be permitted at least 9 months from the communication of tentative coordinate to furnish land documents. CTUIL is directed to permit the timeline for land documents accordingly.

Directions under Power to Remove Difficulty

50. Regulation 42 of the GNA Regulations vests the Commission with the power to remove difficulty under certain circumstances. Regulation 42 of the GNA Regulations is extracted as below:

“42. Power to Remove Difficulty

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these regulations, the Central Commission may, on its own motion or on an application made before it by affected party by order, make such provision not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act or provisions of other regulations specified by the Central Commission, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty in giving effect to the objectives of these regulations.”

51. Further, the Commission has been vested with the power to issue Suo Moto orders and practice directions from time to time, as per the exigencies, with regard to the implementation of the GNA Regulations and matters incidental or ancillary thereto, as the case may be, as provided under Regulation 44 of the GNA Regulations.



Regulation 44 of the GNA Regulations is provides as follows:

“44. Issue of Suo Moto Orders and directions

The Central Commission may from time to time issue suo moto orders and practice directions with regards to implementation of these regulations and matters incidental or ancillary thereto, as the case maybe.”

52. Considering the above discussion, in exercise of our powers under Regulation 42 read with Regulation 44 of the GNA Regulations, we hereby issue practice direction to CTUIL, in terms of the directions given under this Order.

53. Accordingly, the Petition No. 14/SM/2025 is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

Sd/
(Harish Dudani)
Member

Sd/
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

