

**Detailed Procedure for Criteria of Grouping of ISTS Substations into Clusters
and Reallocation of Connectivity**
[For Stakeholder Consultation]

11th November 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Draft Detailed Procedure for Criteria of Grouping of ISTS Substations into Clusters and Reallocation of Connectivity.

As per the mandate of Regulation 39.1 read with clause (h-i) of Regulation 2.1 and Regulation 11C of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022; CTU has prepared the Draft Detailed Procedure for Criteria of Grouping of ISTS Substations into Clusters and Reallocation of Connectivity and the same is available on CTU website, www.ctuil.in [under the tab – **Regulatory Section** as well as under the rolling ticker for **Updates**].

2. Notice is hereby given inviting comments/suggestions/objections from the stakeholders and interested persons on the provisions of above draft Regulation.

3. The comments/ suggestions/ objections may be sent to the office of **COO (CTUIL)** at **Floors No. 5th-10th, IRCON International Tower, Tower 1, Plot No. 16, Institutional Area, Sector 32, Gurugram, Haryana 122003** or may be e-mailed to **contact-ctu@ctuil.in** and may be copied to **swapnilverma@powergrid.in**. The Last date for submission of the comments/suggestions/objections on the aforesaid Draft Detailed Procedure shall be **27th November, 2025**.

3. The comments/ suggestions/ objections received after the stipulated date may not be considered while finalizing the Detailed Procedure for submission to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for notification.

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Preamble

This Detailed Procedure for Stipulation of Criteria of Grouping of ISTS Substations into Clusters for Reallocation of Connectivity has been framed in terms of the Third Proviso to Regulation 39.1 read with clause (h-i) of Regulation 2.1 and Regulation 11C of the

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 (hereinafter “GNA Regulations, 2022”).

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure, unless the context otherwise requires —

(a) "Cluster of ISTS Substations" shall mean one or more ISTS sub-stations or pooling stations grouped together and declared by CTU on its website, for the ISTS substations which have been planned or are under implementation or under construction or which have already achieved commercial operation and have been grouped together on the basis of transmission planning considerations including those for renewable energy integration, battery storage drawal, provision of connectivity facility for a specified renewable energy or related product or source.

(b) "ISTS Substation" shall mean any substation or pooling station planned, approved, recommended or commissioned under the ISTS framework for integration of renewable energy based power.

Provided that in case an ISTS substation comprises more than one section, each section shall be classified and notified as a separate ISTS substation, provided that the sections are provisioned to be separated electrically with the use of sectionalizers.

2. Declaration of Clusters

(a) CTU shall declare Clusters of ISTS Substations separately for each electrical region in India based on transmission planning and approvals.

(b) Any substation or pooling station planned as per CTU Planning Procedure or under planning studies under Regulation 6 and as intimated in the Regional Consultation Meeting for Evolution of Transmission System, shall be included in the appropriate regional Cluster of ISTS Substations.

(c) CTU shall maintain and publish an updated list of Clusters on its official website on a regional basis.

3. Criteria for Cluster Formation

(a) Clustering shall be guided by transmission planning undertaken by CTU in coordination with stakeholders including CEA, RPCs, NCT, Ministry of Power, RLDCs, MNRE, REIAs, and other stakeholders. The criteria for clustering shall include considerations such as geographical proximity, classification as per electrical region, technical feasibility, topographical considerations etc.

(b) Clusters shall include substations planned sequentially to evacuate or draw power from or to renewable energy projects from a renewable energy zone or generation complex as identified by the appropriate authority.

Provided that the various sub-stations or pooling stations in a Cluster shall be considered antecedent or subsequent to each other in terms of the aforesaid dates of planning;

Provided further that for each connectivity application, its respective Cluster shall be the Cluster as fixed at the time of grant of in-principle connectivity or as agreed in the regional consultation meeting undertaken by CTU for grant of connectivity.

(c) Cluster of ISTS sub-stations planned for renewable energy evacuation or drawal from a particular geographical region shall be mutually excluded from the cluster of ISTS substations not planned for renewable energy based injection or drawal. However, if any non-renewable energy source based entity is granted connectivity in a substation primarily planned for evacuation or drawal of renewable energy sources based power shall be considered for reallocation as per this procedure in the ordinary course and vice versa.

4. Scope and Application

This Procedure applies exclusively to ISTS substations associated with renewable energy generation or energy storage projects and excludes substations related to thermal, hydro, or other conventional power sources.

5. Review and Update

CTU shall periodically review and notify updates to the list of Clusters in accordance with ongoing transmission planning and NCT approvals and/or recommendations.

6. Procedure for Reallocation

Subject to the provisions of GNA Regulations, 2022; the procedure for reallocation of Connectivity in terms of Regulation 11C shall be as tabulated below:

Table – 1 : Procedure for Reallocation		
S.No.	Title	Procedure / Clarification
1.	Purpose	To ensure optimal and efficient utilization of the inter-State transmission system, the Nodal Agency (CTU) may effect reallocation of Connectivity rights as specified under Reg. 11C. Notwithstanding any found to be contrary to the stipulations in GNA Regulations, 2022; the following conditions shall govern the reallocation process. Provided that any technical, regulatory or commercial consideration not provided in the GNA Regulations, 2022 but clarified for provided hereinunder shall not by itself be deemed contrary to the provisions of GNA Regulations, 2022.
2.	Priority	The vacated margin at a sub-station or a pooling station shall be made available for utilization through reallocation

Table – 1 : Procedure for Reallocation

S.No.	Title	Procedure / Clarification
		of connectivity to eligible entities within an Cluster in the order of priority of connectivity applications as per their time and date stamp. Provided that the rule for reallocation shall be for an entity to be considered eligible for a antecedent sub-station or pooling station in its Cluster and not in the subsequent sub-station or pooling stations, unless exceptional circumstances or technical considerations justify the reallocation to a subsequent sub-station or pooling station in the Cluster and without any prejudice to commercial and regulatory liabilities of the subject entity for payment of transmission charges or bilateral liabilities, if any.
3.	Circumstances for Reallocation	Reallocation may be applied and approved on the occurrence of the following specified events: (i) Closure of connectivity application in terms of Regulation 8 or otherwise after a decision for grant of connectivity arrived at in the regional consultation meeting undertaken by CTU at a sub-station or pooling station; including in terms of Regulation 3.7 (ii) Revocation of connectivity in terms of Regulation 10, Regulation 11, Regulation 16, Regulation 24 or otherwise; (iii) Relinquishment of connectivity in terms of Regulation 24 or otherwise; (iv) Additional transmission system at the subsequent sub-station(s) or pooling station(s) leading to augmentation in the capacity of the antecedent sub-station(s) or pooling-station(s) in the concerned ISTS Connectivity Complex as published in CTUIL website; (v) Reallocation of connectivity in the antecedent sub-station(s) or pooling-station(s) in the concerned ISTS Connectivity Complex; (vi) Any other incident leading to creation of margins at a sub-station(s) or pooling-station(s) in the concerned ISTS Connectivity Complex.
4.	Rights & Obligations	As per Reg. 11C, the reallocation shall assign the rights of the original grantee to the entity which has been approved reallocation. Similarly, all the commercial and regulatory liabilities, subject to the provisions of applicable Regulations, of the original grantee shall apply to the reallocated entity. Provided that only the specific nature of the connectivity rights—whether pertaining to solar or non-solar hours—shall be transferred. The reallocated entity shall have no claim to any rights beyond those held by the original grantee.

Table – 1 : Procedure for Reallocation

S.No.	Title	Procedure / Clarification
5.	Information about Vacation of Bays	CTU shall make public, through timely publication on its official website, updated information reflecting the vacancy in terminal bay capacity along with the exact date of occurrence of such vacancy, nature of connectivity (i.e. solar or non-solar) etc. within three (3) calendar days of the event.
6.	Consent Mechanism for Reallocation	An application submitted in the prescribed format by an entity shall be deemed as prior consent to reallocation. Such consent shall be duly recorded and deemed irrevocable unless such consent is withdrawn during meetings convened for the purpose of reallocation, whether held independently or as part of regional consultative meetings related to transmission scheme evolution (CMETS).
7.	Entities Eligible to Apply	Grantees of in-principle grant or a final grant of Connectivity who hold Connectivity rights at an ISTS substation within the same Cluster as the vacated bay are eligible to apply for reallocation. The entity shall remain subject to all applicable commercial liabilities as defined under the Sharing Regulations, 2020. Provided further that an entity can apply for reallocation only if the vacated margin (in MW) is equal to or lesser than the quantum of connectivity granted to such an entity. <i>E.g. In case a margin of 200MW is vacated upon revocation of Connectivity granted to an entity 'A', then B which is an in-principle connectivity grantee of 200MW shall be eligible for making an application. However, an entity C which is an in-principle connectivity grantee for 300MW shall not be eligible to apply for reallocation against such quantum.</i>
8.	Limitations on Eligibility	An entity shall not be eligible for reallocation of Connectivity after a period of 12 months of issuance of a final grant of Connectivity or 18 months prior to the effective date of GNA firm Start date of Connectivity, whichever is later. For this purpose, the firm Start date of Connectivity shall be construed as the firm date or any other start date as communicated in the final grant of Connectivity, as applicable. Furthermore, entities that have already availed reallocation once shall not be eligible for subsequent reallocations.
9.	Technical Constraints	Reallocation requests which, upon implementation, would cause the length of dedicated transmission line(s) to exceed one hundred (100) kilometres, may be refused on the grounds of technical inadvisability.

Table – 1 : Procedure for Reallocation

S.No.	Title	Procedure / Clarification
		Such technical considerations and related decisions shall be deliberated and recorded within the Consultative Meetings for the Evolution of Transmission Schemes (CMETS).
10.	Commercial Charge Responsibilities	Should a vacated bay previously utilized by one Connectivity grantee be subsequently allocated to another with a later Connectivity start date, the initial grantee shall be liable for applicable charges towards ATS/terminal bay accruing for the period of vacancy before the reallocated grantee commences operations. Without prejudice to other legal recourses, such charges shall be liable to be attributed from the Bank Guarantees submitted by the vacating entity.
11.	Disclaimer against Compensation	Any entity responsible for constructing terminal bays at ISTS substations under its own scope and cost shall forgo any claims for compensation or reimbursement from the CTU subsequent to reallocation of the Connectivity related thereto.
12.	Compliance Obligations Post Reallocation	Entities acquiring Connectivity upon reallocation shall be bound to comply with all extant regulatory and commercial obligations linked to the terminal bays, including payment of transmission charges, submission of additional bank guarantees or financial securities as mandated under relevant Regulations and Procedures.
13.	Bank Guarantee for Shared Bays	In all the instances of terminal bay-sharing resulting from reallocation, any entity that does not have an existing Conn-BG2 for such bay shall be required to furnish the same within one month of issuance of reallocation letter by CTU.
14.	Continuity and Advancement of Start Date	The original firm Connectivity start date shall remain unchanged and unaffected by the reallocation. However, the entity may seek adjustment to an earlier Connectivity start date, subject to confirmation of adequate transmission system availability.