

Draft Procedure for Modalities in cases wherein Augmentation (with or without ATS) is not approved by the Competent Authority
[For Stakeholder Consultation]

11th December 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: 'Draft Procedure for Modalities in cases wherein Augmentation (with or without ATS) is not approved by the Competent Authority' under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022

1. As per the mandate of Regulation 39.1 read with Regulation 6.3; CTU has prepared the '**Draft Procedure for Modalities in cases wherein Augmentation (with or without ATS) is not approved by the Competent Authority**'. 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 December 2025**.

4. 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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Central Transmission Utility of India Limited

Draft Procedure for Modalities in cases wherein Augmentation (with or without ATS) is not approved by the Competent Authority

A. Objective

This procedure is issued by CTUIL under Regulation 6.3 of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access) Regulations, 2022 to specify the detailed modalities for such cases wherein identified augmentation (with or without ATS) is not approved by the authority competent to approve such augmentation and the subject applications are required to be closed by the Nodal Agency and all the bank guarantees furnished, if any, to be returned.

The provisions herein are to be read holistically with the sections dealing with planning and system studies for grant of Connectivity under Regulations 6 & 7 of the GNA Regulations, 2022.

B. Agenda for CMETS

1. Based on the results of planning studies, the Nodal Agency shall circulate an Agenda for grant of connectivity to applicants and constituents of CMETS for deliberation in the Consultative Meeting for Evolution of Transmission Schemes ["CMETS"] (for each electrical Region where Connectivity applications have been received). The Agenda shall also be uploaded on the Nodal Agency's website seven (7) days before the CMETS.
2. The CMETS Agenda shall clearly indicate the transmission system and elements planned for augmentation (with or without ATS) to enable power transfer against the Connectivity & GNA applications in consideration.

Provided that, in accordance with Regulation 6.3, the CMETS Agenda shall clearly state the available power-transfer margin in the ISTS and at the concerned sub-station/pooling station for all applications that have the same relative priority (for example, all applications of January 2026) and are being processed together for Connectivity or GNA based on the same identified augmentation (with or without ATS).

For illustration, if multiple applications cumulatively seek injection of 2 GW peak power but the existing ISTS margin at that location is only 500 MW, the CMETS

Agenda shall explicitly record this available margin, and the same shall be confirmed in the CMETS Minutes of Meeting.

C. Competent Authority for Approval of Transmission Schemes

1. The approval of planned ISTS schemes (i.e. transmission augmentation with and without ATS) shall be as per relevant notification(s) of the Ministry of Power (MoP). MoP vide its office order no. 15/3/2018-Trans Pt(5) dated 28-10-2021 regarding reconstitution of National Committee on Transmission (NCT), has made following process for approval of ISTS schemes. As per said office order, approval shall include identification of mode of implementation viz. TBCB or RTM and also commissioning schedule. Further, cost estimation of the project is to be done by NCT.
2. The process for approval of transmission scheme shall be in accordance with CTU's Procedure for Planning of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) and includes the following steps:
 - (a) **Finalization of ISTS Scheme:** Planning studies and finalization of ISTS Scheme by CTU as per the inputs received by it from various stakeholders and as per the requirements posited in the Connectivity and GNA Applications.
 - (b) **Costing based on NCT Base Costs:** The cost of the scheme is computed using the latest NCT per-unit base cost norms. This cost estimate shall determine the route for approval.
 - (c) **Competent Authority on the basis of cost of ISTS Scheme/ Project:**
 - (i) For ISTS Scheme Cost > INR 500 Crores: ISTS Scheme shall be discussed in concerned Regional Power Committee. NCT shall examine the Scheme and may issue a final recommendation to the **Ministry of Power**, who may accord the final approval.
Provided that in case the MoP or the NCT does not approve or recommend the subject ISTS Scheme, then the consequent action as detailed hereinbelow shall follow.
 - (ii) For ISTS Scheme Cost > ₹100 crore and ≤ ₹500 Crores: **NCT** shall examine the Scheme and may accord the final approval.

Provided that in case the NCT does not approve the subject ISTS Scheme, then the consequent action as detailed hereinbelow shall follow.

- (iii) For ISTS Scheme Cost < ₹100 crore: **CTU** shall examine the Scheme and may accord the final approval.

Provided that in case CTU does not approve the subject ISTS Scheme, it shall record and communicate the reasons for the same.

(d) Mode of Implementation and Commissioning Schedule: As per MoP's office order no. 15/3/2018-Trans Pt (5) dated 28-10-2021, the Competent Authority shall specify the mode of implementation of ISTS Scheme i.e. Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) or Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) and the Commissioning Schedule.

D. Intimation about Non-Approval or Rejection of ISTS Scheme

In case of non-approval or rejection of the subject ISTS Scheme (including identified augmentation with or without ISTS) by the Competent Authority, CTU shall notify the information regarding non approval of ISTS Scheme on its website in the Regional CMETS section of the ISTS Planning & Coordination tab within a period of ten (10) days of non-approval or rejection, as communicated to it through official Minutes of Meeting. This shall constitute public notice of the relevant information.

Provided that administrative reasons such as lack of quorum, administrative pendency, absence of consideration etc shall not be deemed to constitute non-approval or rejection of an ISTS Scheme.

E. Closure of Applications affected by non-approval of ISTS Scheme, Return of BGs & Application Fee

1. All such applications for which the relevant ISTS Scheme has not been approved or has been rejected by the Competent Authority shall be closed (including cases where in-principle grant had been issued) and bank guarantees submitted (including Conn-BGs and Land-BG) shall be returned by CTU.

Provided that any higher-priority applications (in terms of time & date stamp) that can be fully accommodated (in terms of their MW requirement) within the available ISTS and sub-station/pooling-station margins shall not be closed and shall be

processed for grant of Connectivity or GNA, as applicable. [For illustration, if the available ISTS and substation/pooling-station margin at a location is 500 MW and six applications of 300 MW each are being processed as one stack, only the highest-priority application of 300 MW that can be fully accommodated within the available margin shall be processed for grant.]

Provided further that the applicant shall be entitled for return of their bank guarantee instruments either on the basis of submission of an application to this effect annexing the extract copy of public notice for non-approval of relevant ISTS scheme or against a formal letter of closure of application.

2. The application fee shall also be returned by CTU in all such cases. Further, CTU shall not be liable for any commercial or financial loss incurred by Applicants as a consequence of non-approval of augmentation under Regulation 6.3.

F. No overriding priority in case of fresh application

If an applicant whose application was closed under Regulation 6.3 submits a fresh application with a different location, start date, or quantum (in MW), such new application shall be processed strictly as per its own priority and merits, and shall not receive any special or higher priority on account of closure of earlier application under Regulation 6.3.