

Draft Procedure under Regulation 6.3 for closure of application and return of Bank Guarantee in cases wherein Augmentation is not approved

[For Stakeholder Consultation]

13th January 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: 'Draft Procedure under Regulation 6.3 for closure of application and return of Bank Guarantee in cases wherein Augmentation is not approved' 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 6.3 read with Regulation 39.1; CTU has prepared the '**Draft Procedure under Regulation 6.3 for closure of application and return of Bank Guarantee in cases wherein Augmentation is not approved**'. 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 relevant procedure has been highlighted in yellow in the document below.** Since this procedure forms part of Clause 6 of the consolidated Detailed Procedure, the entire Clause 6 has been extracted hereinbelow for reference.
4. 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 **20th January 2026**.
5. The comments/ suggestions/ objections received after the stipulated date may not be considered while finalizing the 'Detailed Procedure for closure of application and return of Bank Guarantee in cases wherein Augmentation is not approved' for submission to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for notification.

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6. Planning & Coordination– System Studies, Augmentation (with or without ATS), CMETS

(i) Complete & Eligible Applications to be processed

All applications complete in all respects and eligible for grant of Connectivity in terms of the Regulations shall be considered for grant of Connectivity based on the results of interconnection studies and the deliberations in the consultative meeting with participation of concerned stakeholders as detailed below.

(ii) Categorization of Applications based on electrical Region & location of project

All Connectivity applications shall be categorized in terms of the electrical Region (i.e. NR / ER / NER / SR / WR) of the applicant's project location and the location of the applicant's project as provided in the Connectivity application.

Provided that in case of discrepancy governing criteria for such categorization shall be electrical proximity to nearest ISTS point of the respective Electrical Region and not physical distance or proximity.

(iii) Interconnection Studies as per Statutory & Regulatory requirements

The Nodal Agency is required to undertake technical studies in order to ascertain the transmission system requirements for grant of connectivity and GNA with due regard to the statutory requirements of development of efficient, coordinated and economical system of ISTS. For the purpose of convenience, reference to "*Interconnection Studies*" or "*Planning Studies*" in the Regulations shall be deemed to apply to any and all such technical studies. These studies include:

- (a) power flow studies to examine the adequacy of transmission system for transfer of power corresponding to the timeframe of start date of Connectivity and GNA as sought in the applications;
- (b) joint studies with CEA, RPC, concerned STUs, RLDC for assessment of transmission system requirements, in case transmission system is inadequate;
- (c) interconnection studies as specified in the CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) Regulations, 2007;

Such technical studies shall be undertaken either in anticipation of transmission requirements based on the data and information as obtained from concerned stakeholders and including the renewable energy potential declared by MNRE or based on the requirements as provided in the Connectivity and GNA applications, subject to the requirements of economic, efficient and coordinated transmission planning as mandated under Section 38(2)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

(iv) Planning Studies Objectives & Outcomes

The Planning Studies are carried out on the basis of load generation balance (LGB) for the corresponding period for which the transmission requirements are being studied. Therefore, the Objectives shall include economic, efficient and coordinated transmission planning of ISTS and the Planning Studies Outcomes shall include assessment of:

- (i) bays available at ISTS sub-station(s) or pooling station(s) proximate to the applicant's generation pooling station location,
- (ii) power evacuation margins in the transmission system of the concerned ISTS sub-station or pooling station, and

further margins for evacuation of power over ISTS under GNA.

(v) Priority and other relevant considerations

All applications received shall be studied as per their electrical Region for grant of connectivity based on their inter-se and relative priority.

Provided that the following details provided in the Connectivity application shall also be weighted and considered in the processing of an application for grant of Connectivity:

- (i) Geographical location of the applicant's project (i.e. generator pooling station, where applicable);
- (ii) preferred point of connection to ISTS;
- (iii) Quantum of power to be interchanged with ISTS;
- (iv) Date from which Connectivity is being sought;
- (v) Any other details as provided in the Connectivity application.

Provided further that the Interconnection Studies may also accord due weightage to factors such as:

- (i) length of the dedicated transmission line from the applicant's generation pooling station to the connecting ISTS sub-station or pooling station;
- (ii) Voltage rating of ISTS bays e.g. 220kV, 400kV;

Nodal Agency may seek such information or details as may be necessary for the studies and processing of the applications from the designated representatives of the Connectivity applicant.

Provided that applicant may request for preponement of Start date of connectivity provided in the application during the CMETS meeting which may be considered by CTUIL subject to availability of transmission system or bay etc.

(vi) Augmentation Requirement as identified in Planning Studies

The planning studies shall inter alia identify the requirement of augmentation to the ISTS based on the existing ISTS which may include both;

- (a) augmentation required for immediate evacuation of power of the Connectivity applications so studied;
- (b) augmentation required for enabling transfer of power over ISTS.

Applications to be granted as a whole at one sub-station or to be partially withdrawn based on available transmission capacity at the sub-station

Connectivity applications shall be considered for grant as a whole in the context of a particular ISTS sub-station or a pooling station and shall not be split across two or more sub-station(s) or pooling station(s).

Provided that in case of non-availability of transmission capacity for the full quantum at the substation at which connectivity or GNA has been proposed by CTU and agreed by the Applicant, the application for grant of connectivity or GNA can be withdrawn for partial quantum before the in-principle grant of Connectivity (in terms of Regulation 7.1) or before grant of GNA [for entities under Regulation 17.1(iii)]. Such modification shall be carried out in terms of Regulation 3.7.2 (a) to (d).

Provided that in case margin is not available at specific voltage level in the substation (400 kV or 220 kV etc.), then also applicant may exercise the option of partial withdrawal under 3.7.2.

In the event, the Applicant elects not to withdraw the application for partial quantum during the CMETS Meeting, the application shall be considered for grant at the subsequent sub-station for full quantum.

(vii) Voltage rating of bays to be allocated

Applications for grant of Connectivity for a quantum of 500MW or more may be preferentially considered for grant at 400kV bay(s) in order to ensure the most optimal allocation of transmission facilities.

Provided that the decision of CTU in this regard shall be final.

Applications for grant of Connectivity for a quantum of 300MW or less may be considered for grant at the 220 kV terminal bay and with the dedicated transmission infrastructure of existing or prospective Connectivity grantee.

(viii) CMETS

The Consultation Meeting for Evolution of Transmission Schemes [“CMETS”] shall be forum for deliberation and coordination amongst stakeholders in the grant of Connectivity and GNA and for evolution of transmission schemes.

The invitees to the CMETS shall include the concerned applicants and representatives from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority, concerned Regional Power Committee, concerned Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies, State Transmission Utilities of the concerned electrical Region and concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre.

CMETS is also the consultative forum generally for finalization of transmission schemes, which are then forwarded for approval as per Rule 5(3) of Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Interstate Transmission charges) Rules, 2021 and awarded as per estimated cost of the transmission system considering the base cost adopted by NCT cost committee of CEA.

(ix) Periodicity of CMETS

In each CMETS convened on a regional basis, the Connectivity Applications received up to the last day of the previous month shall be deliberated with concerned stakeholders and with respect to the transmission system required and identified for the grant of Connectivity.

CMETS shall be convened preferably in every month for the Connectivity & GNA Applications.

Provided that in case an application or applications for Connectivity or GNA cannot be queued up for grant under CMETS due to any constraints or objections on technical, consultative or regulatory grounds, then CTU shall record the reasons and notify the same to the concerned stakeholders in the ordinary course.

Provided further that all the applications pending for grant received by the Nodal Agency in the months antecedent shall be convened together at the earliest possible opportunity.

(x) Agenda for CMETS

Based on the results of planning studies, the Nodal Agency shall circulate an Agenda to the applicants and the constituents of CMETS for deliberation in the Consultation Meeting for Evolution of Transmission Schemes ["CMETS"] (for each electrical Region where Connectivity applications have been received) for grant of Connectivity/GNA. The Agenda shall also be uploaded on the Nodal Agency's website seven (7) days before the CMETS.

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.

(xi) Evolution of Transmission Scheme(s)

The CMETS Agenda shall clearly indicate the transmission system augmentation (with or without ATS) to enable power transfer against the Connectivity & GNA applications in consideration. Such transmission system augmentation, if having any augmentation requirement, shall be proposed to be placed for approval before the Competent Authority.

If CTU is unable to evolve the transmission system augmentation (with or without ATS) required for connectivity within 90 days from the last day of month of receipt of application due to any reason, in such cases CTUIL shall inform the applicants regarding the same in the forthcoming CMETS meeting.

Thereafter, upon evolution of transmission system augmentation [with ATS or without ATS] required for connectivity and the approval of the same in subsequent CMETS meetings, CTUIL shall again take up applications for discussion in next CMETS meeting for grant, followed by issuance of intimation for in-principle grant of Connectivity.

Provided that if CTU is not able to evolve the transmission system augmentation (with or without ATS) in 180 days from the last day of month of receipt of application due to observations of surplusage to the requirements as posited under the short-term plans, perspective plans, load-generation balance, operational feedback for grid stability, requirements of thermal power despatch for grid stability etc.; then the CMETS Agenda shall indicate the same. Further, the Agenda shall propose the closure of the applications, as deemed rejected by the Competent Authority for approval of transmission schemes. The information in this regard shall be formally placed before the Competent Authority, Central Electricity Authority, Grid Controller of India Ltd, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and concerned stakeholders, if any.

(xii) Minutes of CMETS

The Nodal Agency shall endeavour to issue the minutes of CMETS within a period of 15 days from the date of meeting.

Provided that any participant of a CMETS which has an objection to the minutes or decisions to the minutes, must communicate the same to the Nodal Agency within a period of 7 days from the issuance of Minutes of CMETS, after which the Minutes shall attain finality and shall be formally confirmed in the next CMETS.

The Minutes shall also denote and record any variation in the Minutes of the previous CMETS.

The Minutes of CMETS shall be circulated to all concerned and uploaded on CTU's website.

(xiii) Submission of Evolved Transmission Scheme(s) for Approval

All evolved transmission scheme(s), if having any augmentation requirement, shall be placed for approval before the Competent Authority.

(xiv) Competent Authority for Approval of Transmission Schemes [Regulation 6.3]

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/ CTU.

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 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.

(xv) Intimation about Rejection of ISTS Scheme [Regulation 6.3]

In case of rejection or non-approval 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.

(xvi) Closure of Applications affected by non-approval of ISTS Scheme, Return of BGs [Regulation 6.3]

All such applications for which the relevant ISTS Scheme has been rejected or not approved by the Competent Authority or for which CTU is not able to evolve transmission scheme(s) 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 in case an applicant seeks to downsize its application to the margin available, then such an application shall also be granted Connectivity utilizing the available margin.

Provided further that all other applicants 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.

(xvii) Application Fee [Regulation 6.3]

The 20% of application fee shall be forfeited by CTU and balance 80% of the application fee shall be refunded to the Applicant. 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.

(xviii) No overriding priority in case of fresh application [Regulation 6.3]

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.

(xix) Intimation of in-principle grant of Connectivity

The Nodal Agency shall intimate in-principle grant of Connectivity based on the outcome of CMETS meeting, Interconnection Studies, power flow studies and any required relevant consideration as necessary.

Results of Interconnection Studies for a Connectivity Application

For each Connectivity Application, the studies conducted under Regulation 6 would yield either of the following scenarios vis-à-vis requirement of ISTS Augmentation:

- (a) No requirement of Augmentation [Reg. 7.1]
- (b) Augmentation with ATS [Reg 7.2]
- (c) Augmentation without ATS [Reg 7.2]

Provided that of the augmentation so required, transmission elements as identified or planned for evacuation of power from RE potential zones notified by MNRE/REIAs would be considered as those falling under augmentation without ATS.

Provided further that of the augmentation so required, transmission elements required for immediate evacuation of power for a specific Connectivity application would be considered as those falling under augmentation with ATS.

(xx) Grant of In-principle Connectivity without Augmentation

In case the result of the studies under Regulation 6 yields no requirement of augmentation, Nodal Agency shall follow the following procedure for issuance of grant of in-principle Connectivity:

- (a) Timeline for issuance of In-principle intimation: 60 days from the last day of the month in which the original Connectivity application was received by Nodal Agency.
- (b) Details in the In-principle intimation shall include:
 - (i) ISTS sub-station or pooling station where connectivity is granted
 - (ii) Voltage level of allocated bay
 - (iii) Scope of implementation of terminal bay (whether ISTS or applicant's)
 - (iv) Bay No. and SLD, if available
 - (v) Minimum design features for dedicated transmission line
 - (vi) Scheduled commissioning date of transmission system (if under implementation)
 - (vii) Start Date (as sought in the Application) or the Date of Commissioning of the Existing ISTS (if under implementation), whichever is later
 - (viii) Details of bank guarantees to be submitted [Reg. 8.2]
 - (ix) Details of communication system
 - (x) Additional technical or other requirements, if any

(xxi) Grant of In-principle Connectivity with Augmentation [with ATS] or with Augmentation [without ATS] [i.e. with Common Transmission System (CTS)]

In case the result of the studies under Regulation 6 yields requirement of augmentation, in such cases, Connectivity shall be granted with Augmentation (With or Without ATS).

(a) Timeline for issuance of In-principle intimation: 90 days from the last day of the month in which the original Connectivity application was received by Nodal Agency.

(b) Specifications in the in-principle intimation shall include:

- (i) ISTS sub-station or pooling station where connectivity is granted;
- (ii) Voltage level of allocated bay;
- (iii) Scope of implementation of terminal bay (whether ISTS or applicant's);
- (iv) Bay No. and SLD if available;
- (v) Details of ATS
- (vi) Minimum design features for dedicated transmission line;
- (vii) Scheduled commissioning date of transmission system (as per the latest information available with the Nodal Agency);
- (viii) Likely date of start of Connectivity (firm date to be after successful transfer of SPV consequent to transmission bidding process);
- (ix) Details of bank guarantees to be submitted [Reg. 8.3];
- (x) Details of communication system;
- (xi) Additional technical or other requirements, if any;