INDIAN WIND POWER ASSOCIATION  
(Northern Region Council)

Date 14.12.2017

To,
The Hon'ble Secretary  
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)  
3 rd& 4 th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi- 110001

Subject: In the matter of Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State transmission system and other related matters) Regulations, 2017

Dear Sir,
At the outset, we extend our gratitude to this Hon'ble Commission for inviting the stakeholder’s comments/objections in the matter of Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State transmission system and other related matters) Regulations, 2017.

We would like to introduce ourselves as the Indian Wind Power Association (IWPA), an Association of wind power developers and investor of India and was set up in 1996 as a non-profit organization under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. Started with 37 members, the Association is now having 1100 members spread all over India. Since its inception, IWPA has been working towards removing barriers to wind power development and creation of an enabling regulatory and policy environment for better investments in the sector.

The Association is working closely with several national industry bodies such as the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Environment, Confederation of Indian Industry, State Utilities, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions etc.

IWPA (Northern Region Council) hereby enclosing its comment/objections on the aforesaid Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State transmission system and other related matters) Regulations, 2017 and request this Hon'ble Commission to kindly consider the same before finalising anything.

Thanking you
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<th>S. No.</th>
<th>PROPOSED CLAUSE</th>
<th>COMMENT/SUGGESTIONS</th>
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| 1.    | **2. Definitions:**  
(f) “Central Repository” means a database maintained by Central Electricity Authority in case of conventional energy and by any other authority as notified by the Central Government in respect of renewable energy. | This Regulation should be effective from the date of appointment of central repository by the central govt because the RE applicant will not be able to file the application for connectivity as there is no central repository notified by the central government till date. |
| 2.    | **3. Scope**  
3.6. An applicant may apply for Connectivity and GNA simultaneously. | The condition for applying connectivity and GNA simultaneously is not possible in case of Renewable Energy projects as under the regulation 11.1 clearly defines that the applicant shall file application for GNA within two and the half years from the date of intimation of grant of STAGE-I connectivity for the renewable energy projects. |
| 3.    | **3.7 The existing Long Term customers of ISTS shall be deemed to be GNA customers subject to fulfillment of conditions as per the Regulation 25 hereaf.** | According to this draft regulation Long Term customers of ISTS is considered as deemed GNA customer, subject to fulfillment of the conditions of connectivity, but this draft regulation did not talks about Medium Term and short term customer for ISTS connectivity. |
4. **5.2. The application shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee specified hereunder for the quantum applied, and shall be payable by Applicant along with the application for Connectivity and GNA:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Quantum of Power to be injected into/drawal from ISTS</th>
<th>Application fee (Rs. in lakh)</th>
<th>For Connectivity</th>
<th>GNA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Up to 100 MW</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>More than 100 MW and up to 500 MW</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>More than 500 MW and up to 1000 MW</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>More than 1000 MW</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
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There is no clarity regarding the GNA for existing Medium Term Customer and short term customer, are they being considered as deemed GNA customers or not and further if they are not considered as deemed GNA customer, then how will their application to access GNA be initiated and also clarification is required regarding the charges and application fees regarding MTOA/StOA customers.

This draft regulation makes provision of separate charges for Connectivity and General Network Access and there is no concessional provision for Renewable energy in application fees. The Hon’ble Ministry of Power has come up with the ambitious target of 175 GW of Renewable Energy by 2022, thus in order to promote the ambitious dream of 175 GW of green energy by 2022, government must take judicious approach to promote integration of green energy with national grid, such can be done by relaxing the Application fees norms for Green energy.
6. Timeframe for processing of application

6.1. The application for Connectivity and GNA shall be processed by the nodal agency within the time limits specified hereunder:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nature of Application</th>
<th>Time limit for processing beginning the last day of the month in which application was received by the nodal agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connectivity for renewable generating station, Solar, Wind Power Park Developer and Wind-Solar power park developer</td>
<td>60 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Stage-I</td>
<td>60 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Stage-II</td>
<td>60 days</td>
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| GNA                                          | 120 days where augmentation of transmission system is not required  
180 days where augmentation of transmission system is required |

6.2. If Connectivity or GNA application is not processed by CTU as per the timeline given above, such application for Connectivity or GNA shall be processed free of cost and CTU shall return the application fee paid by the applicant.

From the Para 6.2 it is mentioned if Connectivity or GNA application, is not processed by CTU as per the timeline given above, such application for Connectivity or GNA shall be processed free of cost and CTU shall return the application fee paid by the applicant. In case Renewables, the clarity is not provided that how much delay can be there from CTU’s processing of application for STAGE-I and GNA. And there should be some timeline for those applications which are delayed by CTU so that the overall process of connectivity and GNA will not be delayed and hampered.
7. Grant of Connectivity

7.4. In order to assess preparedness of applicant making application for the connectivity to the ISTS, an applicant (other than renewable generating station, Solar Power Park Developer, Wind Power Park Developer or Wind-Solar Power Park Developer) shall submit along with its application, documents in support of having initiated specific actions for project preparatory activities in respect of the following milestones as applicable:

(a) Site identification and land acquisition: Details about the land required for the generation project along with extent to which the same have been acquired and taken possession of. The “requirement” of land would be considered as indicated in the proposal filed with the competent authority for seeking environmental clearance.

Preparedness must include authentic wind data of the proposed site at-least for a period of one year as on the date of submission of application. The nodal agency for certification of wind data as NIWE. Hence copy of NIWE Certificate should be mandatory.
7.9. Application for Stage-II Connectivity by Renewable Energy Generating Stations or Wind Power Park developer or Solar Power Park developer or Wind-Solar Power Park Developer:

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(c) An Applicant other than a merchant power plant shall be eligible to apply for Stage-II Connectivity on achieving following milestones:

(i) Financial closure of the project developer has been completed.

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(d) An Applicant not covered under Regulation 7.9 (c) (merchant power plant) shall be eligible to apply for Stage-II Connectivity on achieving following milestones:

(i) Financial closure of the project developer has been completed.

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A financial closure is not possible to achieve without firm connectivity agreement and hence this clause is impossible to achieve.
| 8. | **7.9. Application for Stage-II Connectivity by Renewable Energy Generating Stations or Wind Power Park developer or Solar Power Park developer or Wind-Solar Power Park Developer:**  
(d) An Applicant not covered under Regulation 7.9 (c) (merchant power plant) shall be eligible to apply for Stage-II Connectivity on achieving following milestones:

(ii) Applicant has completed at least 50% Tower Erection of dedicated Transmission Line to connect to ISTS and have installed switchgear and ICT at its pooling station.  

<p>|  | The clause is contradictory because the line construction can commence only after bay allotment at specific substation &amp; notification if construction of line under “Section 68”. However, bay allotment is not granted at Stage 1 connectivity approval. |</p>
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<th>9.</th>
<th>7.17. Application by the applicant defined under Regulation 2.1.(c)(iv) shall be considered by CTU only if the Solar Power Park Developer or Wind Power Park Developer or Wind-Solar Power Park Developer is authorised by the Central or State Government as the case may be to undertake infrastructural activities including arrangement for connectivity on behalf of the solar power generators or wind power generators.</th>
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<td>This condition is discouraging free market development. No state/central govt. is undertaking the wind park development. In fact states like Gujarat who were initially (Before year 2000) creating wind parks and selling the capacity to investors, moved out due to multiple complexity of wind power projects. In any case, the entire risk of wind farm development lies with developer, hence the pre-condition of state/central govt. prior approval must be removed.</td>
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<td>7.21. While granting connectivity, the nodal agency shall specify the name of the sub-station or pooling station or switchyard where connectivity is to be granted. In case connectivity is to be granted by looping-in and looping-out (LILO) of an existing or proposed line, the nodal agency shall specify the point of connection and name of the line at which connectivity is to be granted. The nodal agency shall indicate the broad design features of the dedicated transmission line and the timeframe for completion of the dedicated transmission line. In case of Renewable Energy Generating Station or Solar Power Park Developer or Wind Power Park Developer or Wind-Solar Power Park Developer, while granting Connectivity, the nodal agency shall indicate one firm location and one nearby alternative location.</td>
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<td>Grant of LILO, will it remain permanent or temporary.</td>
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|   | 7.34. Drawal of Start-up power by a unit of the generating station shall be subject to following conditions:  
(a) Drawal of start-up power shall not be allowed prior to fifteen (15) months from expected date of first synchronization and six (06) months after the date of first synchronization.  
(b) Start-up shall be subject to payment of transmission charges and the generator shall have to open a revolving and irrevocable Letter of Credit (LC) issued by a Scheduled Bank equivalent to 2 months transmission charges prior to drawal of Start-up power.  
(c) Start-up power shall not be allowed for construction activities  
(d) The concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre while granting such permission shall keep the grid security in view.  
(e) RLDC shall withdraw permission for drawal of the start-up Power in the following events:  
(i) In case, it is established that the Start-up power has been used by the Generating Station for construction activity.  
(ii) In case of failure to maintain the stipulated Letter of Credit during the duration of drawal of start-up power.  
(iii) In case of default by the Generating Station in payment of monthly transmission charges to the transmission licensee for the drawal of start-up power, on intimation received from transmission licensee. | Wind power projects do not have station transformer for startup. Hence in case of total shut down of wind power plant startup power can be required any time during the operational life of wind farm. |
| 12. | **10. Point of Commercial Metering**  
Metering shall be done at the interface point of connection of the generator with transmission system of licensee as specified in the CEA Metering Regulations subject to following:  
(a) In case dedicated transmission Lines are owned/ constructed by a generator, such metering point shall be at the pooling sub-station of ISTS licensee.  
(b) In case generator is connected to more than one pooling station, metering shall be at the bus bar of the generating station. | Clarity required how the metering will be dealt with in case of LILO. |
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<td>13.</td>
<td><strong>11.5. If any application for Connectivity or Long term Access or Medium term open access made in accordance with Connectivity Regulations is pending with CTU as on the date of coming into effect of these Regulations, the same shall be processed in accordance with these Regulations.</strong></td>
<td>The Hon’ble Commission mentions that if any application for Connectivity or Long term Access or Medium term open access made in accordance with Connectivity Regulations is pending with CTU as on the date of coming into effect of these Regulations, the same shall be processed in accordance with these Regulations, so in such a case clarity is required whether the applicant needs to file a fresh application along with the fee as mentioned in 5.2 of this regulation.</td>
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11.7 BGPLNA of 10 Lakhs/MW is prohibitively high and would be detrimental to the industry. This would create an environment of participation of very big corporate Houses and would eventually kill the medium and smaller level organizations which are keen and capable of installing Wind farm projects.

Thanking you,

K R Nair
President, IWPANRC
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