

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 225/TL/2024

Coram:

Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of order: 12th March, 2025

In the matter of:

Petition under Sections 14 & 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 for the Grant of separate Transmission License for Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS and Implementation of 1 no. of 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. on Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) route.

And

In the matter of

Karur Transmission Limited,
C 105, Anand Niketan,
New Delhi-110021.

..... **Petitioner**

Vs.

1. JSW Renew Energy Limited,
JSW Centre,
Bandra Kurla Complex,
Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400051.

2. POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited,
Chief Executive Officer, CTU Planning,
Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29,
Gurgaon-122001.

..... **Respondents**

Parties present:

Shri Prashant Kumar, KTL
Shri Ranjeet S. Rajput, CTUIL
Shri Akshayvat Kislay, CTUIL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Karur Transmission Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'the Petitioner/KTL'), has filed the present Petition under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') read with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 for grant of a separate Transmission License for "Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS and Implementation of 1 no. of 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. on RTM route" (hereinafter referred to as the 'transmission scheme/project'). The scope of the project for which a transmission licence has been sought is as under:

SN	Name of the scheme and Implementation timeframe	Estimated Cost (₹ Crores)	Remark
1	Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3 rd & 4 th ICTs) at Karur PS Tentative Implementation timeframe: 18 months	115	Approved to be implemented under RTM by Karur Transmission Limited
2	Implementation of 1 no. of 230kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. 15 months from the date of issuance of OM by CTUIL i.e. 23/01/2026	5.57	Approved to be implemented under RTM by Karur Transmission Limited

Detailed scope of the Scheme is given below:

SN	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Capacity/ km
1	Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3 rd & 4 th ICTs) at Karur PS	i. 500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICTs - 2 Nos. ii. 400 kV ICT bay - 2 Nos. iii. 230 kV ICT bay - 2 Nos.
2	1 no. of 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd.	i. 230 kV line bay–1 No.

2. The Petitioner company was incorporated as a special purpose vehicle by PFC Consulting Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'PFCCL') as part of the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process for implementing the transmission project *"Transmission Scheme for Evacuation of Power from RE Sources in Karur/Tiruppur Wind Energy Zone (Tamil Nadu) (1000 MW) Under Phase-I"* on a Build, Own, Operate, and maintain (BOOM) basis. Adani Energy Solutions Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'AESL') [Previously known as Adani Transmission Limited (ATL)] participated in the competitive bidding process conducted by PFCCL, and upon emerging as the successful bidder, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was issued by PFCCL to AESL on 22.12.2021. In accordance with the bidding documents, AESL acquired 100% of the shareholding in the Petitioner Company by executing a Share Purchase Agreement with PFCCL on 18.1.2022. TSP entered into a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) with the LTTCS on 18.1.2022. The Commission, vide its order dated 16.6.2022 in Petition No. 102/TL/2022, granted a transmission licence to the Petitioner Company for inter-State transmission of electricity to establish the transmission project for the "Evacuation of power from RE sources in Karur/Tiruppur Wind

Energy Zone (Tamil Nadu) (1000 MW) under Phase- I”.

3. The Petitioner has submitted that after the grant of a separate transmission licence, the Petitioner shall proceed to implement the transmission schemes under the RTM mode. The estimated cost of the transmission schemes as per the 18th meeting of NCT dated 5.3.2024 is Rs.115 crore, and as per the 34th meeting of CMETS (Southern Region) dated 24.9.2024 (Western Region) is Rs. 5.57 crores. After completion of the transmission schemes, the Petitioner shall approach the Commission for determination of transmission charges in accordance with Sections 61 and 62 of the Act and Tariff Regulations in vogue as per Regulation 8 (2) of the Transmission Licence Regulations.

4. Subsequently, the NCT approved the Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS on the Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) mode. The subject transmission scheme was discussed and agreed upon in the 18th NCT meeting held on 5.3.2024. The relevant portion of the minutes of the meeting held on 5.3.2024 are extracted as under:

“4.5 Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS

“4.5.1 Representative of CTUIL stated Karur PS was established with 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICTs. Due to new applications for connectivity, total connectivity required for 1100 MW, therefore, 3rd ICT is required. Further, to cater N-1 contingency criteria, 4th ICT is also required. The estimated cost of the scheme is about INR 115 Cr. Accordingly, concurrence of SRPC is not required.

4.5.2 After detailed deliberations, NCT approved the augmentation of transformation capacity by 2x500 MVA (3rd & 4th), 400/230 kV ICTs at Karur PS through RTM mode with tentative implementation timeframe of 18 months.”

5. Thereafter, Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (hereinafter referred to as

‘CTUIL’) has issued an Office Memorandum dated 12.3.2024 to the Petitioner wherein CTUIL has approved and nominated the Petitioner to implement the transmission scheme Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS.

6. Further, the Consultation Meeting for Evolving Transmission Schemes (hereinafter referred to as ‘CMETS’) in the Southern Region, as recorded in the Minutes of the 34th Meeting dated 29.10.2024 held on 24.9.2024, approved the implementation of one (1) 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV Power Station (PS) for the interconnection of the Renewable Energy Generation System (REGS) of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. The relevant portion of the minutes of the meeting held on 24.9.2024 are extracted as under:

S. No	Applicant ID and Date	Name of the Applicant	Project location	Application for Conn./GNA/GNA RE	Eligibility criterion for Application	Nature of Applicant	Location details of Conn./GNA/GNA RE	Total installed capacity	Conn. Sought for [Power interchange with ISTS (MW)]	Start date of Conn./GNA (as requested)	Implementation of terminal bay at ISTS end under the scope of (as requested)
I	2200001023 dt 08.07.2024	Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd.	Karur, Tamil Nadu	Connectivity	Land BG route	Generating station(s), including REGS(s), without ESS	Karur PS	57 (Wind)	57	30.09.2025	Enhancement of application no. 2200000628 (93 MW)
II	2200001033 Dt. 22.07.2024	Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd.	Karur, Tamil Nadu	Connectivity	Land BG route	Generating station(s), including REGS(s), without ESS	Karur PS	100 (Wind)	100	30.09.2025	-

- CTU informed that M/s Navaladi Wind Park Pvt. Ltd. has sought connectivity under Regulation 5.7 and submitted the dedicated connectivity sharing agreement with M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt Ltd., which has been granted connectivity for 93 MW at Karur for application no. 2200000628.
- Karur PS was planned for 2500 MW potential RE capacity. Presently, Karur PS is under operation with 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICTs. Further, 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICTs (3rd & 4th) are under implementation with SCOD as 12.09.2025.

- Total Connectivity already granted/ agreed for grant : 1582.1 MW.
- Total Connectivity under consideration for grant : 157 MW.
- For grant of additional Connectivity, augmentation of 1x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICT (5th) is required. Considering implementation schedule of 18 months and other administrative approval/ process, transmission scheme is expected by Sept.'2026.
- System Studies have been carried out and Connectivity may be granted with existing / under construction/ planned system, which includes Narendra- Pune 765 kV D/c line, details as per Annexure-I, and augmentation of 1x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICT (5th) at Karur PS.
- It is to mention that M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt Ltd. has already been granted connectivity for 93 MW [application no. 2200000628] through 230 kV S/c line. Subsequently, M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000698 for 65 MW) and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000699 for 80 MW) were grant connectivity at Karur PS through sharing of dedicated connectivity transmission system of M/s Nannai Solar Park Private Ltd. for application no. 2200000628 (for 93 MW).\
- With consideration of all applications granted/ agreed for grant/ under process for connectivity, total connectivity granted through dedicated connectivity infrastructure for application no. 2200000628 will be 395 MW (93 MW for application no. 2200000628 + 65 MW for application no. 2200000698 + 80 MW for application no. 2200000699 + 57 MW for application no. 2200001023 + 100 MW for application no. 2200001033)
- In view of above it is proposed to grant connectivity through stringing of 2nd arms of 230 kV D/c towers of the dedicated connectivity line for application no. 2200000628, 2200000698 & 2200000699 and bunching both arms circuit at both ends to form single circuit line for termination in same bay allocated for application no. 2200000628, 2200000698 & 2200000699.
- Representative from M/s Nanni Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Navaladi Wind Park Pvt. Ltd. stated that M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. have not approached to it regarding sharing of dedicated connectivity infrastructure.. If connectivity is granted to M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. through its connectivity transmission system, it may affect its project viability. M/s Nanni Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. proposed to allocate new bay to M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. instead of sharing of connectivity system with it.
- Towards same, CTU stated that for efficient and economic optimization of transmission system, CTU grant connectivity to the applicants through sharing of connectivity transmission system of the other applicants, if sufficient margins are available to accommodate complete connectivity quantum.
- After detail deliberation it was agreed that connectivity may be granted to above applications as per details given below.

Sl.	Applic ation ID	Name of the Applicant	Connec tivity at	Conn ectivit y Quant um (MW)	Connectivity Transmission System under GNA			Start Date of Connectivity	BG details
					Dedicated Connectivity Transmission System (DTL)	ATS	Augment ation n other than ATS		
I	22000 01023 dt 08.07. 2024	Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd.	Karur PS	57	Through dedicated connectivity transmission system [allocated to M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000628, M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000698 and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000699] i.e Generation pooling station of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. -Karur PS 230 kV line and stringing of 2nd arms of 230 kV D/c towers of dedicated connectivity line and bunching both arms circuit at both ends to form single circuit line - all arrangement under the scope of applicant	NIL	Details given below.	30.09.2026* (Tentative) with availability of common tr. System other than ATS	• Conn- BG1 : Rs. 50 lakhs • Conn- BG2 ; NA • Conn- BG-3 : Rs. 1.14 Cr (@ Rs. 2.0 lakh /MW)
II	22000 01033 dt 22.07. 2024	Navaladi Wind Park Pvt. Ltd	Karur PS	100	Through dedicated connectivity transmission system [allocated to M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000628, M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000698 and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000699] i.e Generation pooling	NIL	Details given below.	30.09.2026* (Tentative) with availability of common tr. System other than ATS	• Conn- BG1 : Rs. 50 lakhs • Conn- BG2 : NA • Conn- BG-3 : Rs. 2.0 Cr (@ Rs. 2.0 lakh /MW)

					station of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. -Karur PS 230 kV line and stringing of 2nd arms of 230 kV D/c towers of dedicated connectivity line and bunching both arms circuit at both ends to form single circuit line - all arrangement under the scope of applicant				
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**Firm date of start date of connectivity shall be informed after successful transfer of SPV/ issuance of OM.*

Common transmission system (augmentation other than ATS) for M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. & Navaladi Wind Park Pvt. Ltd. (for application nos. 2200001023 & 2200001033 respectively):

- *ISTS Network Expansion scheme in Western Region & Southern Region for export of surplus power during high RE scenari Southern Region as per **Annexure-I**.*
- *Augmentation of 1x500 MVA, 400/230 kV ICT (5th) at Karur PS.*

Note : *As, connectivity has already been granted / agreed for grant to M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000628), M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000698) and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000699) through common dedicated connectivity transmission system, therefore intimation for in-principle grant of Connectivity to M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. application no. 2200001023 shall be issued only after submission dedicated Connectivity infrastructure sharing agreement with M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000698) and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000699). Similarly, Intimation for in-principle grant of connectivity shall be issued to M/s Navaladi Wind Park Pvt. Ltd. (for application no. 2200001033) only after submission of dedicated Connectivity infrastructure sharing agreement with M/s Amplus Theta Energy Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000698) and M/s Amplus Sun Beat Pvt. Ltd. (application no. 2200000699) and M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. for application no. 2200000628 and 2200001023."*

7. Based on the above, CTUIL, vide its Office Memorandum dated 23.10.2024, approved the implementation of the aforementioned 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for the interconnection of the REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. under the RTM to Karur Transmission Limited along with identifying the implementing agency and also addressing the same to the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and NCT.

8. The Commission, after considering the application of the Petitioner in light of the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, vide its order dated 14.2.2025, *prima facie* proposed to grant a separate transmission licence to the Petitioner to implement the transmission projects detailed in paragraph 1 of the order. The relevant extract of the order dated 14.2.2025 is extracted as under:

“23. We have considered the Petitioner’s submission. The Petitioner has filed the present Petition for the issuance of a separate transmission licence for “Augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 kV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS and Implementation of 1 no. of 230 kV line bay at Karur 400/230 kV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannai Solar Park Pvt. Ltd.” on the Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) route.

24. In view of the amended Petition filed by the Petitioner vide affidavit dated 5.11.2024, the earlier order passed by the Commission is rendered inoperative.

25. Considering the material on record, we are prima-facie of the view that the Petitioner satisfies the conditions for the grant of a separate RTM transmission licence under Section 15 of the Act read with the Transmission Licence Regulations for the implementation of the transmission project as described in para 1 of this order. We, therefore, direct that a public notice in two daily digital newspapers and on the Commission’s website under clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be published to invite suggestions or objections to the grant of a transmission licence aforesaid. The objections or suggestions, if any, be filed by any person before the Commission on or before 28.2.2025.”

9. A public notice under sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act was published on 20.2.2025 in all editions of ‘Times of India’ (English) and ‘Hindustan’ (Hindi). No suggestions/objections have been received from members of the public in response to the public notice.

Hearing dated: 4.3.2025

10. During the course of the hearing, the representative of the Petitioner submitted that vide order dated 14.2.2025, the commission has held that the Petitioner is eligible for the grant of a separate licence and, consequently, directed to issue public notice under Section 15(5)(a) of the Electricity Act, 2003 inviting suggestion or objection to the grant of a

transmission licence to the petitioner. However, in response thereof, no suggestion or objection has been received in response to the public notice.

11. We have noted the above submissions of the Petitioner and CTUIL and proceed to consider the application of the Petitioner for the grant of the transmission licence.

12. As regards the grant of a transmission licence, Clauses (13) and (14) of Regulation 5 of the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024 provide as under:

“(15) The Commission may after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice as aforesaid, grant licence as nearly as practicable in Form-III attached to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application if such application is not in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the rules or regulations made thereunder or any other law for the time being in force or for any other valid reason.

(16) The Commission may, before granting licence or rejecting the application, provide an opportunity of hearing to the applicant, the Central Transmission Utility, the long term customers, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other person: Provided further that the applicant shall always be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before rejecting the application.”

13. In our order dated 14.2.2025, we had proposed to grant a transmission licence to the Petitioner company and directed for the issuance of public notice. In response to the public notice, no suggestions/ objections have been received. CTUIL, vide its letters 17.7.2024 & 23.1.2025, has recommended the grant of a transmission licence to the Petitioner company. Considering the submissions of the Petitioner and CTUIL, we direct that the transmission licence be granted to the Petitioner, Karur Transmission Limited, to establish the transmission schemes through the RTM route as per the details given in paragraph 1 above.

14. The grant of the transmission licence to the Petitioner (hereinafter referred to as “the licensee”) is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions throughout the period of licence:

(a) The transmission licence shall, unless revoked earlier, remain in force for a period of 25 years from the date of issue;

(b) The transmission licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Transmission Licence Regulations or any subsequent enactment thereof during the period of subsistence of the licence;

(c) The licensee may make an application, two years before the expiry of the initial licence period, for the grant of the transmission licence for another term in accordance with Regulation 9 (2) of the Transmission Licence Regulations, which shall be considered by the Commission in accordance with law;

(d) The licensee shall not enter into any contract for or otherwise engage in the business of trading in electricity during the period of subsistence of the transmission licence;

(e) The licensee shall have the liability to pay the license fee in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012, as amended from time to time or any subsequent enactment thereof. Delay in payment or non-payment of licence fee or a part thereof for a period exceeding sixty days shall be construed as a breach of the terms and conditions of the licence;

(f) The licensee shall comply with the directions of the National Load Despatch Centre under Section 26 of the Act, or the Regional Load Despatch Centre under sub-section

(3) of Section 28 or sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Act, as may be issued from time to time for maintaining the availability of the transmission system;

(g)The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of inter-State transmission licensees) Regulations, 2012 or subsequent enactment thereof;

(h)The licensee shall provide the non-discriminatory open access to its Transmission System for use by any other licensee, including a distribution licensee or an electricity trader, or generating company or any other person in accordance with the Act; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter State Transmission System) Regulations, 2023; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023, as amended from time to time or any subsequent re-enactments thereof;

(i) The licensee shall not undertake any other business for optimum utilization of the transmission system without prior intimation to the Commission and shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Revenue Derived from Utilization of Transmission Assets for other business) Regulations, 2020;

(j) The licensee shall remain bound by provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020 as amended from time to time;

(k)The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Act, the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, in particular the 2024 Transmission Licence

Regulations, the Grid Code, the Standards specified by the Central Electricity Authority, orders and directions of the Commission issued from time to time;

(l) The licensee shall ensure the execution of the Project as per the Technical Standards and Grid Standards of the CEA;

(m) The licensee shall submit all such report or information as may be required under 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, Standard of Performance Regulations or any other regulation of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission as may be issued from time to time;

(n) The licensee shall ensure that the EPC contract for the execution of work under the scope of the project is awarded through a competitive bidding process.

15. CTUIL/its appointed Independent Engineer and the Central Electricity Authority shall monitor the execution of the Project and bring to the Commission's notice any lapse on the part of the licensee in meeting the schedule for further appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations.

16. In response to the Commission's query regarding the approval of the Central Government to the transmission schemes under the Transmission System Planning Rules, 2021 for Projects costing from Rs. 100 crores up to Rs. 500 crores approved by the NCT/CTUIL as per the Ministry's Order dated 28.10.2021, the CTUIL's representative submitted that it had again approached the Ministry of Power in this regard. However, no clarification has been received so far. CTUIL is directed to place on record the response received from the Ministry of Power as and when it is received. Meanwhile, we grant the

transmission licence to the Petitioner Company so that the construction work of the transmission line may not be delayed.

17. An extract of a copy of this order shall be sent to the Central Government in the Ministry of Power and the Central Electricity Authority in terms of sub-section (7) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003, for their information and record.

18. Petition No. 225/TL/2024 is allowed in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Harish Dudani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson