

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No.395/MP/2025 along with IA No.32/2025

Subject : Petition seeking exercise of Power to Relax under Regulations 41 and 42 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the Inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 as read with Section 79 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulation 65 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023.

Petitioner : Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)

Respondents : Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL) and Ors.

Date of Hearing : **8.4.2025**

Coram : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson
Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member
Shri Harish Dudani, Member
Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Parties Present : Ms. Poorva Saigal, Advocate, BBMB
Ms. Pallavi Saigal, Advocate, BBMB
Ms. Ruchi Sharma, BBMB
Shri Sanjay Sidana, BBMB
Shri Siddharth Sharma, CTUIL

Record of Proceedings

Learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the present Petition has been filed invoking the Commission's Power to Relax and Power to Remove Difficulties for permitting solar projects either owned & operated by BBMB, or those selected pursuant to the competitive bidding by BBMB to be connected with the ISTS network of BBMB in terms of the prevalent GNA Regulations. Learned counsel submitted that Regulation 4.1 of the GNA Regulations prescribes that the minimum quantum of installed capacity of the generating station eligible to apply for the grant of connectivity to the ISTS shall be 5 MW and above, for the connectivity to ISTS through the electrical system of a generating station having already connected with the ISTS and 50 MW and above individually or with an aggregate installed capacity of 50 MW and above through a lead generator or a lead ESS. As a result, the BBMB-owned and operated solar power projects, as well as those SPDs selected pursuant to the competitive bidding by BBMB, do not currently qualify for the grant of connectivity. Learned counsel further submitted that while the Commission has issued a Draft Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations in this regard, the said Regulations are yet to be notified. Also, in the said Draft Third Amendment to the GNA Regulations, solar projects of less than 5 MW that are being installed at grid substation of BBMB, which are not directly connected with the generating station and solar power projects (selected developers pursuant to the competitive bidding initiated by BBMB) proposed to be connected with the ISTS network of BBMB network do not currently qualify the eligibility criteria even under the said draft Third Amendment and BBMB has, accordingly, also

submitted its comments in this regard. Learned counsel urged for passing an interim direction to CTUIL to process its connectivity application(s), keeping in view that the Scheduled Date of Commissioning of the Petitioner's upcoming Solar Power Projects are 28.4.2025, 30.6.2025, and 7.7.2025.

2. Considering the submissions made by the learned counsel for the Petitioner, the Commission directed as under:

(a) The Petitioner to implead NRLDC as a party to the Petition and file a revised memo of parties within two days.

(b) Admit and issue notice to the Respondents, including the impleaded Respondent(s).

(c) The Petitioner to clarify on an affidavit within four days as to who shall be the owner of projects under the instant Petition and who shall apply for the connectivity to CTUIL, BBMB or Solar Project Developer.

(d) The Respondents, including NRLDC, to file their respective replies, if any, within a week with a copy to the Petitioner, who may file its rejoinder, within two days thereafter.

(e) The Respondent, NRLDC to clarify, on an affidavit, within a week as to whether the scheduling of the Petitioner's upcoming solar power projects proposed under the instant Petition would be possible or not?

(e) IA No. 32/2025, filed for the urgent listing, having served its purpose, stands disposed of.

3. The Petition will be listed for hearing on **17.4.2025**.

By order of the Commission
Sd/-
(T.D. Pant)
Joint Chief (Law)