

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 433/TL/2025

Coram:

Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 2nd August, 2025

In the matter of

Petition under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) 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, 2009, seeking the grant of a Transmission Licence for Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited.

And

In the matter of

Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited,
Shop No-28A, Ground Floor, Omex Square,
Jasola, New Delhi- 110025.

.....Petitioner

Versus

1. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited,
Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29,
Gurgaon-122001.

2. REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited,
Core-4, SCOPE Complex,7, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

3. Central Electricity Authority,
Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram,
Sector-1, New Delhi-110066.

4. North Central Railway,
DRM Office, Nawab Yusuf Road,
Allahabad-211001, Uttar Pradesh.

5. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited,
Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath,
Jaipur-302005, Rajasthan.

6. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited,

New Power House, Industrial Area,
Jodhpur-342003, Rajasthan.

7. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited,
New Power House, Industrial Area,
Jodhpur-342003, Rajasthan.

**8. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
(Samba and Jalandhar ends),**
Commercial & Regulatory Cell,
'Saudamini', Plot No.2,
Sector 29, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana.

9. Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited,
NHPC Regional Office,
JDA Commercial Complex No. 01,
Narwal, Jammu-180006, UT of J&K.

10. Kiru Hydro Electric Project,
Commercial Division, NHPC Limited,
Sector-33, Faridabad-121003, Haryana.

11. AD Hydro Power Limited,
Bhilwara Towers, A-12, Sector 1,
Noida-201301 (NCR Delhi), India.

12. Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited,
Old Power House, Hathi Bhata,
Ajmer-305001, Rajasthan.

13. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited,
2nd Floor, B-Block, BSES Bhavan,
Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019.

14. BSES Yamuna Power Limited,
Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma,
Delhi-110032.

15. Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Limited,
Chenab Jal Shakti Bhawan,
Opposite Saraswati Dham,
Rail Head Complex, Jammu-180012, J&K.

16. Electricity Wing of Engineering Department,
Chandigarh, Electricity 'OP' circle, 5th Floor,
UT Secretariat, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009.

17. Haryana Power Purchase Centre,
UHBVN, IP 3& 4, 4th Floor, Sector 14,
Panchkula-134113, Haryana.

18. Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board,
HPSEB Ltd. Vidyut Bhawan,
Shimla-171004, Himachal Pradesh.

19. Himachal Sorang Power Private Limited,
Sorang HEP (100 MW),
Distt. Kinnaur, H.P. D-7,
Lane-I, Sector-I, New Shimla,
Shimla-171009.

20. Kishtwar Transmission Limited,
9th Floor, Block B DLF Cyber Park,
Udyog Vihar, Phase 3 Rd., Sector 20,
Gurugram-122008, Haryana.

21. New Delhi Municipal Corporation,
Palika Kendra Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110001.

22. PFC Consulting Limited,
First Floor, Urjanidhi, 1, Barakhamba Lane,
Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

23. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited,
The Mall, PSEB Head Office, Patiala-147001, Punjab.

24. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited,
NDPL House, Hudson Lines,
Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009.

25. Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited,
V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan,
Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand.

26. U.P. Power Corporation Limited,
10th Floor Shakti Bhawan Extn.,
14 Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001,
Uttar Pradesh.

...Respondents

Parties present:

Ms. Aparajita Upadhyay, Advocate, RKPTL
Shri Ritam Biswas, RECPDCL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited, has filed the present
Petition for the grant of a transmission licence under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of

the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms, and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “the Transmission Licence Regulations”) in order to implement the transmission project viz. ”Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP(624) MW: Part-A” (hereinafter referred to as “Project”) on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis, consisting of the following elements:

Sl. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
1.	<p>LILO of 400 kV Kishenpur- Dulhasti line (Twin) at Kishtwar S/s, along with associated bays at Kishtwar S/s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 kV Kishenpur -Kishtwar (LILO section) shall be on Twin HTLS (with minimum 2100 MVA capacity) configuration 400 kV Dulhasti -Kishtwar (LILO section) shall be on Twin Zebra configuration 400 kV line bays at Kishtwar – 2 Nos. (GIS) (line bays at Kishtwar S/s end shall be rated accordingly) 	24 months from SPV transfer (24.03.2027)
2.	<p>400 kV Kishenpur-Samba D/C line (Quad)</p> <p>(only one circuit is to be terminated at Kishenpur utilizing 1 No. of 400 kV vacated line bay at Kishenpur S/s (formed with bypassing of one ckt of 400 kV Kishtwar – Kishenpur 400 kV D/C line (Quad) at Kishenpur) while the second circuit would be connected to the bypassed circuit of 400 kV Kishtwar – Kishenpur line (Quad))</p>	
3.	<p>Bypassing of one ckt of 400 kV Kishtwar – Kishenpur 400 kV D/C line (Quad) at Kishenpur and connecting it with one of the circuits of Kishenpur-Samba 400 kV D/C line (Quad), thus forming 400 kV Kishtwar - Samba (Quad) direct line (one ckt)</p>	
4.	<p>1x80 MVA Switchable line reactor at Samba end of 400 kV Kishtwar-Samba 400 kV line-165 km (Quad) [formed after bypassing of 400 kV Kishtwar – Kishenpur line (Quad) at Kishenpur and connecting</p>	

Sl. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
	<p>it with one of the circuit of Kishenpur-Samba 400 kV D/C line (Quad))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 420 kV, 80 MVAR switchable line reactors at Samba S/s end– 1 No. • Switching equipment for 420kV, 80 MVAR switchable line reactors at Samba S/s end – 1 No. 	
5.	<p>1x63 MVAR Switchable line reactor on each ckt at Jalandhar end of Kishenpur– Jalandhar D/C direct line -171 km (Twin) (formed after bypassing both ckts of 400 kV Kishenpur – Samba D/C line (Twin) and 400 kV Samba – Jalandhar D/C line (Twin) at Samba and connecting them together to form Kishenpur– Jalandhar D/C direct line (Twin))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 420 kV, 63 MVAR switchable line reactors at Jalandhar S/s end– 2 Nos. • Switching equipment for 420kV, 63 MVAR switchable line reactors at Jalandhar S/s end – 2 Nos. 	
6.	<p>400 kV Samba- Jalandhar D/C line (Quad)</p> <p>(only one circuit is to be terminated at Jalandhar utilizing 1 No. of 400 kV vacated line bay at Jalandhar S/s (formed with bypassing of 400 kV Jalandhar – Nakodar line (Quad) at Jalandhar) while second circuit would be connected to bypassed circuit of Jalandhar –Nakodar 400 kV line (Quad))</p>	
7.	<p>1x80 MVAR Switchable line reactor at Samba end of Samba –Nakodar direct line (Quad) (187km) formed after bypassing of 400 kV Jalandhar – Nakodar line (Quad) at Jalandhar and connecting it with one of the circuit of Samba-Jalandhar 400 kV D/C line (Quad Moose), thus forming Samba –Nakodar line (Quad)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 420 kV, 80 MVAR switchable line reactors at Samba S/s end– 1 No. • Switching equipment for 420 kV, 80 MVAR switchable line reactors at Samba S/s end – 1 No. 	
8.	<p>Bypassing 400 kV Jalandhar – Nakodar line (Quad) at Jalandhar and connecting it with one of the circuit of Samba-Jalandhar 400 kV D/C line (Quad Moose),</p>	

Sl. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date
	thus forming 400 kV Samba –Nakodar (Quad) direct line	

Note:

- M/s Sterlite shall provide space for 2 Nos. of 400 kV line bays (GIS) at Kishtwar S/s
- M/s POWERGRID shall provide space for 1 No. 80 MVAR Switchable line reactor (along with switching equipment) at Samba end of 400 kV Kishtwar-Samba 400 kV line
- M/s POWERGRID shall provide space for 2 Nos. 63 MVAR Switchable line reactor (along with switching equipment) at Jalandhar end of Kishenpur–Jalandhar D/C direct line (on each ckt)
- M/s POWERGRID shall provide space for 1 No. 80 MVAR Switchable line reactor (along with switching equipment) at Samba end of Samba –Nakodar direct line

2. The Petitioner has made the following prayers:

“a) Issue/Grant the Transmission License to the Petitioner, Rattle Kiru Power Transmission Limited for establishing, operating and maintaining the Inter-State transmission system i.e., “Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Rattle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP (624) MW: Part-A” comprising of assets elements as detailed in the present petition, in terms of Sections 14, 15 and 79 (1) (e) of the Electricity Act;

b) Condone any inadvertent errors omissions/ errors / shortcomings and permit the Petitioner to add/change/modify/alter these filings and make further submissions as may be required at a future date.

c) Pass any such other order / orders, as may be deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.”

Hearing dated 20.5.2025

3. Notice was issued to the parties to file their respective replies and rejoinders. Further, the Petitioner was directed to implead all beneficiaries of the Northern Region, along with POWERGRID (for the Samba and Jalandhar ends) and Sterlite (for the Kishtwar S/s), as parties to the present Petition and to file a revised memo of parties. Accordingly, the Petitioner, vide affidavit dated 23.5.2025, filed the revised memo of parties. In addition, CTUIL was directed to furnish the details of the inter-connecting

upstream and downstream transmission systems, as well as the details of connectivity and GNA granted and/or applications received at Kishtwar S/s.

4. CTUIL, in compliance with the RoP dated 20.5.2025, vide affidavit dated 4.6.2025, has submitted as under:

i) Details of the upstream/downstream transmission system are as below:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Details of Transmission System	STU/STS	Implementing Agency	Implementation Mode (RTM/ TBCB)	Commissioning Schedule/ Status
1	Upstream/ Downstream Transmission System	Kishtwar PS	ISTS	Sterlite Grid 24 Limited; (a subsidiary of Sterlite Power Transmission Limited)	TBCB	Under Construction with expected commissioning as 31.10.2025
		Kishtwar - Kishenpur 400kV (Quad) line	ISTS	POWERGRID	RTM	Under Construction with expected commissioning as 31.07.2025

It is also submitted that all other sub-stations and transmission lines involved in the scheme are existing.

ii) The details of the connectivity/GNA granted and/or application received at Kishtwar S/s as per the following table, with the relevant documents:

Out of 2474 MW connectivity granted at Kishtwar PS, 1474 MW connectivity is associated with the “Transmission System for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850 MW) & Kiru HEP (624 MW): Part A”. Details of connectivity granted at Kishtwar PS, which is associated with “Transmission System for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850 MW) & Kiru HEP (624 MW): Part A”, are as follows:

Sr. No.	Applicant Name	App. No.	Type of applicant (Generator/Bulk Consumer/Distribution Licensee etc.)	Pooling Station	Quantum of Connectivity/GNA Granted/Applied for (MW)	Start Date of Connectivity /GNA	Conn. BGs Furnished
1	Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited	1200003 607	Generator	Kishtwar (400kV)	850	24-Mar-27	42.5 crores dated 28.04.2022 Validity: 27.11.2026

Sr No.	Applicant Name	App. No.	Type of applicant (Generator/Bulk Consumer/Distrib ution Licensee etc.)	Pooling Station	Quantum of Connectivity/G NA Granted/Apply ed for (MW)	Start Date of Connectivity /GNA	Conn BGS Furnished
2	Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited	2200000 496	Generator	Kishtwar (400kV)	624	24-Mar-27	Conn BG-1- 50 Lakhs dated 20.08.2024, validity- 01.02.2027 Conn BG-3- 12.48 Crs. dated 20.08.2024, Validity - 01.07.2028

Hearing dated 20.6.2025

5. During the course of the hearing held on 20.6.2025, the learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the Petitioner has complied with the directions issued vide RoP dated 20.5.2025. Considering the submissions made, the Commission reserved the matter for orders.

6. No reply has been filed by the Respondents despite notice.

7. The Petitioner has submitted that in accordance with the “Guidelines for Encouraging Competition in Development of Transmission Projects” and “Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Guidelines for Transmission Service” (hereinafter referred to as “the Guidelines”) issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, under Section 63 of the Act, notified REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (hereinafter referred to as “RECPDCL”) was notified by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, vide Gazette Notification. No. 3229 [F No. 15/03/2018- Trans- Part(4)] dated 21.8.2024 as the Bid Process Coordinator (hereinafter referred to as “BPC”) for the purpose of selection of bidder as the Transmission Service Provider (hereinafter referred to as “TSP”) for grant of transmission licence in order to implement the

transmission project viz. "Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP(624) MW: Part-A" on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis.

8. RECPDCL, in its capacity as the BPC, initiated the bid process on 26.9.2024 and completed the same on 24.3.2025 in accordance with the Guidelines. IndiGrid 2 Private Limited was selected as the successful bidder, having quoted the lowest transmission charges of Rs. 1952.32 million in order to provide transmission services to the beneficiaries of the transmission system.

9. The RfP was first issued on 26.9.2024. At the RfP (Technical and Financial) stage, four bidders, namely, (i) Adani Energy Solutions Limited; (ii) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited; (iii) Resonia Limited (Formerly Sterlite Grid 32 Limited) and (iv) IndiGrid 2 Private Limited submitted their offers. The RfP (Technical) bids of the bidders were opened by the Bid Opening Committee at the Central Electricity Authority on 3.1.2025 in the presence of a representative of the bidders. Based on the recommendation of the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC), the RfP (Financial) Bids- Initial Price Offer of the bidders were opened on 22.1.2025. The Lowest Initial Price Offer discovered (Best Deal) at the MSTC portal was Rs. 2110.00 million. The details of the quoted transmission charges by the bidders are given below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Bidder	Quoted Transmission Charges from the Initial Offer (in Rs. Million)	Rank
i	IndiGrid 2 Private Limited	2,110.00	L1
ii	Adani Energy Solutions Limited	2,808.11	L2
iii	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	2,999.99	L3
iv	Resonia Limited (formerly Sterlite Grid 32 Limited)	3,143.00	L4

10. As per Clause 2.5 of the RfP document, Initial Offers shall be ranked in ascending order for the determination of the qualified bidders. The bidders holding the first fifty per cent of the ranks (with any fraction rounded off to a higher integer) or four bidders, whichever is higher, shall be considered to be qualified for participating in the electronic reverse auction stage and submitting their final offer.

11. The e-reverse auction was conducted on the MSTC portal on 23.1.2025 and was concluded on the same day. All four bidders participated in the e-reverse auction. The following transmission charges, as quoted by each bidder, emerged:

Sr. No.	Name of the Bidder	Transmission Charges from the Initial Offer (in Rs. Million)	Transmission Charges from the Final Offer (in Rs. Million)	Rank
1.	IndiGrid 2 Private Limited	2,110.00	1,952.32	L1
2.	Resonia Limited (Formerly Sterlite Grid 32 Limited)	3,143.00	1,957.22	L2
3.	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	2,999.99	2,006.87	L3
4.	Adani Energy Solutions Limited	2,808.11	2,808.11	L4

12. Accordingly, as per the Bid Evaluation Report dated 20.2.2025, IndiGrid 2 Private Limited is the successful bidder with the lowest quoted transmission charges of Rs. 1952.32 million. BEC, vide its certificate dated 20.2.2025, has certified that the entire bid process has been carried out in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power under Section 63 of the Act. BEC has further certified that the transmission charges discovered through the e-reverse auction are acceptable.

13. Consequent to its selection as the lowest bidder, a Letter of Intent (hereinafter referred to as "LoI") was issued to IndiGrid 2 Private Limited by the BPC on 28.2.2025,

which was accepted by IndiGrid 2 Private Limited. Under the terms of RfP and the Letter of Intent, the successful bidder is obligated to accomplish the following tasks:

- (a) Provide Contract Performance Guarantee in favour of Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL);
- (b) Execute Share Purchase Agreement and Transmission Service Agreement;
- (c) Acquire, for the Acquisition Price, a 100% equity share of Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited from RECPDCL along with all its related assets and liabilities;
- (d) Make an application to this Commission for adoption of transmission charges, as required under Section 63 of the Act; and
- (e) Apply to this Commission for the grant of transmission licence;

14. IndiGrid 2 Private Limited has furnished the Contract Performance Guarantee (hereinafter referred to as “CPG”) in favour of the Nodal Agency, i.e. CTUIL, for Rs. 18.40 crores on 24.3.2025 and has acquired a hundred per cent equity holding in Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited on 24.3.2025. The Petitioner entered into a Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) with CTUIL on 24.3.2025.

15. Section 14 of the Act provides that the Appropriate Commission may, on an application made under Section 15 of the Act, grant a licence to any person to transmit electricity as a transmission licensee in any area as may be specified in the licence. The word “person” has been defined in Section 2(49) of the Act to include any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or artificial juridical person. The Petitioner has been incorporated under the Companies Act 2013. The main objective of the Petitioner Company is as under:

“To plan, promote and develop an integrated and efficient power transmission system network in all its aspects including planning, investigation, research, design and engineering, preparation of preliminary, feasibility and definite project reports, construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines, sub-stations, load dispatch stations and communication facilities and appurtenant works, coordination of integrated operation of state, regional and national grid system, execution of turn-key jobs for other utilities/organizations and wheeling of power in accordance with the policies, guidelines and objectives laid down by the Central Government from time to time”

16. Section 15 (1) of the Act provides that every application under Section 14 of the Act shall be made in such manner and in such form as may be specified by the Appropriate Commission and shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The Commission has specified Transmission Licence Regulations in this regard. Regulation 4 (1) of the Transmission Licence Regulations provides that eligibility for the grant of a licence for inter-State transmission of electricity is contingent upon the entity being selected either through the competitive bidding process under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 or by the Central Government or its authorized agency to implement a project under the regulated tariff mechanism. Regulation 10 (1) of the Transmission Licence Regulations provided that in case the licensee has been selected for implementation of the project in accordance with the competitive bidding guidelines, the transmission tariff in terms of the Transmission Service Agreement shall be adopted by the Commission under Section 63 of the Act. The Project under consideration has been identified for development under competitive bidding by a competent authority, and the selection of the Project developer has been certified to have been made in accordance with the Guidelines for competitive bidding.

17. Regulation 5 of the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024 provides for the procedure for granting of a transmission licence as under:

“(1) The application for the grant of licence shall be made to the Commission in Form-I appended to these regulations and shall be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed by the Central Government from time to time under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Act.

(2) The application shall be supported with an affidavit in accordance with Regulation 17 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023.

(3) The applicant shall submit the original application in electronic form along with enclosures on the e-filing portal of the Commission and electronically serve a copy of such application on all the concerned DICs of the project and the Central Transmission Utility. The application shall be served through email on the concerned DICs of the project who are not registered on the e-filing portal of the Commission.

(4) The applicant shall also upload the complete application along with annexures on its website, in English. The applicant shall also upload on its website, the details as per Form-I and Form-II appended to these regulations in the Indian language of the State or the Union Territory where an element of the project or concerned transmission line is situated or proposed to be situated. The application shall be kept posted on the website of the applicant till such time the application is disposed of by the Commission.

(5) The applicant shall, within 3 working days of filing the application, publish a notice of its application in Form-II appended to these regulations in at least two leading daily digital newspapers, one in English language and another in the Indian language of the State or Union Territory where an element of the project or concerned transmission line is situated or proposed to be situated, inviting comments from the general public. The notice shall also be kept posted on the website of the applicant.

(6) The Registry of the Commission shall carry out a preliminary scrutiny of the application and convey the defects, if any, as far as possible within 7 days of receipt of the application. The defects shall be rectified by the applicant within a period of 7 days from the date of such intimation from the Registry of the Commission.

(7) In the notice published in the digital newspapers and on the applicant's website under this Regulation, it shall be indicated that the suggestions and objections to the application, if any, may be filed by any person within 15 days of publication of the notice to The Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission at the address where the office of the Commission is situated and at email id: registry@cercind.gov.in. Any suggestion or objection received in response to the public notice shall be shared with the applicant and the respondents by the Registry of the Commission.

(8) The applicant shall within 3 working days from the date of publication of the notice in terms of Clause (5) of this Regulation submit to the Commission on affidavit the details of the notice published, names of the digital newspapers in

which the notice has been published, the dates and places of their publication and enclosing the relevant pages of the publication of notice.

(9) The CTUIL shall send its recommendations, if any, to the Commission on the proposal for grant of licence made in the application as far as practicable within a period of 10 (ten) days from the date of receipt of the application with a copy to the applicant: Provided that if CTUIL is unable to submit its recommendations within a period of 10 days, it shall inform the Commission the reasons for the same and submit its recommendations within a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of the application: Provided further that along with its recommendations, CTUIL shall submit the copy of approval of the transmission project by the Central Government in terms of Electricity (Transmission System Planning, Development and Recovery of Inter-state Transmission Charges) Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time. Explanation: The recommendations of the Central Transmission Utility shall not be binding on the Commission.

(10) The applicant may file its comments, duly supported by an affidavit, on the recommendations made by CTUIL and the suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice within 7 working days of receipt of such suggestions and objections, with an advance copy to the CTUIL and the person, if any, who has filed the suggestions and objections on the proposal made in the application.

(11) The Commission after considering the suggestions and objections received from the DICs and in response to the public notice published by the applicant, and the recommendations, if any, received from CTUIL may either propose to grant the licence to the applicant or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application.

(12) Before granting a licence, the Commission shall publish a notice of its proposal on the Commission's website and in two daily digital newspapers, having wide circulation, as the Commission may consider appropriate, stating the name and address of the person to whom it proposes to grant the licence, details of the project for which it proposes to grant a licence, location or route of the elements of the project, and any other details that the Commission may consider appropriate, to invite further suggestions and objections on its proposal within 15 days of the publication of the notice.

(13) The Commission may, after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice in terms of Clause (12) of this Regulation, grant licence to the applicant in Form-III appended to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application.

(14) The Commission shall before granting licence or rejecting the application under the provisions of this Regulation provide an opportunity of hearing to the applicant, CTUIL, the concerned DICs, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other interested person.

(15) The Commission shall, within 7 days of making the order to grant the licence to an applicant send a copy of the licence to the Central Government, the Central Electricity Authority, the Central Transmission Utility, the applicant and the concerned DIC(s)."

18. The Petitioner has approached the Commission with a separate application for the adoption of transmission charges in respect of the transmission system, which is presently under consideration by the Commission, and the order in that Petition will be issued separately. The Petitioner has filed the present Petition for the grant of a transmission licence in accordance with the provisions of the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024. The Petitioner has submitted proof of service of the application copies to the BPC, CTUIL, and the beneficiaries, as well as proof of web posting of the complete application. The Petitioner has further undertaken to pay the applicable licence fee upon the grant of a transmission licence in terms of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012. The Petitioner has prayed for the grant of a transmission licence to Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited with respect to the transmission system as per the details given in paragraph 1 above.

19. The Petitioner made the Application as per Form-I and paid a fee of Rs. one lakh as prescribed by the Central Government. As per the direction of the Commission, the Petitioner has served a copy of the Application on the Respondent/beneficiaries. The transmission charges quoted by the Petitioner, which have been recommended by the Bid Evaluation Committee for acceptance, are Rs. 1952.32 million. The Petitioner has also enclosed copies of the recommendations of the Bid Evaluation Committee.

20. The Petitioner has published the notices on its website in Form-II in English and in the Vernacular language. The Petitioner has published notices in The Times of

India (English) on 5.4.2025, Punjabi Tribune (Punjabi) on 9.4.2025, Daily Excelsior (English) on 5.4.2025 and Daily Taskeen (Urdu) on 9.4.2025. In response, no objection has been received from the general public to the notices.

21. The Petitioner has served a copy of the Application on the Central Transmission of Utility of India Limited (CTUIL) as required under Section 15(3) of the Act and Regulation 5(3) of the Transmission Licence Regulations. CTUIL, vide its letter dated 7.4.2025, has recommended the grant of a transmission licence to the Petitioner. The Relevant portions of the said letter dated 7.4.2025 are extracted as under:

“This is with reference to Petition having diary no. 164/2025 filed by M/s Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited before Hon'ble Commission for grant of Transmission License to facilitate implementation of “Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP (624) MW: Part-A” In this regard, following is submitted:

- Based on the application by M/s Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (RHPCL) for Ratle HEP (850 MW), transmission system for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP was agreed in 26th CMETS-NR and 28th CMETS-NR held on 20.12.2023 and 27.03.2024 respectively. The transmission Scheme was further discussed and agreed in 72nd NRPC meeting held on 30.09.2024. During the RPC meeting, it was mentioned that scheme will also be utilized for other hydro generators in Chenab Valley Complex. The detailed scope along with schematic of the subject scheme is attached at Annexure-I. Relevant extracts of the minutes of 26th and 28th CMETS-NR meetings are enclosed at Annexure-II. Relevant extracts of the minutes of 72nd NRPC meeting are enclosed at Annexure-III.*
- Above transmission scheme was also discussed in 20th NCT meeting held on 25.06.2024 wherein it was mentioned that connectivity application from Kiru HEP (624 MW) has also been received for which the comprehensive Transmission system identified for Ratle HEP will be utilized. Therefore, a combined scheme may be considered for Ratle (850 MW) & Kiru HEP (624 MW). After deliberations, NCT approved the transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle (850 MW) & Kiru (624 MW) HEPs under TBCB. Relevant extracts of minutes of 20th NCT meeting are attached at Annexure-IV.*

- *Ministry of Power, Govt. of India vide gazette notification dated 21.8.2024 has identified M/s REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd. (RECPDCL) as Bid Processing Coordinator (BPC) for the purpose of selection of bidder as Transmission Service Provider (TSP) to establish the above referred scheme through TBCB route. Extracts of Gazette Notification are enclosed at Annexure-V.*
- *The subject transmission scheme i.e. Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle SEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP (624) MW: Part-A involves implementation of 400 kV Kishenpur — Samba 400kV D/c line along with bypassing of one ckt of 400 kV Kishtwar — Kishenpur 400kV D/c line at Kishenpur and connecting it with one of the circuit of Kishenpur — Samba 400kV D/c line. For onward dispersal of power, 400kV Samba — Jalandhar 400kV D/c line is to be implemented along with bypassing of Jalandhar — Nakodar 400kV line at Jalandhar and connecting it with one circuit of Samba — Jalandhar 400kV D/c line. The scheme also involves LILO of Kishenpur — Dulhasti 400kV line at Kishtwar Sis. Implementation timeframe of subject transmission scheme is 24 months from the effective date (24.3.2025) as per TSA viz. 24.3.2027.*
- *Implementation of this project shall facilitate onward transfer of power from Ratle SEP (850MW) and Kiru HEP (624 MW). All the sub-stations, except Kishtwar S/s, involved in the scheme are existing. Kishtwar S/s is under construction with expected commissioning schedule as 30.4.2025.*

Keeping above in view and based on details furnished by M/s Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited, CTU in line with Section 15 (4) of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulation 5 (9) of CERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024, recommends grant of transmission license to M/s Ratle Kiru Power Transmission Limited for executing the subject transmission scheme.”

22. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner, BPC, and CTUIL. The proviso to Clause 2.15.2 of the RfP provides that "if for any reason attributable to the BPC, the said activities are not completed by the Selected Bidder within the above period of ten (10) days as mentioned in this clause, such period of 10 days shall be extended, on a day to day basis till the end of the Bid validity period". As per the above provision, the selected bidder was required to complete all activities, including the acquisition of SPVs, by 10.3.2025. Though Lol was issued on 28.2.2025, BPC, vide its letter dated 24.3.2025, in terms of Clause 2.15.2 of RfP, extended the date up to

1.4.2025 for completion of all activities by the successful bidder. The selected bidder furnished the Contract Performance Guarantee in favour of the Nodal Agency (CTUIL) for an amount of Rs. 18.40 crores on 24.3.2025 and acquired a hundred per cent equity holding in the applicant company on 24.3.2025 after the execution of the Share Purchase Agreement. As per clause 2.15.4 of the RfP, TSP is required to apply to the Commission for the grant of a transmission licence within five working days of the issuance of the acquisition of the SPV to the successful bidder. The successful bidder, namely IndiGrid 2 Private Limited, acquired the SPV on 24.3.2025. Accordingly, the TSP has filed the instant Petition through e-filing for the grant of a transmission licence on 28.3.2025.

23. We note that the instant “Transmission scheme for evacuation of power from Ratle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP (624) MW: Part-A” involves implementation of LILO of the 400kV Kishenpur- Dulhasti line at the Kishtwar S/s & associated systems all with SCOD of the 24.03.2027. The start date of Connectivity of both Ratle HEP (850MW) & Kiru HEP (624) MW is 24.03.2027; accordingly, SCOD of upstream and downstream interconnecting transmission system and start date of connectivity of the Generating stations are aligned. Hence, there is no apparent mismatch between the upstream and downstream interconnecting elements of the instant augmentation at the planning stage.

24. Considering the material on record, we are of the prima-facie view that the Petitioner satisfies the conditions for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence under Section 15 of the Act, read with Transmission Licence Regulations for 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 the aforesaid transmission licence. The objections or suggestions, if any, may be filed by any person before the Commission on or before **16.8.2025**.

25. The Petitioner has undertaken that it shall implement the Project as per the provisions of the TSA. The Petitioner has also undertaken that the time overrun and cost overrun, if applicable, shall be claimed by the Petitioner in accordance with the applicable provisions of the TSA, read with the provisions of the Act, the bidding documents, and the regulations of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

26. It is observed that as per Article 5.1.1 of the TSA, the TSP, at its own cost and expense, shall be responsible for designing, constructing, erecting, testing, and commissioning each element of the Project by scheduled COD in accordance with the various regulations of the Central Electricity Authority regarding Technical Standards and Grid Standards, Prudent Utility Practices and other applicable laws. Further, Article 5.4 of the TSA provides that the TSP shall ensure that the Project is designed, built and completed in a good workman-like manner using sound engineering and construction practices and using only materials and equipment that are new and of international utility-grade quality such that the useful life of the Project will be till the expiry date. Further, the design, construction, and testing of all equipment, facilities, components and systems of the Project shall be in accordance with Indian Standards and Codes issued by the Bureau of India Standards. In this regard, the Petitioner has submitted that it would implement the Project as per the provisions of the TSA. The Petitioner will comply with the provisions of the bidding documents and the TSA for the commissioning of the Project within the SCOD.

27. Petition shall be listed for the hearing on **19.8.2025**.

Sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Harish Dudani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson