November 11, 2026

CERC

CERC connectivity rules amended: full withdrawal within 45 days

CERC's amendment of November 11, 2026 covers a one-time GNA charge of Rs 1 lakh/MW, fees for a second source change and transfers of Connectivity and GNA.

THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY Regulatory Commission (CERC) has amended its Connectivity and General Network Access (GNA) rules so that an entity is eligible to seek withdrawal of its full Connectivity quantum to the inter-State transmission system (ISTS) within 45 days in set cases; no partial withdrawal is permitted. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, notification No. L-1/261/2021/CERC, are dated November 11, 2026. They were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 686, dated November 19, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278093), and come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. They amend the 2022 regulations (the "Principal Regulations") and are signed by Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Secretary.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

CERC

PUBLISHED

November 11, 2026

ISSUED BY

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

DOCUMENT

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The withdrawal rule is new Regulation 3.10. It covers two cases. In the first, the final grant of Connectivity has been issued and two years or more passed between the in-principle grant and the final grant, or between the "likely start date of connectivity" in the in-principle grant and the start date in the final grant; the request goes to the Nodal Agency within 45 days from intimation of the final grant. In the second, no final grant has been issued two years after the in-principle grant; the entity may seek withdrawal within 45 days from the lapse of those two years. The Nodal Agency processes the request within 15 days. If it accepts, all bank guarantees (Conn-BGs and Land BG, as applicable) are returned, and the application fee is forfeited. Where these periods have already elapsed, new Regulation 37.11(a) lets the entity seek full withdrawal within 30 days from the date the fourth amendment takes effect.

Applications and guarantees change too. An application under Regulation 5.2 carries a fee of Rs 5 lakh for capacity of 50 MW and above and Rs 1 lakh below 50 MW, with applicable taxes. An energy storage system (ESS), other than a pumped storage plant, applying on the Land BG route furnishes a bank guarantee of Rs 5 lakh/MW. Sub-lease documents (where the lease permits sub-lease) count as land documents only between a parent and its subsidiaries, either way, or between subsidiaries of the same parent, or where leased Government land is sub-leased to another entity under Government policy. Under Regulation 4.1(c), an ESS is to have a minimum energy capacity (in MWh) of twice its power capacity (in MW), or as notified by the Authority as per system requirement. Under new Regulation 4.7, a renewable energy generating station (REGS) or ESS of 50 MW and above may seek Connectivity for non-solar hour access at substations other than those under Regulation 4.5(a), and CTUIL publishes a list of those substations, with their margin, updated monthly.

Later changes to a project are also covered. A second source change is permitted with a fee of Rs 20,000/MW of the gross change of capacity or Rs 10 lakh per application, whichever is higher, and Rs 25,000/MW or Rs 10 lakh where it also needs a second change of land parcels. The fee is furnished within fifteen days of the Nodal Agency's intimation, failing which the

permission stands revoked. The time in Regulation 9.3.1 changes from "18 months prior to the firm start date of Connectivity" to "6 months prior". A REGS (other than hydro) or ESS (excluding pumped storage) holding Connectivity on the LoA or PPA route submits land documents within 60 days of the effective date of GNA, if not already furnished. A REGS, ESS or renewable power park developer furnishes financial closure documents within 30 days of that date, unless it has already achieved COD of the full capacity by the last date for furnishing them.

Entities covered under Regulation 4.1 and Regulation 17.1(iii) shall furnish a one-time GNA charge of Rs one lakh per MW within 15 days of the effective date of the GNA; if they don't, it is recovered by encashing their Conn-BGs, and an entity with no Conn-BGs is not eligible for any transactions with the Grid until it pays. When a generating station or ESS that has achieved COD is transferred or acquired, its Connectivity is transferred with it (new Regulation 15.5). New Regulation 23A allows a GNA to be transferred with the load or generating station it serves, only after the GNA is effective (and, for a generating station or ESS, after it has declared commercial operation), once all dues are cleared. New Regulation 17.5 lets a drawee entity connected to a State network also connect to the ISTS directly, for part of its drawal capacity (not less than 50 MW) or all of it, with the consent of the concerned STU and distribution licensee, as applicable, while continuing to pay the applicable charges for both connections.

Bank guarantees come back on a new timeline. In Regulation 16.2, "in five equal parts over five years corresponding to the generation" becomes "within one week after expiry of one year from the declaration of COD of the corresponding" generation; Regulation 37.6 makes the same change, counted from the date the GNA became effective. Where that year is already over, the Nodal Agency returns the subsisting Conn-BG2 and Conn-BG3 within one month, subject to clearing dues of transmission charges. Under substituted Regulation 6.3, the Nodal Agency closes an application and returns the bank guarantees and the full application fee if it cannot carry out the interconnection study, or if the augmentation it identifies is not approved. The Nodal Agency is to revise its Detailed Procedure, after stakeholders' consultation, within 60 days of notification of the amendment.

Issued by	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
Document	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, No. L-1/261/2021/CERC
Dated	November 11, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 686, November 19, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278093)
Takes effect	From the date of publication in the Official Gazette

Amends	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022
Legal basis	Section 178(1) and 178(2)(ze), read with sections 2(47), 38(2)(d), 40(c) and 79(1)(c), Electricity Act, 2003
Full withdrawal	Within 45 days in the cases in Regulation 3.10; processed in 15 days; bank guarantees returned, application fee forfeited
Withdrawal window already passed	Full withdrawal may be sought within 30 days from the date the fourth amendment takes effect
Land documents	Within 60 days of the effective date of GNA, for REGS or ESS grantees on the LoA or PPA route, if not already furnished
Financial closure documents	Within 30 days of the effective date of GNA; not needed if COD of full capacity is achieved by the last date
Transfers	Connectivity moves with a generating station or ESS that has achieved COD; GNA may be transferred with its load or station once effective
Signed by	Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Secretary

Fees, charges and guarantees in the amendment

Item	Amount
Application fee under Regulation 5.2, 50 MW and above	Rs 5 lakh, with applicable taxes
Application fee under Regulation 5.2, less than 50 MW	Rs 1 lakh, with applicable taxes
Bank guarantee on the Land BG route, ESS (excluding PSP)	Rs 5 lakh/MW
Second source change	Rs 20,000/MW of gross change, or Rs 10 lakh per application, whichever is higher
Second source change with a second change of land parcels	Rs 25,000/MW of gross change, or Rs 10 lakh per application, whichever is higher
One-time GNA charge, entities under Regulation 4.1 and 17.1(iii)	Rs one lakh per MW, within 15 days of the effective date of the GNA

The notification (regulations) (PDF, 719 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 686, November 19, 2026 (CG-DL-E-20112026-278093).

Checked against the official copy on November 21, 2026.

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