

ADVISORY

Sub: - Revision of Benchmark Project Cost and Land Requirement for Renewable Energy Projects

Pursuant to the stakeholder consultation held under the Chairmanship of Member (Planning), CEA, on 21.08.2026, and the minutes thereof issued by CEA on 01.09.2026 (attached) regarding the benchmarking of project costs and land requirements for Renewable Energy (RE) projects in terms of Clause 5.9 of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022, CTUIL hereby informs all stakeholders that the benchmark project costs and land requirements specified below shall be considered for assessing compliance with Regulation 11A and other applicable eligibility requirements under the said Regulations.

Benchmark Project Costs

- Solar Projects: **₹3.5 Crore/MW**
- Wind Projects: **₹6.0 Crore/MW**
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): **₹0.80 Crore/MWh**
- Renewable Energy Parks (RPPD/Parks): **₹0.5 Crore/MW** (unchanged)

Benchmark Land Requirement

- Solar Projects: **3 acres per MW** (unchanged)
- Wind Projects: **0.25 acres per MW** (unchanged), land shall be suitable for installation of wind project considering the distance between WTGs and contiguous land @ **0.25 Acre/MW** will not be acceptable
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): **1.2 acres per 100 MWh**.

Applicability

1. The above benchmarks shall be considered by CTUIL for evaluation of Financial Closure & land compliance under Regulation 11A and applicable eligibility requirements under the CERC GNA Regulations, 2022.
2. The revised benchmarks may be considered in cases where a decision regarding acceptance for achievement of Financial Closure compliance is yet to be taken by CTUIL.
3. Cases where Financial Closure has already been achieved or connectivity has already been revoked on this ground shall not be revisited based on the revised benchmarks.

Note: Revised Benchmark Project Cost and Land Requirement for Renewable Energy Projects shall also be updated in detailed procedure in due course of time.



भारत सरकार

Government of India

विद्युत मंत्रालय

Ministry of Power

केंद्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण

Central Electricity Authority

नवीकरणीय नीति एवं प्रौद्योगिकी प्रभाग

Renewable Policy & Technology Division

Sub: Benchmarking of Project Cost Requirements for Different Types of Renewable Energy (RE) Projects for Financial Closure Compliance under CERC Regulations- reg.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Member (Planning), CEA on 21.08.2026 at 11:30 AM to review and rationalize the benchmark project costs prescribed for compliance with Financial Closure requirements under Regulation 11A(2) of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022, for information and necessary action.

Encl: as above.

भवदीय

(किशोर कुमार)
निदेशक (आरपी&टी)

To,

1. Chairman, CTUIL
2. Concerned RE Developers/Associations

Copy to:

1. SA to Chairperson, CEA
2. SA to Member (Planning), CEA
3. PPS to Chief Engineer (RP&T), CEA
4. PPS to Chief Engineer (RPM), CEA

Digitally signed by
Kishore Kumar
Date: 01-09-2026
11:15:30

Minutes of Meeting on the Benchmarking of Project Cost Requirements for Different Types of Renewable Energy (RE) Projects for Financial Closure Compliance under CERC Regulations- reg.

1. A meeting on benchmarking of project cost requirements for various Renewable Energy (RE) projects was held on **21.08.2026 at 11:30 AM** under the Chairmanship of Member (Planning), CEA. The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I** and the presentation made during the meeting is at **Annexure-II**.
2. At the outset, Member (Planning), CEA welcomed the participants from CEA, CTUIL, RE developers, industry associations and other stakeholders. He stated that the objective of the meeting was to review and rationalize the benchmark project costs prescribed in the CTUIL. He further detailed the procedure for compliance with Financial Closure requirements under Regulation 11A (2) of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022. He emphasized that benchmark costs need periodic review considering rapid changes in technology, equipment prices and prevailing market conditions.
3. CTUIL presented the background and basis for the existing benchmark project costs. It was informed that the present benchmarks were derived from financial closure documents submitted by RE developers and subsequent stakeholder consultations. The existing benchmark costs prescribed in the Detailed Procedure are:
 - (i) Solar Projects: ₹5.0 Crore/MW
 - (ii) Wind Projects: ₹8.0 Crore/MW
 - (iii) BESS Projects: ₹2.0 Crore/MWh
 - (iv) Renewable Energy Parks (RPPD/Parks): ₹0.5 Crore/MW
4. CTUIL further informed that scrutiny of financial closure submissions received both before and after notification of the Detailed Procedure indicated significant variation in project costs which may depend upon project configuration, technology, location and prevailing market conditions. It was noted that benchmark costs were introduced primarily to establish minimum project implementation commitment and to ensure objective assessment of Financial Closure compliance.
5. Representatives from RE developers and industry associations broadly expressed the view that the existing benchmark costs, particularly for Solar, Wind and BESS projects, are on the higher side considering the decline in equipment prices, improvements in technology and economies of scale. It was submitted that actual project costs are often validated through lender after due diligence and reflected in loan sanction letters, facility agreements and related financing documents. Several participants suggested that financing documents issued by regulated financial institutions and banks may also be considered while evaluating Financial Closure compliance.
6. Detailed deliberations were held on project cost benchmarks for Solar, Wind, BESS and RE Park projects. The participants highlighted the following:
 - (i) Solar project costs have reduced considerably due to decline in module prices and evolving project configurations.
 - (ii) Wind project costs have decreased owing to deployment of higher capacity turbines resulting in lower per-MW capital cost.

- (iii) BESS costs have witnessed significant reduction and continue to evolve rapidly with technological advancements and global price trends.
 - (iv) Renewable Energy Park development costs vary depending on land development requirements, evacuation infrastructure and project location.
7. Extensive discussions were also held on issues related to consideration of lender-approved project costs, treatment of projects funded through equity, applicability of benchmark costs to hybrid and storage-linked projects, and implementation challenges arising from rapidly changing market conditions. Stakeholders suggested that the benchmarking framework should remain practical, transparent and aligned with prevailing market realities.
8. Based on the discussions held during the meeting, comments/observations made by the developers/association and the broad consensus emerged during the meeting, the following minimum benchmark project costs and land requirements was considered for accepting the compliance under clause 11 (A) & eligibility documents under clause 5.8 of CERC GNA Regulations:
- (i) Solar Projects: around **₹3.5 Crore/MW**
 - (ii) Wind Projects: around **₹6.0 Crore/MW**
 - (iii) BESS Projects: around **₹0.80 Crore/MWh**
 - (iv) RE Parks: existing benchmark of **₹0.5 Crore/MW** may be retained
 - (v) BESS: existing land requirement is reduced from 3 acre for 100 MWh to **1.2 acre** for **100 MWh**
9. The participants also requested that benchmark costs be reviewed periodically in view of the dynamic nature of the RE sector and the continuous evolution of technology and equipment prices. Member (Planning), CEA agreed to the proposal, and it was decided that such reviews may be undertaken annually, subject to the need arising from inputs received from the industry and other stakeholders.
10. On the request of developers/association towards acceptance of revised benchmark costs retrospectively, it was clarified that:
- (i) Cases where financial closure has already been achieved or connectivity has already been revoked on this ground shall not be reviewed. However, any cases in which decision towards acceptance for achievement of FC is yet to be taken, revised benchmark costs may be considered.
 - (ii) The finalized benchmarks shall be incorporated in the procedures of the CERC regulations, 2022.
11. The Chair thanked all participants for their constructive suggestions and active participation. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

ATTENDANCE SHEET

**Meeting on Benchmarking of Project Cost Requirements
for Different Types of Renewable Energy (RE) Projects**

Date: 21.08.2026

Venue: 8th floor, CTUIL office

S. No.	Name of Participant	Organization	Designation	Signature
1	ANMESH MANWA	WTPC	DGM	
2	ONIKAR AMRUTANSHU	AVADA	SM	
3	DHRUBASYOTI SUTRADHAR	SPDA	Sr. Research Associate	
4	Devendra SiKharwar	Entity Energy	AVP	
5	Prabhat K. Upadhyay	SECI	DGM	
6	Pratik Prasad	CEC	DGM	
7	Tannhausen D Pierce	Seitika	CM	
8	Sunay Anand	Serentia	CM	
9	Icham Nagpal	Sinsure	AVP	
10	ROHIT GUPTA	JWIPER	AGM	
11	Vivek Hooda	Sensurp	DM	
12	MOHIT JAIN	RENEW	AGM	
13	Raghendra Upadhyay	WIPPA	CEO	
14	Pooja Shyam	WIPPA	Lead - QA	
15	AGAM KUMAR	Renew	DEGM	
16	ANKIT RASTOGI	Renew	GM	
17	TUSHAR GOYAL	ACME	Sr. VP	
18	MANISH KUMAR KANTH	SIVN	GM	
19	VIVEK K. DESAI	EDEN	Head RD	
20	ANKUR KUMAR	NSEFI	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	
21	NAMIT JAIN	ADITYA Birla Renewable	GM - PD	
22	Rajeev Rajag	HardFuture	AGM BD	
23	DURGESH KUMAR GUPTA	Onward Solar	Sr. VP.	
24	Vikrant Jain	Aditya Birla Renewable	Manager	
25	Dhamesh Kumar	CEA	DD	

26	DEEPAK CHODHARY	CEA	D. Director	
27	RATNESH KUMAR	CEA	DIRECTOR	
28	SHUBHAM GARG	CEA	Asst. Dirct	
29	Dr. Aravindh M. D.	MNRE	Sci'D	
30	Laxmi Kant	CTUIL	GM	
31	K. AMAL KUMAR JAIN	CTUIL	Sr GM	
32	AMIN KUMAR CHACHAN	GENTARI	HEAD-Admcan	
33	Abh. Bhattach	RysPur	GM-Polysce	
34	S. M. Farhad	CTU	C.M	
35	पंकज कुमार शर्मा	सी. टी. 210	पुनर्वसन, नियंत्रण & कॉर्पोरेट अफेयर्स	
36	Manish Kumar Tiwari	Head future Engg		
37	Ramesh Kumar	CEA	CEA	
38	V.K. Singh	CEA	Member	
39	M.M. Dhakate	CEA	CEA	
40	Vij. B. Senthil	CTU	DCO	
41	K. K. Sathyan	CTU	CRM	
42	Neeraj Mishra	CTU	DCM	
43	Nitesh Kumar	CTU	E2	
44	Simranjit Rajar	CTU	E2	
45	Sandeep Behra	CTU	C.Mgr	
46	KESHAV SINGH	CTU	AM	
47	Sandeep Jain	CTU	Eng.	
48	SUDHANSHU SENGA	CTU	E2	
49	Sudhanthu Ramjan	CTU	ET	
50	Ashutosh Khandari	CTU	ET	
51	Prashant Kumar - Jais	सी. टी. यु०	अभियंता प्रशिक्षण	
52	ISHAN GARG	CTU	ET	
53	Vikash Kumar Singh.	CTU	Mgr (DA)	
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