

Amendments to the Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for Procurement of Power from Grid Connected Wind Solar Hybrid Project, 2025

The MoP notified **Draft Amendments to the Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for Procurement of Power from Grid Connected Wind Solar Hybrid Project, 2025** Issued on 25nd June, 2025

Objective:

The amendments to the Guidelines for Tariff Based Competitive Bidding for Grid-Connected Renewable Energy Projects with Energy Storage Systems, notified on June 9, 2023, and amended on November 17, 2023, February 2, 2024, and February 12, 2025, streamline power procurement. They mandate Distribution Licensees to seek Power Sale Agreement approval within 30 days of signing if not pre-approved, allow extensions of the Scheduled Commercial Operation Date for delays in tariff adoption or approval beyond 60 days from submission or 120 days from signing, and reduce the Performance Bank Guarantee from 5% to 3% of the project cost. These changes enhance efficiency and ease financial burdens for developers.

The document can be accessed [here](#)

CER Opinion-

1. Consistency with Reference to “Appropriate Commission”: *Clause no 5.1 (a) Any deviations from these Guidelines and/or Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs) in the draft RfS, draft PSA (if applicable) need to be approved by the Government **Appropriate Commission** in accordance with the process described in **Clause 19** of these Guidelines. (emphasis added)*

While Clause 5.1 is proposed to be amended as above, clause 19¹ of the Guidelines currently refers to the “**Appropriate Government**” as the authority for approving deviations from the Guidelines and/or Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs). However, other parts of the document—such as provisions related to deviations in the RfS, PPA, and PSA—refer to the “Appropriate Commission” as the approving authority. (a), (b), and (c). This revision will help avoid

¹ Clause 19 “*In case it becomes imperative for the Procurer/intermediate procurer to deviate from these Guidelines and/or the SBDs, the same shall be subject to approval by the **Appropriate Government** before the initiation of bidding process itself. The Appropriate Government shall approve or require modification to the bid documents within a reasonable time not exceeding 60 (sixty) days*”

misinterpretation and ensure that the categories of obligated entities are explicitly defined and consistently understood.

As per **Section 86(1)(b) of the Electricity Act 2003**², the Commissions are empowered to *“regulate electricity purchase and procurement process of distribution licensees including the price at which electricity shall be procured from the generating companies or licensees or from other sources through agreements for purchase of power for distribution and supply within the State.” (emphasis added)*

This clearly establishes that procurement of power as well as the approval of power purchase agreements fall under the jurisdiction of the SERCs/JERCs.

To ensure **internal consistency and regulatory alignment**, it is recommended that **Clause 19 be amended by replacing the term “Appropriate Government” with “Appropriate Commission.”** This change would reinforce the statutory role of the SERCs/JERCs in governing procurement processes and prevent ambiguity in the approval mechanism for deviations from the prescribed bidding guidelines.

² <https://cercind.gov.in/Act-with-amendment.pdf>