V. ARUN ROY, I.A.S.,
Chairman & Managing Director

TNEB Ltd., & TNPDCL and Chairman,
TNPGCL, TANTRANSCO & TNGECL.

Chairperson SRPC

Dated 21st September 2026

To
The Secretary
Ministry of Power
Government of India

Sir,

Sub: Strengthening of the Standard Operating Procedure for Transmission Line Shutdowns for Infrastructure Diversion Works – Recommendations of SRPC/TCC - Reg.

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Kind attention is invited to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Power for coordination of transmission line shutdowns required for infrastructure development works, including National Highway and other public utility projects.

It is highly appreciated that the SOP has provided a useful framework for facilitating critical infrastructure development while safeguarding the reliability and security of the transmission system. However, based on the operational experience in the Southern Region and deliberations in various forum of SRPC, it is observed that repeated deferment, non-utilisation and extension of approved transmission shutdowns are increasingly resulting in prolonged unavailability of critical transmission elements and disruption of the planned outage sequence.

Transmission shutdowns of EHV lines are approved only after detailed system studies and consideration of prevailing and anticipated system conditions, including demand, corridor loading, voltage security, transfer capability and network redundancy. Its deferment or prolonged extension not only constrains system operation but also necessitates repeated system studies, re-planning of interconnected outages and, in certain cases, deferment of other essential maintenance and system-strengthening works.

The matter has been deliberated in various Sub-Committees of SRPC, including in TCC and SRPC meetings. Based on these deliberations, and in particular the detailed deliberations held during the recent TCC and SRPC meetings on 24th and 28th July 2026, respectively, the following recommendations are submitted for kind consideration of MoP/CEA for suitable strengthening/modification of the existing SOP:

- Suitable provisions may be incorporated in the existing SOP for Infrastructure Diversion Works to establish clear accountability and appropriate penalty provisions for delays beyond the approved shutdown/restoration period.

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- Deemed Availability may be considered only for the approved outage/restoration period, normally limited to one or two outages per project for the same transmission line, in accordance with the approved shutdown schedule and applicable regulations.
- In cases where extensions beyond the originally approved shutdown period are permitted, Deemed Availability may continue to be extended to the Transmission Licensee in accordance with the applicable regulations; however, appropriate charges/demurrage may be levied on the concerned Infrastructure Project Developer/Concessionaire for the extended period, with the proceeds suitably utilised towards reduction of transmission charges, as permissible under the applicable regulatory framework.
- May examine the feasibility of prescribing minimum demurrage charges even during the approved shutdown period, with a view to promoting realistic planning, optimum utilisation of the approved outage window and timely restoration of transmission elements.
- For critical transmission line diversion works, the feasibility of entrusting the execution to the concerned Transmission Licensee on a deposit-work basis may be examined, wherever considered appropriate, to minimise repeated extensions and prolonged outages.
- Repeated shutdowns of the same transmission line for diversion works by different concessionaires/project developers may be avoided through advance coordination and integrated planning of all known infrastructure requirements before seeking outage approval.
- Suitable provisions may be incorporated in the SOP to enable recovery of the cost of damage caused to transmission assets/equipment during execution of diversion works from the concerned Infrastructure Project Developer/Concessionaire, in accordance with an appropriate mechanism.

In view of the large-scale infrastructure development and associated transmission diversion works envisaged in the coming years, it is requested that MoP/CEA may kindly consider the above recommendations and suitably incorporate the requisite provisions/modifications in the existing SOP. Strengthening the SOP at this stage would help ensure greater accountability, effective outage planning, timely execution and restoration of transmission elements, while facilitating infrastructure development without compromising transmission system availability and grid security.

Yours faithfully,

Chairperson
Southern Regional Power Committee

Copy to:
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