



#### DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC 7024-08-0022

AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2021-06-0013 ON THE FRAMEWORK GOVERNING THE TEST AND COMMISSIONING OF GENERATION FACILITIES FOR ENSURING READINESS TO DELIVER ENERGY TO THE GRID OR DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

WHEREAS, on 03 June 2021, the Department of Energy (DOE) promulgated Department Circular (DC) No. DC2021-06-0013 providing the general framework which governs the Test and Commissioning of Embedded Generating Facilities to be undertaken by distribution utilities (DUs) in accordance with the provisions thereof;

WHEREAS, on 01 February 2023, the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association, Inc. wrote a letter to the DOE raising concern on the requirements of Clearance to Energize (CTE) by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), which causes delay in the commercial operation of Embedded Generators particularly due to the duplication of tests conducted during the period of Test and Commissioning;

**WHEREAS**, the above concerns were also raised by different Embedded Generating Facility proponents causing significant delays in the commercial operations of the Embedded Generators;

WHEREAS, the DOE revisited the procedures in the issuance by the Transmission Network Provider (TNP) of the CTE, vis-a-vis the Test and Commissioning procedures of DUs in the issuance of Final Certificate of Approval to Connect (FCATC) and deems it necessary to amend DC No. DC2021-06-0013 to eliminate duplication of documentary requirements and/or processes in the conduct of Test and Commissioning for Embedded Generators;

WHEREAS, the DOE, after reviewing the same, deems it important and necessary to issue the proposed amendments in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Embedded Generators, the host DU, the Generation Companies directly connected to the Grid and the TNP;

WHEREAS, the DOE drafted the proposed amendments to DC No. DC2021-06-0013, posted the same on the DOE website on 27 July 2023 and conducted the following public consultations on various dates to solicit comments and recommendations on the matter:

Leg	Date	Venue
Luzon	23 August 2023	Taguig City
Visayas	06 September 2023	Cebu City
Mindanao	31 August 2023	Cagayan De Oro City

DC on Amending Certain Provisions of DC No. DC2021-06-0013 on the Framework Governing the Test and Commissioning of Generation Facilities for Ensuring Readiness to Deliver Energy to the Grid or Distribution Network

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WHEREAS, the DOE recognized the necessity to modify other specific provisions of DC No. DC2021-06-0013 to streamline processes and address the obligation of Generation Companies to adhere to the DOE approved guidelines on dispatch protocol and nomination of capacities after the issuance of FCATC and pending issuance of the Certificate of Compliance (COC) by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

NOW, THEREFORE, the DOE, pursuant to its authority under Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 and its implementing rules and regulations hereby adopts, issues, and promulgates the following amendments to DC No. DC2021-06-0013:

Section 1. Section 1. General Principles is hereby amended as follows:

1.1 No Generation Company and its Generation Facility/ies shall commercially operate and participate in the WESM unless it has secured a COC from the ERC. Notwithstanding, the Generation Company and its Generation Facility/ies, under or have completed Test and Commissioning, as defined in this Circular, may be allowed to operate, and be compensated subject to the provisions of this Circular, and without prejudice to the ERC authority over the issuance and enforcement of the COC.

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Section 2. Section 3. Definition of Terms is hereby amended as follows:

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i) "Test and Commissioning" refers to the conduct of procedures to determine and certify that a Generation Facility was connected to the grid in accordance with the Philippine Grid Code (PGC), Philippine Distribution Code (PDC) and/or other relevant guidelines and specifications, as applicable, and to determine readiness to deliver energy to Grid or distribution network for the purpose of securing a COC from the ERC.

For the purpose of this policy, Test and Commissioning includes the conduct of capability tests as specified in the PGC, PDC and other relevant issuances such as the Grid Compliance Test and Ancillary Services Capability Test and all other activities which require synchronization to the Grid or distribution network.

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**Section 3.** Section 4. General Test and Commissioning Procedures and its Annexes (attached Annexes A and B) hereby amended as follows:

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- 4.2 Procedures Before Test and Commissioning
- 4.2.1 The Generation Company shall submit its application for the conduct of Test and Commissioning at least three (3) months before its target date thereof to the following:
  - 4.2.1.1 The SO and TNP with respect to a grid-connected Generation Facility;
  - 4.2.1.2 The DU, copy furnished the SO and TNP, with respect to Embedded Generator.

#### 4.2.2 xxx xxx xxx

- 4.2.3 Within twenty (20) calendar days from the submission of complete requirements by the Generation Company, the relevant Network Service Provider (NSP) shall issue a Provisional Certificate of Authority to Connect (PCATC) indicating the start and end date of Test and Commissioning not exceeding the maximum period specified in Section 4.1.2 of this Circular. The requirements shall include the following:
  - 4.2.3.1 Scheduled date of Test and Commissioning, as coordinated by the Generation Company with the following:
    - 4.2.3.1.1 SO and TNP for grid-connected Generation Facilities; and4.2.3.1.2 DU for Embedded Generators and SO for the purposes of submission of security limit to the MO.
  - 4.2.3.2 For Generation Facility/ies not applying under Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) system: Certification under Oath that Electromechanical Completion has been achieved by the Generation Company;
  - 4.2.3.3 For Generation Facility/ies applying under FIT system: Endorsement by the DOE confirming Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Department Circular No. DC2013-05-0009;
  - 4.2.3.4 Proof of WESM Registration for the conduct of the Test and Commissioning issued by the MO; and
  - 4.2.3.5 Other requirements as may be determined by the TNP or the DU for Embedded Generator pursuant to their respective guidelines.

To this end, the Generation Company shall be responsible for ensuring the timely application for obtaining the above requirements to ensure the scheduled date of Test and Commissioning will not be compromised. Likewise, concerned agencies

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or entities shall ensure timely issuance of above requirements to the Generation Company in accordance with their applicable guidelines.

- 4.2.4 Within three (3) working days upon receipt the Generation Company shall furnish a copy of the PCATC to the following:
  - 4.2.4.1 The MO and SO with respect to a grid-connected Generation Facility/ies; and
  - 4.2.4.2 The MO, SO and the TNP with respect to an Embedded Generator.
- 4.2.5 For the conduct of Test and Commissioning, no injection to the grid or distribution network shall be allowed without a valid PCATC.
- 4.2.6 The Generation Company shall be responsible for coordinating with the TNP or the DU as applicable or third-party testing entity that will conduct the Test and Commissioning to ensure the Generation Facility/ies availability for the duration of the Test and Commissioning period indicated in the PCATC.
- 4.3 Procedures During Test and Commissioning
- 4.3.1 xxx xxx xxx

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4.3.1.1 The concerned DU shall witness the Test and Commissioning activities of Embedded Generators to be undertaken by a third-party testing entity. The DU or TNP may also conduct the Test and Commissioning activities once the EG has exhausted all efforts and failed to secure the services of a third-party testing entity. Provided that, if the DU is not capable of conducting such Test and Commissioning activity, then the TNP may conduct the Test and Commissioning activity.

The DU shall coordinate with the SO in case of any Test and Commissioning activity that has material impact within its distribution network, which may result in material impact to Grid operations.

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- 4.4 Procedures After Test and Commissioning
- 4.4.1 Within fourteen (14) calendar days, after completion of the conduct of Test and Commissioning, the TNP, DU or third-party testing entity shall evaluate the results and validate the readiness of the Generation Facility to deliver energy to the Grid or distribution network.

In case the test was conducted by a third-party, the evaluation results shall be provided by the Generation Company to the TNP or the DU for the issuance of the Final Certificate of Approval to Connect (FCATC). Similarly, in case the TNP conducted the test for EGs, the TNP shall provide the evaluation results to the concerned DU for the latter's issuance of the FCATC.

For clarity, the TNP or the DU shall require only technical requirements that are discussed and disclosed to the Generation Company during the conduct and approval process of System Impact and Facilities Study (for TNP) or Distribution Impact and Distribution Asset Study (for DU).

- 4.4.2 Within seven (7) calendar days after the completion of the evaluation of test results validating the Generation Facility's capability and readiness to deliver energy to the grid or distribution network, whichever comes first, the relevant NSP shall issue the FCATC to the Generation Company signifying successful conduct of Test and Commissioning and that the Generation Facility can operate in accordance with applicable parameters of the PGC or PDC:
  - 4.4.2.1 the TNP for a grid-connected Generation Facilities, for avoidance of doubt, TNP may release a separate equivalent document to FCATC (i.e. NGCP Certificate of Compliance to PGC and OATS Rules) for gridconnected Generation Facilities; and
  - 4.4.2.2 the DU for Embedded Generators
- 4.4.3 xxx xxx xxx
- 4.4.4 xxx xxx xxx
- 4.4.5 The ERC, within sixty (60) calendar days upon receipt of the FCATC and satisfaction of other applicable requirements, shall issue the COC to the Generation Company with respect to its Generation Facility. The ERC shall furnish a copy of the same to the MO and publish a list thereof on the ERC website on a monthly basis.

Pending the issuance of the COC by the ERC, a Generation Company that has been issued with a FCATC may be allowed to continue to operate, be dispatched, and compensated pursuant to the provisions of this Circular, unless the ERC issues an Order for the Generation Company's immediate cessation and disconnection from the grid.

For this purpose, the Generation Company which has been issued a FCATC, shall be dispatched and compensated in the following manner:

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- 4.4.5.1. For Variable Renewable Energy and Must-Dispatch Generating Units, the Generation Company shall submit its projected output to the MO and shall comply with applicable forecast accuracy standards;
- 4.4.5.2. For Priority Dispatch Generating Units, the Generation Company shall submit its projected output to the MO and shall comply with applicable dispatch conformance standards; and
- 4.4.5.3. For scheduled generating units and energy storage systems, the Generation Company shall submit to the MO its offer prices and quantities, and shall comply with the applicable dispatch conformance standards, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the WESM Rules and Market Manuals.

Projected output and day-ahead nominations shall be submitted through the MO's Market Participant Interface, which, as necessary, may be revised by the Generation Company near real-time.

All Generation Companies with FCATC but with pending issuance of COC, who submitted day ahead projected output or nomination shall be monitored by the Enforcement and Compliance Office and be subject to imposition of financial penalties.

In cases when the energy injection of the concerned Generation Companies significantly deviates from their projected output or day- ahead nomination and poses threat to system security, the SO shall implement the WESM re-dispatch process, pursuant to the WESM Rules and Market Manuals.

All energy injected by Generation Companies with FCATC but with pending issuance of COC may be declared as bilateral quantities while spot quantities shall be paid at WESM prices. The declaration of BCQ by the Generation Company in the WESM shall be without prejudice to the ERC's authority to approve the corresponding Power Supply Agreement of the Generation Company with the DU governing the collection of pass-through generation charges.

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4.7.1 Unsatisfactory Test and Commissioning Results Upon Evaluation

4.7.1.1 In case of unsatisfactory Test and Commissioning results arising from technical issues internal to the Generation Facility, the TNP or the DU may extend the validity of the PCATC for a period of not more than one (1) month from the evaluation of the results, subject to availability of a Test and Commissioning schedule, as confirmed by the TNP or DU. The Generation Company shall advise the MO of the extension of PCATC.

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**Section 5. Separability Clause.** If for any reason, any section or provision of this DC is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**Section 6. Repealing Clause.** Any DC or issuance, contrary to or inconsistent with this DC is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**Section 7. Effectivity.** This DC shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. A copy of this DC shall be filed with the University of the Philippines Law Center – Office of National Administrative Register (UPLC-ONAR).

Issued on JUL 3 1 2024 at the DOE, Energy Center, Rizal Drive cor. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA Secretary



**ANNEX A** 

Responsible Entity	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Notify SO and TNP of target date of Test and Commissioning (T&C) and Submission of Application for the conduct of T&C	3 months prior to target date of Test and Commissioning	Actual schedule of Test and Commissioning shall be subject to confirmation of all concerned entities. Resource availability for VRE resources should be considered.
Generation Company	Achievement of Electromechanical Completion	Prior the application for Provisional Certificate of Approval to Connect (PCATC)	For FIT applicants, they shall request for DOE's validation
Generation Company	Submit complete requirements for issuance of Provisional Certificate of Approval to Connect (PCATC)	At least 23 days before the conduct of Test and Commissioning Schedule	<ol> <li>Scheduled date of lest and Commissioning, as coordinated with TNP and SO<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Certification attesting Electromechanical Completion<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Other proof of WESM Registration issued by the MO</li> </ol>
Transmission Network Provider (TNP)	Issue PCATC to Generation Company	Within 20 calendar days from submission of complete requirements	4. Requirements as may be determined by the TNP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Generation Company shall be responsible to ensure timely application for obtaining the above requirements to ensure scheduled date of T&C will not be compromised.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For Generation Facilities not applying under the FIT system: Certification under oath that Electromechanical Completion has been achieved by the Generation Company For Generation Facilities applying under the FIT system: Endorsement by the DOE confirming Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Department Circular No. DC2013-05-0009

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Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
S0 ,	Cease imposition of Cease imposition of overriding constraints	Immediately	As per DC2022-05-0015
Market		Immediately	As per DC2022-05-0015
Operator (MO)	Disallow BCQ declaration and cease WESM payments for energy injection  Disallow BCQ declaration and cease WESM payments for energy injection  Disallow BCQ declaration and cease west west payments for energy injection		
TNP or Third- party testing entity	Evaluate the results and validate the readiness to deliver energy to the Grid Network, as applicable.	Within 14 calendar days after completion of the conduct of T&C	
TNP	GenCo ready to N D deliver energy to the Grid?		

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Responsible Entity	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Submit requirements to the TNP for issuance of Final Certificate of Approval to Connect (FCATC)	N/A	As may be required by TNP
TNP	Issue FCATC to Generation Company and	Within 7 calendar days from the satisfactory evaluation of the results and GenCo's complete submission of requirements	
TNP	Furnish a copy of FCATC to the ERC,  MO and SO	Within 3 calendar days from the issuance to the GenCo	
SO	Continue enforcement of overriding		As per DC2022-05-0015
MO	VRE and MDGUs -submits projected output PDGU -submits day-ahead nominations Scheduled Generating Units and ESS -submits offer prices	,	As per DC2022-05-0015  MDGU- Must Dispatch Generating Units PDGU-Priority Dispatch Generating Units ESS-Energy Storage Systems
	available capacity		

**ANNEX A** 

Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Submit complete requirements for Certificate of Compliance (COC) to ERC	N/A	As may be required by ERC
		5	As per DC2022-05-0015
ERC	Issue COC to Generation Company	days calendar	As per DC2022-03-0013
Generation Company	Submit COC to MO and SO	Within 3 working days	
MO		Within 15 calendar	
MO	Reflect WESM Registration as under Commercial Operations and grant access to the MPI	15	
MO	Effectivity of new WESM Registration in the MPI	Within 8 calendar days	

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Responsible Entity	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Granted an Y extended PCATC Reset Process already?		If the validity of the PCATC has lapsed, including the extended period of validity duly approved by the TNP or DU, and the Generation Facility failed to satisfy the grid connectivity parameters required by the PGC or PDC, the process for the conduct of Test and Commissioning shall be reset.
Generation Company	External Reason for non- Internal	N/A	External Reasons a) Grid network conditio b) Force majeure events
	completion of T&C?		Internal Reasons a) Technical issues within Generation Facility
TNP	Issue extended PCATC to Generation Company	Immediately	
Generation Company	Furnish MO, SO with the extended PCATC	Immediately	

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TNP	TNP	TNP or third- party testing entity	Responsible
Suspend validity of the PCATC	Available T&C schedule within 1 month from expiry of PCATC?	Technical Issues based on Issues identified during T&C	Responsible Procedures
Immediately			Maximum Timeline
			Requirements/Remarks

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Responsible Entity	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
TNP	Inform MO and SO that T&C was not completed within prescribed period	Immediately	Inform MO and SO that T&C was not completed within prescribed period
MO	Disallow BCQ declaration and cease	Immediately	
	WESM payments for energy injection		
SO	Cease imposition of overriding	Immediately	Cease imposition of overriding
Generation Company	Secure new schedule of T&C from TNP as coordinated with SO	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of	
		PCATC	
Generation Company	Apply for reactivation of the PCATC	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of PCATC	

Department Circular No. DC\_\_\_\_\_\_ - AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2021-06-0013 ON THE FRAMEWORK GOVERNING THE TEST AND COMMISSIONING OF GENERATION FACILITIES FOR ENSURING READINESS TO DELIVER ENERGY TO THE GRID OR DISTRIBUTION

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Generation Company	Generation Company	TNP	Responsible Entity
Apply for extension of the PCATC	Secure new schedule of T&C from TNP as coordinated with SO	Issue Reactivated PCATC B	Procedures
At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of extension of PCATC	Immediately	Maximum Timeline
		The Generation Company shall disclose to the TNP, SO, MO and DU (for Embedded Generators) of any changes in capacity and capabilities of its Generation Facility. The Generation Company shall secure proof of Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Section 4.2.4.2 or 4.2.4.3 reflecting the completion of the modifications undertaken to the Generation Facility and submit the same to the TNP or DU.  The validity of the reactivated Provisional CATC shall be in accordance with Section 4.7.1.1	Requirements/Remarks

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Responsible Entity	TNP									
Procedures	Issue Extended PCATC									
	<b>B</b>	(								
Maximum Timeline	Immediately									
Requirements/Remarks	Subject to the following conditions:	The Generation Company shall disclose to the TNP, SO, MO and DU (for Embedded	Generators) of any changes in capacity and capabilities of its Generation Facility.	The Generation Company shall secure	accordance with Section 4.2.4.2 or 4.2.4.3	reflecting the completion of the	Generation Facility and submit the same	to the TNP or DU.	The validity of the reactivated Provisional	CATC shall be in accordance with Section

**ANNEX B** 

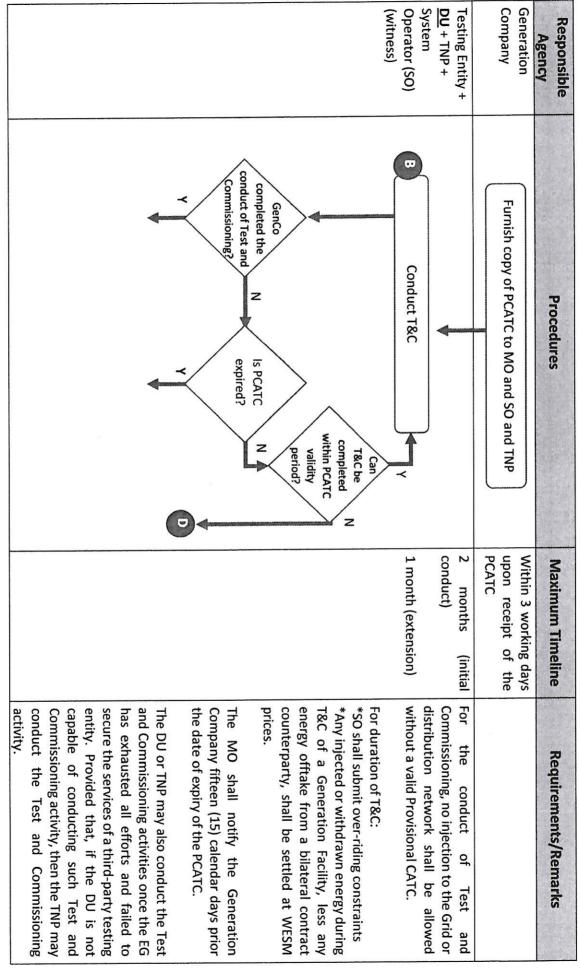
Responsible Agency	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	nts/Rem
Generation Company	Submission of Application to the DU for the conduct of T&C and notify the SO and TNP of target date of Test and Commissioning (T&C) and	3 months prior to target date of Test and Commissioning	Actual schedule of Test and Commissioning shall be subject to confirmation of all concerned entities. Resource availability for VRE resources should be considered.
Generation Company	Achievement of Electromechanical Completion	Prior the application for Provisional Certificate of Approval to Connect (PCATC)	For FIT applicants, they shall request for DOE's validation
Generation Company	Submit complete requirements for issuance of Provisional Certificate of Approval to Connect (PCATC)	At least 23 days before the conduct of Test and Commissioning Schedule	1. Scheduled date of Test and Commissioning, as coordinated with DU, TNP and SO¹ 2. Certification attesting Electromechanical Completion² 3. Other proof of WESM Registration issued by the MO 4. Requirements as may be determined by the DU.
Distribution Utility (DU)	Issue PCATC to Generation Company	Within 20 calendar days from submission of complete requirements	

<sup>1</sup> Generation Company shall be responsible to ensure timely application for obtaining the above requirements to ensure scheduled date of T&C will not be compromised.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For Generation Facilities not applying under the FIT system: Certification under oath that Electromechanical Completion has been achieved by the Generation Company For Generation Facilities applying under the FIT system: Endorsement by the DOE confirming Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Department Circular No. DC2013-05-0009

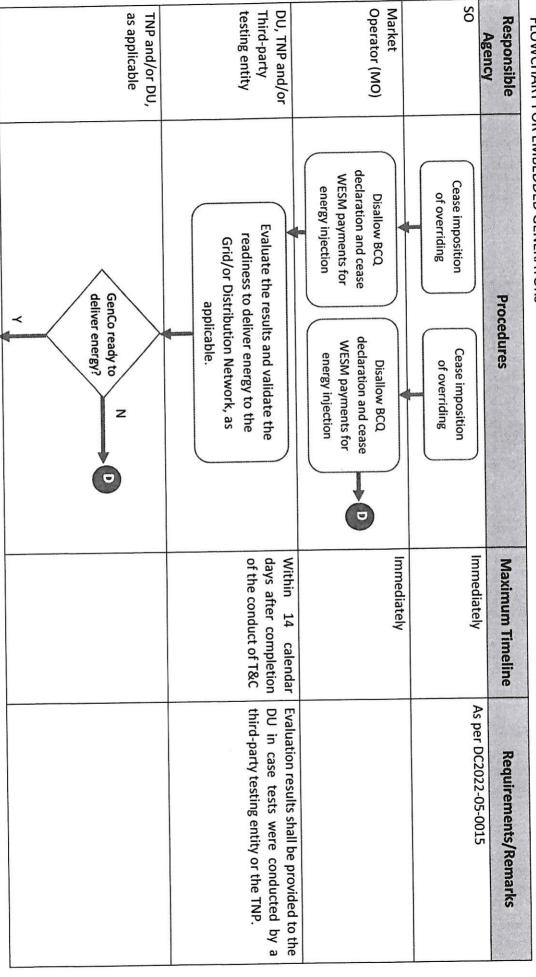
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Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation	Submit requirements to the DII for	N/A	As may be required by DU
company	Approval to Connect (FCATC)		In case the TNP conducted the test, the TNP shall provide the evaluation result to the DU for the latter's issuance of FCATC.
DU		Within 7 calendar days from the satisfactory	
	Issue FCATC to Generation Company	evaluation of the	
	and	results and GenCo's	
		of requirements	
חם	F	Within 3 calendar days	
	MO and SO	the GenCo	
so	Continue enforcement of overriding constraints		As per DC2022-05-0015
MO	VRE and MDGUs -submits projected output		As per DC2022-05-0015
	PDGU -submits day-ahead nominations Scheduled Generating Units and ESS -		
	due consideration of its maximum available capacity		

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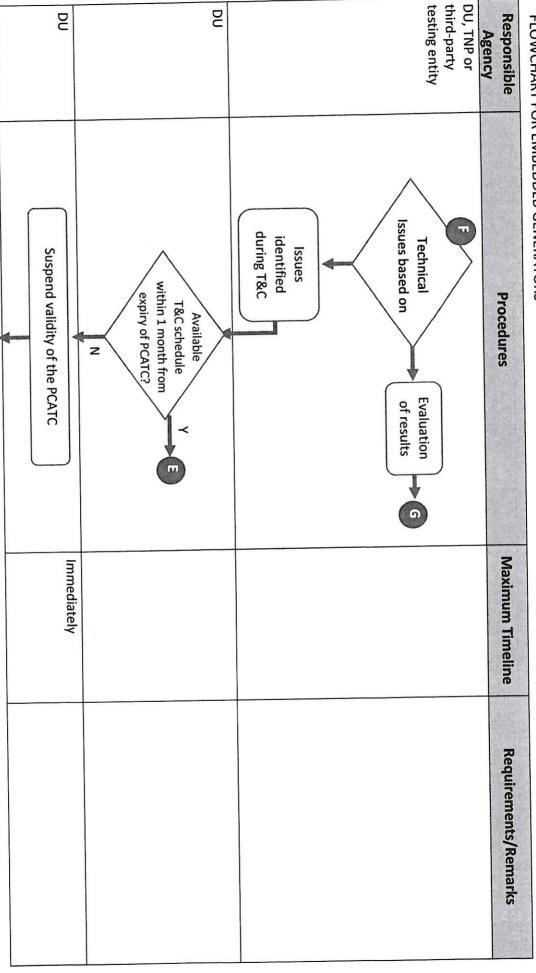
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Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Submit complete requirements for Certificate of Compliance (COC) to ERC	N/A	As may be required by ERC
		1	
ERC	Issue COC to Generation Company	Within 60 calendar days	
Generation Company	Submit COC to MO and SO	Within 3 working days	
MO	Reflect WESM Registration as under Commercial Operations and grant access to the MPI	Within 15 calendar days	in the MPI shall be within eight (8) calendar days from approval.
MO	Effectivity of new WESM Registration in the MPI	Within 8 calendar days	

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Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Generation Company	Granted an Y extended PCATC Reset Process already?		If the validity of the PCATC has lapsed, including the extended period of validity duly approved by the TNP or DU, and the Generation Facility failed to satisfy the grid connectivity parameters required by the PGC or PDC, the process for the conduct of Test and Commissioning shall be reset.
Generation Company	External Reason for non- Internal	N/A	External Reasons a) Grid network conditions b) Force majeure events
	completion of T&C?		Internal Reasons a) Technical issues within Generation Facility
טט	Issue extended PCATC to Generation Company	Immediately	
Generation Company	Furnish MO, SO with the extended PCATC	Immediately	

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Responsible Agency	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
סט	Inform MO and SO that T&C was not completed within prescribed period	Immediately	Inform MO and SO that T&C was not completed within prescribed period
MO	Disallow BCQ declaration and cease WESM payments for energy injection	Immediately	
SO	Cease imposition of overriding	Immediately	Cease imposition of overriding
Generation Company	Secure new schedule of T&C from DU as coordinated with SO	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of PCATC	
Generation Company	Apply for reactivation of the PCATC	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of PCATC	
DU	Issue Reactivated PCATC B	Immediately	Subject to the following conditions:  The Generation Company shall disclose to the TNP, SO, MO and DU (for Embedded Generators) of any changes in capacity and capabilities of its Generation Facility.  The Generation Company shall secure proof of Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Section 4.2.4.2 or 4.2.4.3 reflecting the

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Responsible	Procedures	Maximum Timeline	Requirements/Remarks
Agency			completion of the modifications undertaken to the Generation Facility and submit the same to the TNP or DU.
			The validity of the reactivated Provisional CATC shall be in accordance with Section 4.7.1.1
Generation Company	Secure new schedule of T&C from DU as coordinated with SO	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of extension of PCATC	
Generation Company	Apply for extension of the PCATC	At least 15 calendar days before the target date of reactivation of PCATC	
DU	Issue Extended PCATC B	Immediately	Subject to the following conditions:  The Generation Company shall disclose to the
			TNP, SO, MO and DU (for Embedded Generators) of any changes in capacity and capabilities of its Generation Facility.  The Generation Company shall secure proof of Electromechanical Completion in accordance with Section 4.2.4.2 or 4.2.4.3 reflecting the completion of the modifications undertaken to the Generation Facility and submit the same to the TNP or DU.  The validity of the reactivated Provisional CATC shall be in accordance with Section 4.7.2.1