

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

## **REC Limited (security code: -)**

### <Assignment>

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating:	BBB+
Outlook:	Stable
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating:	BBB+
Outlook:	Stable

### *Rationale*

- (1) REC Limited (REC) is a public financial institution aimed to finance the infrastructure centering on power sector in India. It plays a very important role in the implementation of the Government of India's (GOI) power sector plans. The ratings strongly reflect the country's creditworthiness and are in line with the Republic of India's Long-term Issuer Ratings (FC: BBB+/Stable and LC: BBB+/Stable). It is based on REC's strong capital and personal relationship with GOI, its important position as an institution that financially supports the development of power infrastructure across India, and its strong integration with GOI, supported by its position as a Nodal agency for power policy initiatives in India.
- (2) REC was established for the purpose of developing the power infrastructure in rural areas and has provided long-term project-based loans to the public-sector power utilities set up by the central and state governments. The scope of its financing has progressively expanded in accordance with policy objectives of GOI, starting with transmission and distribution projects in rural areas at the time of its establishment and expanding to all segments of the power sector, including generation in 2003. Subsequently, its financing was further expanded to other projects closely linked to the power sector and renewable energy production. It now covers sub-sectors such as airport, subway and medical infrastructures.
- (3) JCR considers the relationship between REC and GOI to be tight and practically integrated. GOI has made it possible to implement its power sector transformation initiatives across the country by designating REC which developed the long-term relationships with the rural power sectors as its Nodal Agency. In the past, REC has contributed to achieving GOI's goal of providing electricity connections to all households in India through the SAUBHGYA scheme. It currently provides loans in association with GOI's results-linked Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). In addition, with respect to power distribution companies (DISCOMs), REC has developed a framework called "DISCOM Consumer Service Rating" under the guidance of India's Ministry of Power, to improve their efficiency and facilitate healthy competition among them. In 2022, REC was granted the Maharatna status, the highest rank in GOI's classification of public companies. The status allows REC to make strategic investments through joint ventures, subsidiaries and merger & acquisition activities in India and abroad.
- (4) In March 2019, the majority of REC's shares (52.63%) held by GOI were acquired by Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC). PFC is a public financial institution (55.99%) owned by GOI and REC is indirectly controlled by GOI through its holding company, PFC. The role and importance of REC to GOI are as stated above, and GOI's commitment to REC is evident. JCR considers that GOI's indirect ownership does not affect the rating assessment for REC.
- (5) REC's assets continue to grow in size due to high demand for funds in the Indian power sector and the expansion of its scope of financing. Its earnings are on an upward trend as it keeps retaining a sound net interest margin (NIM). Looking at its unconsolidated results for FY2023, outstanding loans increased 13% year-on-year to INR 4,350.1 billion, with profit after tax growing 10% to INR 110.55 billion on improved credit costs despite a 0.6 percent decline in NIM from the previous year.
- (6) While its customer concentration is high, with the top 10 borrowers accounting for some 40% of its outstanding loans, 90% of the loan portfolio is loans to federal states whose credit quality is relatively high. No new NPL have been made in recent years. Its NPL ratio has been on a declining trend, due partly to the rapid accumulation of its loan balances. As of September 30, 2023, the NPL ratio remained low at 3.41% in gross terms and 1.0% in net terms and its asset quality is maintained.

(7) REC's interest rate, foreign exchange and liquidity risks are controlled through its ALM Committee (ALCO). Its funding base consists mainly of long-term funds, diversified through corporate bonds, foreign currency borrowings, bank loans, etc. REC also manages its foreign exchange risks by hedging approximately 90% of its foreign currency exposure with a remaining period up to five years to their maturity. REC's D/E ratio stood at 6.5 times at the end of September 2023, indicating that it had sufficient capital adequacy against risks. Its capital adequacy ratio as of the same date stood at 28.5%, well above 15% imposed by the authorities. Due to the nature of its business model, REC is dependent on external funding, and it is essential for it to maintain financial soundness and keep funding costs under control. Therefore, not only does REC itself has a strong incentive to maintain financial soundness, but also GOI, which will need to invest heavily in power infrastructure in the future, has a similarly strong motivation to maintain REC's financial soundness. JCR views the probability of GOI's support for REC to be extremely high.

Kiichi Sugiura, Hiroshi Tonegawa

### Rating

Issuer: REC Limited

#### <Assignment>

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating: BBB+      Outlook: Stable

Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating : BBB+      Outlook: Stable

Rating Assignment Date: November 21, 2023

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of the rating methodology is shown as "Sovereign and Public Sector Entities" (October 1, 2021) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

The rating stakeholder participated in the rating process of the aforementioned credit ratings.

### Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

## Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	REC Limited
Rating Publication Date:	November 27, 2023

1

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

2

The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.

3

The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

### A) Legal Protection and Support Provided by the Government

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the issuer's legal protection provided by the government, personnel and capital relationship with the government, importance in the government's policy, credit enhancement, and other forms of the government's supporting policy, framework and the strength thereof.

### B) Business Bases

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

C) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

D) Liquidity Positions

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

## 4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

## 5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

## 6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

## 7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

## 8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
  - A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders
  - B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders

## 9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the publication by the issuer, some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.
- If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

## 10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of public or private credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

## 11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

### A) Legal Protection and Support Provided by the Government

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's legal support by the government, personnel or capital relationship with the government, importance in the government's policy, credit enhancement and other forms of the government's supporting policy, framework and the strength thereof. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

### B) Business Bases

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

### C) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the

issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

**D) Liquidity Positions**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

**E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

**F) Creditworthiness of the Government, etc. that Constitute the Framework of Credit Enhancement**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the creditworthiness of the government, etc. that constitute the framework of credit enhancement. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change on such framework is exceptionally large.

**G) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets**

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

**H) Various Events**

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

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Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

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Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

**A) Legal Protection and Government Support**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's legal protection provided by the government, personnel and capital relationship with the government, importance in the government's policy, credit enhancement and other forms of the government's supporting policy, framework and the

strength thereof. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by one notch, as JCR stipulates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the change in the government's supporting policy is significant.

**B) Business Bases**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.

**C) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

**D) Creditworthiness of the Government, etc. that Constitute the Framework of Credit Enhancement**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the creditworthiness of the government, etc. that constitute the framework of credit enhancement. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches should the creditworthiness of said government, etc. change so greatly.

**E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets**

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

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Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

**Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.**

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026

## Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Kiichi Sugiura, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

杉浦 輝一

Kiichi Sugiura  
General Manager of International Rating Department

**Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.**

Jiji Press Building, 5-15-8 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan  
Tel. +81 3 3544 7013, Fax. +81 3 3544 7026