

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Coram:

- 1. Shri Bhanu Bhushan, Member**
- 2. Shri R. Krishnamoorthy, Member**

Petition No. 100/2007

In the matter of

Permission to undertake hot-line cleaning of insulators in Northern Region Transmission System through use of helicopter for a period of six months on experimental basis and to allow for reimbursement of consequential expenditure incurred on this account from the respondents.

And in the matter of

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Gurgaon,

....Petitioner

Vs

1. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd., Jaipur
2. Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Jaipur
3. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Jaipur
4. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Jaipur
5. Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, Shimla
6. Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala
7. Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd., Panchkula, Haryana
8. Power Development Department, Jammu
9. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow
10. Delhi Transco Ltd., New Delhi
11. BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Delhi
12. BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., New Delhi
13. North Delhi Power Ltd., New Delhi
14. Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh
15. Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd., Dehradun
16. North Central Railway, Allahabad

..... Respondents

ORDER

The petitioner has filed this application for permission to undertake hot-line cleaning of insulators in Northern Region Transmission System through use of helicopters for a period of six months on an experimental basis in relaxation of the norms on O &M expenses in exercise of the powers of the Commission under Regulation 12 and 13 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms & Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2004 (hereinafter to be referred to as the “the tariff regulations, 2004”).

2. The petitioner has stated that the transmission network in Northern Region comprises 20000 kms of lines and 16 numbers of sub-stations of voltage level up to 400 KV AC and \pm 500 KV HVDC. During the winter season, there have been frequent outages of various EHV AC/HVDC lines on account of flashovers experienced by transmission line insulators in polluted stretches of the Northern Region, particularly in and around National Capital Region and the areas having high industrial/agricultural pollution. It has been further stated that on a number of occasions, the trippings had been so wide spread that Northern Region had come to the brink of near collapse.

3 The petitioner has submitted that the requisite frequent and extensive cleaning of insulators is not feasible manually (which requires the lines to be switched off) due to high demand in winter season. One of the practices being followed worldwide is helicopter based live line cleaning of insulators. In a meeting convened by the petitioner on 6.1.2006 which was attended by the constituents

and officials of Northern Regional Power Committee and Central Electricity Authority, a consensus has emerged for hotline washing of the transmission lines with the help of helicopters. Accordingly, the petitioner has submitted this proposal for hot line washing using helicopters on experimental basis for a period of six months. M/s Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd has agreed to provide necessary equipments and helicopters for six months from October to March at an approximate cost of Rs. 8.13 crore.

4. The petitioner has submitted that the O&M expenses as per the tariff regulations,2004 does not cater for hotline washing of insulators by using the helicopters, the petitioner has prayed for relaxation of the provisions of the regulations by invoking the powers under regulations 12 and 13 of the tariff regulations,2004.

5. Considering the importance and urgency involved in the matter, the petition is admitted and the respondents are directed to file their replies to the petition by 21.8.2007.

6. List the matter for hearing on 30.8.2007.

Sd/-
(R. KRISHNAMOORTHY)
MEMBER

Sd/-
(BHANU BHUSHAN)
MEMBER

New Delhi, dated the 8th August, 2007