

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No.111/2010

Coram:

1. Dr. Pramod Deo, Chairperson
2. Shri S.Jayaraman, Member
3. Shri V.S.Verma, Member
4. Shri M.Deena Dayalan, Member

DATE OF HEARING: 14.9.2010

DATE OF ORDER: 15.11.2010

In the matter of

Approval of transmission tariff for additional converter transformer (Spare) for Rihand-Dadri Bi-pole in Northern Region for the period from 1.4.2009 to 31.3.2014.

And in the matter of

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Gurgaon **..Petitioner**
Vs

1. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited, Jaipur
2. Ajmer Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd., Jaipur
3. Jaipur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd, Jaipur
4. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd, Jaipur
5. Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, Shimla
6. Punjab State Electricity Board, Patiala
7. Haryana Power Purchase Centre, Panchkula
8. Power Development Department, Govt. of J&K, Jammu
9. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd, Lucknow
10. Delhi Transco Ltd, New Delhi
11. BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi
12. BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., New Delhi
13. North Delhi Power Ltd., New Delhi
14. Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh
15. Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd, Dehradun
16. North Central Railway, Allahabad
17. New Delhi Municipal Council, New Delhi **.....Respondents**

The following were present:

1. Shri U.K.Tyagi, PGCIL
2. Shri Prashant Sharma, PGCIL
3. Shri M.M. Mondal, PGCIL
4. Shri Rajiv Gupta, PGCIL



5. Shri S.S.Raju, PGCIL
6. Shri T.P.S.Bawa, HPCC

ORDER

The petition has been filed for approval of tariff for additional converter transformer (Spare) for Rihand-Dadri Bi-pole in Northern Region for the period 1.4.2009 to 31.3.2014, based on the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as "the 2009 regulations"). The petitioner has further prayed for the reimbursement of expenditure from the beneficiaries towards publication of notices in newspapers and petition filing fee be approved. The petitioner has made the following additional prayers:-

- (a) To invoke the provision of Regulation 44 of the 2009 regulations for relaxation of regulations 15 (3) of the 2009 regulations so that grossing up the base rate shall be considering the revised rate of MAT as per the Finance Act, 2009 for the year 2009-10 and as per the Finance Act, 2010 for the year 2010-11 and subsequent years and allow consequential impact on tariff for 2009-14 period accordingly;
- (b) To approve reimbursement of petition filing fee and publication of notices in the newspaper as per the 2009 regulations;
- (c) Allow to recover the service tax on transmission charges separately from the respondents, if the petitioner is subjected to such service tax; and

(d) Allow reimbursement of licence fee separately from the respondents.

2. The annual transmission charges for the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009 were determined by the Commission in its order dated 7.9.2005 in Petition No. 107/2004 at a gross block of ₹1840.94 lakh as on 31.3.2009.

3. The petitioner has claimed the transmission charges as under:

(₹ in lakh)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Depreciation	97.20	97.20	97.20	97.20	50.98
Interest on Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Return on Equity	321.81	321.81	321.81	321.81	321.81
Interest on Working Capital	8.73	8.73	8.73	8.73	7.77
O & M Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	427.74	427.74	427.74	427.74	380.56

4. The details submitted by the petitioner in support of its claim for interest on working capital are given hereunder:

(₹ in lakh)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Maintenance Spares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O & M expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Receivables	71.29	71.29	71.29	71.29	63.43
Total	71.29	71.29	71.29	71.29	63.43
Rate of Interest	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%
Interest	8.73	8.73	8.73	8.73	7.77

5. No comments or suggestions have been received from the general public in response to the notices published by the petitioner under section 64 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

6. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (UPPCL) has made following submissions:

(i) In the absence of creation of any depreciation fund to meet the investment on future assets, depreciation amount is an additional amount earned by the petitioner over and above the ROE. It has been suggested that a fund may be created for the excess amount left over as depreciation after adjusting the same in O & M expenses and the same may be ploughed into the capital cost of the new schemes so that the beneficiaries who have over paid now may reap the benefit of lower capital cost in future;

(ii) Licence fee being the onus of the licensee, it should not be passed over to the beneficiaries; and

(iii) In regard to service tax, UPPCL has submitted that the Commission has already deferred the application of service tax sine die vide its order dated 5.11.2009 in Petition No. 62/2009, therefore there is no need to raise the issue by the petitioner in each petition.

7. Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC) in its reply dated 1.6.2010 has made following submissions:

(i) The transmission charges of additional converter transformer is an extra charge on the beneficiaries who are already paying the transmission charges of HVDC Rihand-Dadri bio-pole. PGCIL was required to maintain the necessary spares for the HVDC system.

However, due to high failure rate of converter transformers, PGCIL has procured a spare converter transformer on which the beneficiaries are required to pay separate tariff over the above the tariff of HVDC Rihand-Dadri system. If there was a high failure rate of converter transformers then it was not the fault of beneficiaries. This was a matter to be settled between PGCIL and the supplier of converter transformers;

(ii) The capital cost of spare converter transformers is funded entirely through equity which shows the loan components is zero and debt equity ratio is 0:100;

(iii) The entire working capital requirement (cash) of the spare transformer is nil as O & M component as well as interest on loan is already nil;

(iv) The interest on working capital should be taken as nil since the "receivable" component (Depreciation and ROE) is not actually a receivable on monthly basis but not a annual basis; and

(v) The petitioner does not have to make upfront case expenses which are recovered through billing later, as ROE and Depreciation are charges which are payable on annual basis. Due to this, interest on working capital for the spare transformers may be taken as nil.

8. We have considered the objections of UPPCL and HPPC. The tariff of the additional converter transformer (spare) including treatment of depreciation

and interest on working capital has been determined in this order strictly in accordance with the provisions of the 2009 regulations. In regard to capital cost, the capital cost of ₹1840.94 lakh already approved vide order dated 7.9.2005 in Petition No. 107/2004 has been considered for determination of tariff. As regards the reimbursement of licence fee, a view in the matter is yet to taken by the Commission. As regards the MAT rate and service tax, the same has been dealt with in later part of the order.

CAPITAL COST

9. As per clause (2) of Regulation 7 of the 2009 regulations, the project cost admitted by the Commission for determination of tariff prior to 1.4.2009 shall form the basis for determination of tariff.

10. The petitioner has claimed the capital expenditure of ₹1840.94 lakh, which was admitted by the Commission vide order dated 7.9.2005 in Petition No. 107/2004. The petitioner has not claimed any additional capitalization.

11. Accordingly, gross block of ₹1840.94 lakh as on 31.3.2009 has been considered for the purpose of tariff.

DEBT- EQUITY RATIO

12. Clause (2) of Regulation 12 of the 2009 regulations *inter alia* provides that,-

“(2) In case of the generating station and the transmission system declared under commercial operation prior to 1.4.2009, debt-equity ratio allowed by the Commission for determination of tariff for the period ending 31.3.2009 shall be considered.”

13. The petitioner has claimed tariff based on debt-equity ratio of 0.00:100.00 as admitted on 31.3.2009. The same debt-equity ratio has been considered for the purpose of tariff.

RETURN ON EQUITY

14. Regulation 15 of the 2009 regulations provides that,-

“ 15. (1) Return on equity shall be computed in rupee terms, on the equity base determined in accordance with regulation 12.

(2) Return on equity shall be computed on pre-tax basis at the base rate of 15.5% to be grossed up as per clause (3) of this regulation:

Provided that in case of projects commissioned on or after 1st April, 2009, an additional return of 0.5% shall be allowed if such projects are completed within the timeline specified in **Appendix-II**:

Provided further that the additional return of 0.5% shall not be admissible if the project is not completed within the timeline specified above for reasons whatsoever.

(3) The rate of return on equity shall be computed by grossing up the base rate with the normal tax rate for the year 2008-09 applicable to the concerned generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be:

Provided that return on equity with respect to the actual tax rate applicable to the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, in line with the provisions of the relevant Finance Acts of the respective year during the tariff period shall be trued up separately for each year of the tariff period along with the tariff petition filed for the next tariff period.

(4) Rate of return on equity shall be rounded off to three decimal points and be computed as per the formula given below:

Rate of pre-tax return on equity = Base rate / (1-t)

Where t is the applicable tax rate in accordance with clause (3) of this regulation.

Illustration.-

(i) In case of the generating company or the transmission licensee paying Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) @ 11.33% including surcharge and cess:

Rate of return on equity = $15.50 / (1 - 0.1133) = 17.481\%$

(ii) In case of generating company or the transmission licensee paying normal corporate tax @ 33.99% including surcharge and cess:

Rate of return on equity = $15.50 / (1 - 0.3399) = 23.481\%$."

15. The petitioner has computed return on equity on pre-tax basis on 11.33% MAT in accordance with tax rate applicable for the year 2008-09 and claimed return on equity of ₹321.81 lakh each year during the tariff period @ 17.481% against the equity base of ₹1840.94 lakh. This has been found to be in order. Accordingly, the petitioner shall be entitled to return on equity @ ₹321.81 lakh each year during the tariff period, as claimed.

16. The Commission vide its order dated 3.8.2010 in Petition No. 17/2010 has already taken a decision to amend the 2009 regulations and directed the staff to initiate the process accordingly. The draft regulations have already been published. The Commission is in the process of finalizing the amendment to 2009 regulations after considering the responses to the draft amendments. It is however, clarified that the existing provision of the 2009 regulation will be applicable with regard to the MAT rate till the regulations are amended.

INTEREST ON LOAN

17. Regulation 16 of the 2009 regulations provides that,-

"16. (1) The loans arrived at in the manner indicated in regulation 12 shall be considered as gross normative loan for calculation of interest on loan.

(2) The normative loan outstanding as on 1.4.2009 shall be worked out by deducting the cumulative repayment as admitted by the Commission up to 31.3.2009 from the gross normative loan.

(3) The repayment for the year of the tariff period 2009-14 shall be deemed to be equal to the depreciation allowed for that year:

(4) Notwithstanding any moratorium period availed by the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be the repayment of loan shall be considered from the first year of commercial operation of the project and shall be equal to the annual depreciation allowed.

(5) The rate of interest shall be the weighted average rate of interest calculated on the basis of the actual loan portfolio at the beginning of each year applicable to the project:

Provided that if there is no actual loan for a particular year but normative loan is still outstanding, the last available weighted average rate of interest shall be considered:

Provided further that if the generating station or the transmission system, as the case may be, does not have actual loan, then the weighted average rate of interest of the generating company or the transmission licensee as a whole shall be considered.

(6) The interest on loan shall be calculated on the normative average loan of the year by applying the weighted average rate of interest.

(7) The generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, shall make every effort to re-finance the loan as long as it results in net savings on interest and in that event the costs associated with such re-financing shall be borne by the beneficiaries and the net savings shall be shared between the beneficiaries and the generating company or the transmission licensee, as the case may be, in the ratio of 2:1.

(8) The changes to the terms and conditions of the loans shall be reflected from the date of such re-financing.

(9) In case of dispute, any of the parties may make an application in accordance with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999, as amended from time to time, including statutory re-enactment thereof for settlement of the dispute:

Provided that the beneficiary or the transmission customers shall not withhold any payment on account of the interest claimed by the generating company or the transmission licensee during the pendency of any dispute arising out of re-financing of loan."

18. As the project is entirely equity funded, there is no loan and therefore, for the purpose of tariff, the interest on loan has been worked out as zero.

DEPRECIATION

19. Regulation 17 of the 2009 regulations provides for computation of depreciation in the following manner, namely:

“17. (1) The value base for the purpose of depreciation shall be the capital cost of the asset admitted by the Commission.

(2) The salvage value of the asset shall be considered as 10% and depreciation shall be allowed up to maximum of 90% of the capital cost of the asset.

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(3) Land other than the land held under lease and the land for reservoir in case of hydro generating station shall not be a depreciable asset and its cost shall be excluded from the capital cost while computing depreciable value of the asset.

(4) Depreciation shall be calculated annually based on Straight Line Method and at rates specified in Appendix-III to these regulations for the assets of the generating station and transmission system:

Provided that, the remaining depreciable value as on 31st March of the year closing after a period of 12 years from date of commercial operation shall be spread over the balance useful life of the assets.

(5) In case of the existing projects, the balance depreciable value as on 1.4.2009 shall be worked out by deducting the cumulative depreciation as admitted by the Commission up to 31.3.2009 from the gross depreciable value of the assets.

(6) Depreciation shall be chargeable from the first year of commercial operation. In case of commercial operation of the asset for part of the year, depreciation shall be charged on pro rata basis.”

20. The depreciation has been worked out on the admitted capital expenditure of ₹1840.94 lakh as on 31.3.2009.

21. For the period 1.4.2009 to 31.3.2014 the depreciation works out to ₹97.20 lakh by applying rate of depreciation of 5.2800% as shown below:

(₹ in lakh)

Details of Depreciation		Up to 31.3.2009	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Gross block as per order 7.9.2005		1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94
Addition during 2009-14 due to projected Additional Capitalisation			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gross block as on 31.3.2009			1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94
Average gross block			1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94	1840.94
Rate of Depreciation			5.2800%	5.2800%	5.2800%	5.2800%	5.2800%
Depreciable Value	90%		1656.85	1656.85	1656.85	1656.85	1656.85
Elapsed Life (Beginning of the year)			8	9	10	11	12
Weighted Balance Useful life of the combined assets			17	16	15	14	13
Remaining Depreciable Value			1051.50	954.29	857.09	759.89	662.69
Depreciation			97.20	97.20	97.20	97.20	50.98

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

22. The petitioner has not claimed O & M expenses in the present petition.

INTEREST ON WORKING CAPITAL

23. The components of the working capital and the interest thereon are discussed hereunder:

(i) Receivables

As per Regulation 18(1)(c)(i) of the 2009 regulations, receivables will be equivalent to two months average billing calculated on target availability level. The petitioner has claimed the receivables on the basis 2 months' transmission charges claimed in the petition. In the tariff being allowed, receivables have been worked out on the basis 2 months' transmission charges.

(ii) Maintenance spares

Regulation 18(1)(c)(ii) of the 2009 regulations provides for maintenance spares @ 15% per annum of the O & M expenses from 1.4.2009. As the petitioner has not claimed O & M expenses, therefore, maintenance spares have been worked out as nil for the calculation of interest on working capital.

(iii) O & M expenses

Regulation 18(1) (c) (iii) of the 2009 regulations provides for operation and maintenance expenses for one month as a component of working capital. As the petitioner has not claimed O & M expenses, therefore, O & M expenses have been worked out as nil for the calculation of interest on working capital.

(iv) Rate of interest on working capital

As per Regulation 18(3) of the 2009 regulations, rate of interest on working capital shall be on normative basis and shall be equal to the short-term Prime Lending Rate of State Bank of India as on 1.4.2009 or on 1st April of the year in which the project or part thereof (as the case may be) is declared under commercial operation, whichever is later. The interest on working capital is payable on normative basis notwithstanding that the transmission licensee has not taken working capital loan from any outside agency. The petitioner has claimed interest on working capital @ 12.25% based on SBI PLR as on 1.4.2009, which is in accordance with the 2009 regulations and has been allowed.

24. The necessary computations in support of interest on working capital are appended hereinbelow:

(₹ in lakh)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Maintenance Spares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O & M expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Receivables	71.29	71.29	71.29	71.29	63.43
Total	71.29	71.29	71.29	71.29	63.43
Rate of Interest	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%
Interest	8.73	8.73	8.73	8.73	7.77

TRANSMISSION CHARGES

25. The transmission charges being allowed for the transmission asset are summarised below:

(₹ in lakh)

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Depreciation	97.20	97.20	97.20	97.20	50.98
Interest on Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Return on Equity	321.81	321.81	321.81	321.81	321.81
Interest on Working Capital	8.73	8.73	8.73	8.73	7.77
O & M Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	427.75	427.75	427.75	427.75	380.56

Application fee and the publication expenses

26. The petitioner has sought approval for the reimbursement of fee paid by it for filing the petition. In accordance with our decision in order dated 11.1.2010 in Petition No. 109/2009, the petitioner shall be entitled to recover the filing fee from the beneficiaries.

Service Tax

27. The prayer of the petitioner for reimbursement of service tax has become infructuous as transmission service has been exempted from the ambit of the service tax.

28. The transmission charges allowed shall be recovered on monthly basis in accordance with Regulation 23 and shall be shared by the respondent in accordance with Regulation 33 of the 2009 regulations.

29. This order disposes of Petition No. 111/2010.

sd/-	sd/-	sd/-	sd/-
(M.DEENA DAYALAN)	(V.S.VERMA)	(S.JAYARAMAN)	(Dr. PRAMOD DEO)
MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	CHAIRPERSON