

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 144/MP/2013

**Coram:
Shri V.S. Verma, Member
Shri M.Deena Dayalan, Member**

**Date of Hearing: 30.7.2013
Date of order : 26.8.2013**

In the matter of

Petition for seeking approval for extension of injection of infirm power into the grid beyond six months from the date of first synchronization of Unit-I of 726.6 (2x 363.3 MW) Palatana Combined Cycle Gas Based Power Project of ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd.

And in the matter of

ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd., New Delhi**Petitioner**
Vs

1. Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd., Guawhati
2. Department of Power, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh
3. Department of Power Govt. of Nagaland
4. Electricity Department, Govt. of Manipur
5. Power and Electricity Department, Govt. of Mizoram
6. Meghalaya State Electricity Board, Govt. of Meghalaya
7. Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited, Tripura
8. North Eastern Regional Power Committee, Shillong
9. North Eastern Regional Load Despatch Centre, Shillong . **Respondents**

Following were present:

Shri Chetan Jain, OTPCL
Shri Arup Ch. Sarmah, OTPCL
Ms. Rashmi Wattal, OPTCL

ORDER

This petition has been filed by the petitioner, ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited (OPTC) under clause (7) of the Regulation 8 of the Central



Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State transmission and related matters) Regulation, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as "Connectivity Regulations") and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Unscheduled Interchange and related matters) Regulations, 2009 with the following prayers:

"(a) Allow the petitioner extension of time for injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing of Unit-I of Palatana plant of OTPC, beyond 31.7.2013 upto 31.12.2013;

(b) Allow the petitioner accounting the sale of infirm power during this period till the COD of Unit-I of till 31st December 2013, whichever is earlier, as per Regulation 11 of CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2009."

2. The petitioner is setting up a 2x263.3 MW combined cycle power project (hereinafter referred to as 'project') at Agartala in the State of Tripura with an approved capacity of 726 MW (2X363.3 MW). The project is being implemented by BHEL. Unit-I of the project was synchronized with NER grid on 22.10.2012 and the unit has been injecting infirm power under UI for testing purpose since that date. However, after synchronization of Unit-I with NER grid, the petitioner has not been able to complete the trial run and full load testing due to following reasons:

(a) Unavailability of adequate evacuation system leading to unavailability of load for full load testing of the unit;

(b) Faults detected in the Heat Recovery Steam generator; and

(c) Problem with the quality of the fuel gas supplied by ONGC.



3. The Commission vide its order dated 20.5.2013 in Petition No. 66/MP/2013 had allowed the petitioner to inject infirm power into the grid till 31.7.2013.

4. The petitioner has submitted that Unit-I of the generating station could not declare commercial operation by 31.7.2013 due to poor quality of gas supplied by ONGC. On 25.5.2013, black dust was observed with natural gas when OTPC Block-I was under trial operation which was communicated to ONGC for necessary action. Since 25.5.2013, the petitioner started continuous draining of accumulated dust particles from the scrubber drains and maximum particles having magnetic properties and sandy materials were found in fuel gas. On 14.6.2013 and 28.6.2013, ONGC had carried out the pigging of pipeline and gasket blasting, hard board blasting and even flared some quantity of the fuel gas to expel the dust particles. On 8.7.2013, ONGC decided to undertake pipelines cleaning programme and provide clean fuel gas to Palatana generating station by 26.7.2013.

5. The petitioner has submitted that it could not visualize that the date of commercial operation of Unit-I cannot be achieved by 31.7.2013. The petitioner has submitted that the process of cleaning the gas pipeline by ONGC would be completed by 26.7.2013. The remaining trial run and commissioning tests of Unit-I will be undertaken after the fuel gas supply is cleaned and restored. Unit-I is likely to be declared under commercial operation by 31.8.2013.



6. The matter was heard on 30.7.2013 after notice to the respondents. No reply has been filed by the respondents. During the course of hearing, the petitioner was directed to submit the following information:

(a) Details of technical problems/difficulties faced by the petitioner preventing the generator to declare COD of the unit/modules/station due to dust in the supplied gas (contaminated gas);

(b) PERT chart for completion of different activities now being undertaken to achieve COD; and

(c) Specification of filters/trap and the designed value of dust for which it was designed.

7. The petitioner vide its affidavits dated 31.7.2013 and 7.8.2013 has filed information called for. The petitioner has submitted that contaminated fuel gas led to tripping of Gas Booster Compressors (GBC) due to leakage of the seals of GBC and consequently led to tripping of the unit. BHEL team visited the generating station and advised OPTCL to transport two GBC to their works in Hyderabad for repair.

8. The petitioner has further submitted that pigging of the pipeline by ONGC to control contamination of natural gas would be completed by 15.8.2013 and supply of gas is likely to be resume from 16.8.2013. The trial run for stabilization



of 75% and above load will be completed by 22.8.2013 and remaining trial run at full load or 95% load is likely to be completed by 27.8.2013. Third GBC which is in working conditions shall be utilized for operating the Unit-I.

9. We have considered the submissions of the petitioner. The petitioner has filed the petition under Regulation 8 (7) of the Connectivity Regulations read with the UI Regulations seeking extension of time for testing including full load testing and consequent injection of infirm power in to the grid from 31.7.2013 till the date of commercial operation of Unit-I of the project or till 31.12.2013, whichever is earlier.

10. It is observed that fuel gas filters were designed for 100% removal of solids up to 0.3 microns and larger sizes. As per ONGC pigging report for the period from 16.7.2013 to 6.8.2013, quantum of fine metallic dust varied from 5 kg to 200 kg which indicates that the dust particles size was even less than 0.3 microns due to which there was ingress of dust along with fuel gas and resulted leakage in the seals and damage of GBC.

11. The petitioner in its affidavit dated 7.8.2013 has submitted that Unit-I is likely to be declared under commercial operation by 28.8.2013 and by keeping margin for any further unforeseen difficulty arising during trial run, the petitioner has requested for permission to inject infirm power into the grid till 31.12.2013.



12. Clause (7) of Regulation 8 of the Connectivity Regulations as amended from time to time provides for injection of infirm power into the grid during testing as under:

“(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause(6) of this regulation and any provision with regard to sale of infirm power in the PPA, a unit of a generating station, including a captive generating plant which has been granted connectivity to the grid shall be allowed to inject infirm power into the grid during testing including full load testing before its COD for a period not exceeding six months from the date of first synchronization after obtaining prior permission of the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre:

Provided that the Commission may allow extension of the period of testing including full load testing, and consequent injection of infirm power by the unit, beyond six months, in exceptional circumstances on an application made by the generating company at least two months in advance of completion of six month period:

Provided further that the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre while granting such permission shall keep the grid security in view:

Provided also that the onus of proving that the injection of infirm power from the unit(s) of the generating station is for the purpose of testing and commissioning shall lie with the generating company and the respective RLDC shall seek such information on each occasion of injection of power before COD. For this, the generator shall provide RLDC sufficient details of the specific testing and commissioning activity, its duration and intended injection etc.”

Provided also that the infirm power so injected shall be treated as Unscheduled Interchange of the unit(s) of the generating station and the generator shall be paid for such injection of infirm power in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Unscheduled Regulations, 2009, as amended from time to time.”

13. The above regulation allows a generating station to inject infirm power into the grid for the purpose of testing and full load testing for a period of six months from the date of first synchronization. In exceptional cases, the generating station is allowed to inject infirm power into the grid with the approval of the Commission. The six month period from the date of first synchronization of Unit-I was expired



on 21.4.2013. Based on the request of the petitioner, the Commission vide its order dated 20.5.2013 had granted the permission to the petitioner to inject infirm power into the grid till 31.7.2013. The petitioner under the extraordinary circumstances has requested for further extension of the period for injection of infirm power till 31.12.2013. The petitioner is facing the problem with the quality of the fuel gas supplied by ONGC. Although the additional time sought is mostly not for testing and commissioning but only for cleaning the pipeline etc., the petitioner has to attend to all teething problems before the unit is put under commercial operation.

14. Considering the special circumstances of the case, we are of the view that extension of the period of injection of infirm power can be granted beyond 31.7.2013 in exercise of our power under Regulation 8 (7) of the Connectivity Regulation. Accordingly, we direct NERLDC to permit the petitioner to inject infirm power into the grid for testing and commissioning up to the date of commercial operation of Unit-I or till 31.12.2013, whichever is earlier. However, the petitioner shall not be entitled to any increase in IDC and IEDC due to time overrun or any other benefit /relaxation of availability or efficiency norms for this period.

15. The petition is disposed of with the above.

Sd/-
(M. Deena Dayalan)
Member

sd/-
(V.S. Verma)
Member

