

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 178/MP/2013

Coram:

Shri V.S.Verma, Member

Shri M. Deena Dayalan, Member

Date of Hearing : 01.10.2013

Date of Order : 15.10.2013

In the matter of

Petition under Regulation 8 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in Inter-State transmission and related matters) and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Unscheduled interchanges and related matters) seeking permission to allow extension of the period for injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing for Vindhyachal STPP Unit # 12 (500 MW) Stage IV, beyond six months from initial synchronization.

And

In the matter of

NTPC Limited, New Delhi

...Petitioner

Vs

1. Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited, Jabalpur
2. Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Mumbai
3. Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, Vadodra
4. Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Raipur
5. Electricity Department, Panaji,
6. Electricity Department, Daman and Diu, Daman
7. Electricity Department, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Silvassa

..Respondents

Following were present:

Shri Ajay Dua, NTPC Ltd.

Shri A.S. Pandey, NTPC Ltd.

ORDER

This petition has been filed by the petitioner, NTPC Ltd. under Clause (7) of 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) Regulations, 2009 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Unscheduled interchange charges and related matters) Regulations, 2012 with the following prayers:

(a) Allow the petitioner extension of time for injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing by the Vindhyachal STPP, Stage-IV, Unit-12 (500 MW), six months beyond initial synchronization (beyond 21.9.2013) upto COD of Unit-12;

(b) Pass any other order as it may deem fit in the circumstances mentioned above.

2. Vindhanchal Super Thermal Power Station ('the project') of the petitioner is located in Singrauli District in the State of Madhya Pradesh and is being implemented in five stages, with Stage-I consisting of six units of 210 MW each, Stage-II consisting of two units of 500 MW each, Stage-III consisting of two units of 500 MW each and Stage-IV consisting of two units of 500 MW and Stage-V consisting of 500 MW. The first unit of Stage-V has already been test synchronized on 13.6.2013 and declared under commercial operation on 1.3.2013. The second unit of Stage-V of the project has been test synchronized on 22.3.2013 and the work required for declaration of commercial operation is being undertaken.

3. The petitioner in its petition, while praying for extension of time for testing and full load testing and consequent injection of infirm power has submitted that due to the following reasons, the commercial operation of the unit-2 is not

possible within stipulated period of 6 months from the date of initial synchronization:

(a) Problem faced in execution of Ash corridor/Disposal line/Ash

dyke readiness: (i) Total 1700 nos. of pedestals were required to be erected for carrying the ash pipelines and the work for laying the pipelines was started as per the planned schedule. Due to law and order problems in Dhonti, Gahilagarh and Baliyari villages and encroachment of land, the construction of around 400 ash disposal pipeline pedestals could not be started. The matter has been pursued vigorously with district administration for removal of the encroachment which is likely to be removed by December, 2013. The work for erecting the pedestal and laying of pipeline for completion of ash disposal pipeline system can be completed thereafter by March, 2014.

(ii) Ash dyke IV-A has completely been stopped due to encroachment of villagers which are required to be removed from inside the dyke for charging and putting the impervious layer on dyke. Presently, the matter regarding removal of encroachment and evacuation of unauthorized occupation of NTPC land is under active consideration of district administration of Singrauli. However, the eviction of unauthorized occupants is slow due to heavy rains.

(b) Delay in completion of Railway siding for coal transportation: (i) In order to ensure availability of coal, new railway lines were proposed to be laid in addition to existing lines in NTPC exchange yard. Despite taking up the matter, approval from railways is awaited affecting completion of work necessary for augmentation of coal supply system of the project.

(ii) Due to delay in approval of drawings from Railway and hindrance created by unauthorized occupants on the land, RITES has not been able to complete the work and the work remains held up.

(iii) The civil work for cooling tower started in time. However, later on the stone aggregate which is required for cast in situ civil work and being procured from Dala Quarry, was not available due to shutting down of all stone crushers in Dala Quarry due to ban on its mining imposed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh on environmental issues. However, the required stone aggregate was arranged from Makrohar mines having less crushers, for completion of the project. The alternative quarry did not provide the required demand and hence the delay in completion of the works. Though civil work of cooling towers for the unit is in advance stage, mechanical works are still pending.

(iv) The civil work of cooling tower CT 12A was awarded to M/s NBCC which was scheduled to be completed by April 2012. NBCC was carrying

out the work through its sub-contractor M/s Avantika. Due to poor performance of M/s Avantika, civil work of cooling tower could not be completed despite taking up the matter with the highest level of NBCC for expediting the work. Subsequently, NBCC had off-loaded the work from M/s Avantika to M/s Poiner in April 2013 with contractual completion period for construction of cooling tower in 12 months. M/s Poiner has mobilized the resource required for execution of work only in the month of May 2013. However, due to advancement of monsoon, the progress of work suffered heavily and the work could not be completed as envisaged. With all-out efforts, 2 out of 3 segments of cooling tower 12A is likely to be completed for declaration of commercial operation of the unit by March, 2014.

4. The matter was heard on 1.10.2013. The representative of the petitioner reiterated the reasons mentioned in the petition in support of its prayer for grant of extension of time.

5. We have considered the prayer of the petitioner. The petition has been filed under Clause (7) of Regulation 8 of the Connectivity Regulations, which provides 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."

6. Regulation 8 (7) of the Connectivity Regulations, as amended on 21.3.2012, provides that a generating company 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 the COD for a period not exceeding 6 months from the date of first synchronization after obtaining the prior approval of the concerned RLDC. It is noted that the synchronization of Unit-2 of the project has taken place on 22.3.2013. However, the commercial operation of the unit has not been declared for various reasons. It is also noted that the petitioner has synchronised its unit without completion of most vital works such as ash pipeline, non-availability of aggregate stone crushers, non-readiness of railway sidings work and civil work of cooling tower etc. A thermal power plant cannot be operate on sustained basis at its full load without completion of the above requirements. It is expected that the generating station

to complete all critical systems including unit/station auxiliaries, coal handling plant, ash handling plant, cooling towers, etc. are ready for sustained operation of unit on full load.

7. Since certain critical systems of the unit-2 of Stage-V are not ready, no useful purpose would be served by granting extension of time to the petitioner for injection of infirm power for testing including full loading testing of Unit-2 of Stage-V of the project beyond six months from initial synchronization. Accordingly, the petitioner is granted to liberty to approach the Commission for seeking permission to inject infirm power before one month of completion of critical systems. The petitioner shall not inject infirm power into the grid without permission of the Commission. The petitioner is directed to furnish the details of all testing and commissioning activities to be undertaken with clear schedule upto COD of the generating station with the petition to be filed for injection of infirm power in near future.

8. Petition No. 178/MP/2013 is accordingly disposed of at the admission stage.

Sd/-
(M. Deena Dayalan)
Member

sd/-
(V. S. Verma)
Member