

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 179/MP/2013

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

**Date of Hearing : 01.10.2013
Date of Order : 10.10.2013**

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 CERC (Unscheduled interchanges and related matters) Regulations, 2009 seeking permission to allow extension of the period for injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing for Mauda STPP Unit # 2 (500 MW) Stage I, beyond six months from initial synchronization.

And in the matter of

NTPC Limited, New Delhi **..Petitioner**
Vs
Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Limited and others **..Respondents**

Following were present:

Shri Ajay Dua, NTPC
Shri A.S.Pandey, NTPC

ORDER

The petitioner, NTPC Ltd has filed this petition in terms of 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) 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 by the Mauda Unit -2, beyond 25.9.2013 (i.e. six months beyond initial synchronization) up to COD of Unit-2;

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

2. Mauda Super Thermal Power Station ('the project') of the petitioner is located in Nagpur District in the State of Maharashtra and is being implemented in two stages, with Stage-I consisting of two units of 500 MW each and Stage-II consisting of two units of 660 MW each. The first unit of the project has already been declared under commercial operation w.e.f. 13.3.2013. The second unit has already been test synchronized on 26.3.2013 and the work required for declaration of commercial operation is in an advanced stage of completion. However, due to various teething problems unit could not be declared under commercial operation.

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 explained the reasons for delay in execution of certain critical works necessary for the sustained operation of the generating station as under:

(a) The major works such as coal conveyor system and cooling tower was pending at the time of first synchronization of unit-2. The works regarding coal transportation system such as engine rolling stabilization, erection of overhead electrification, signalling and telecommunication which involved the excavation of land at the Chacher station and formation work at Chacher railway area and surface connectivity were also pending. These critical activities were to be

completed by RITES under supervision of Indian Railway. Due to heavy traffic, surface connectivity with Indian Railway could only be done after getting necessary clearance from it which was completed in May, 2013 and finally the loco movement could be achieved in the month of June, 2013.

(b) Department of Revenue and Forest, Government of Maharashtra vide its letter dated 21.1.2013 informed all the Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors that approval of State Pollution Committee is necessary for obtaining the secondary mineral excavation permit as per Hon`ble Supreme Court`s order dated 27.2.2012. Therefore, supplies of sand and murum got affected from third week of January, 2013 for around three months which delayed the construction activities of coal conveying system, cooling towers and other civil works which were in full swing.

(c) Due to heavy rainfall from the month of June, 2013 till the date of filing of the petition, coal conveying system for unit-2 was stopped and track formation of many locations got eroded, especially in the areas of approaches to culverts and bridges which were newly constructed. The foundation of the over-head transmission line carrying the electrical traction system suffered severe damage. The working conditions at site are not improving and therefore, the restoration activities are taking longer time than normal.

4. The petitioner has submitted that extension of time has been sought for *bona-fide* reasons for completing the balance works and not for the purpose of trading in

infirm power or otherwise to derive any undue advantage. The petitioner has further submitted that Unit-2 which has already been synchronized will be tested from time to time and will be subject to trial operation etc.

5. 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.

6. 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.”

7. 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 26.3.2013. 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 coal conveyor system, cooling tower, erection of overhead electrification, signalling and telecommunication and formation work at Chacher railway areas, supplies of certain critical material etc. A thermal power plant cannot be operate on sustained basis at its full load without completing 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, circulating water system, etc. are ready for sustained operation of unit on full load.

8. Since certain critical systems of the unit-2 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 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.

9. Petition No. 179/MP/2013 is accordingly disposed of at the admission stage.

Sd/-
(M. Deena Dayalan)
Member

Sd/-
(V. S. Verma)
Member