

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. MP/157/2014

Subject : Grant of Connectivity and use of inter-State transmission line for evacuation of power from 96 MW Dikchu Hydro Electric Power in Sikkim.

Date of hearing : 16.9.2014

Coram : Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson
Shri M. Deena Dayalan , Member
Shri A.K. Singhal, Member
Shri A.S. Bakshi, Member

Petitioner : Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Private Limited

Respondents : Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and others

Parties present : Shri Avinash Menon, Advocate, SKPPL
Shri P.S. Ahluwalia, SKPPL
Shri P. Maurya, SKPPL
Shri Vijay Kumar, SKPPL
Shri Ashok Pal, Advocate, PGCIL
Ms. Jayantika Singh, Advocate, POSOCO
Ms. Jyoti Prasad, POSOCO
Shri S.R. Narasimhan, POSOCO
Shri Abilia Zaidi, POSOCO
Shri Pragya Singh, POSOCO
Shri Chandra, CEA
Shri G. Singha, CEA

Record of Proceedings

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted as under:

(a) There has been discussion on an alternative arrangement for evacuation of power from Dikchu HEP through LILO of the 400 kV Teesta III-Kishanganj transmission line of Teestavalley Power Transmission Limited (TPTL), However, TPTL is not allowing the alternative arrangement maintaining that 400 kV Teesta III-Kishanganj transmission line is a dedicated line. Therefore, the Commission's indulgence is being sought since the connectivity granted to the petitioner for evacuation of power from Dikchu HEP through LILO of Gangtok-Mangan 132 kV

D/C transmission line to be constructed by Government of Sikkim is expected to be delayed by at least three years.

(b) The interim arrangement connectivity sought through LILO arrangement of the 400 kV Teesta III- Kishanganj transmission line shall be withdrawn once the originally approved scheme is commissioned by Government of Sikkim. Till such time, Dikchu HEP would be allowed evacuation of power through MTOA/STOA.

(c) PGCIL vide its affidavit dated 12.9.2014 supported the arrangement of evacuation of power from Dikchu HEP through proposed LILO of treating Teesta III –Kishanganj 400 kV D/C line as part of the ISTS. CTU has submitted that the proposed LILO would be the responsibility of the petitioner and if LILO is considered as a part of ISTS, it will be implemented through tariff based competitive bidding.

(d) The schedule commercial operation date for the project is May 2015.

2. The representative of the Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) submitted as under:

(a) The contingency arrangement would lead to congestion in high hydro season of 2015.

(b) 400 kV Teesta III- Kishanganj transmission line which is under construction is facing serious ROW issues both at Kishanganj and in Sikkim areas. If 400 kV D/C Teesta III- Kishanganj transmission line is delayed due to ROW issues, it would be difficult to evacuate power from even Teesta-III HEP during the 2015 high hydro season.

(c) 1200 MW Teesta-III HEP is also expected during January 2015 to June 2015 and it is approaching ERLDC for evacuation of power through the existing transmission system. If this contingency arrangement is approved in 2014, about 2000 MW power would flow through 400 kV D/C Teesta III- Kishanganj transmission line during high hydro season in year 2015 which includes Teesta-III (1200 MW) of Teesta Urja Limited, Teesta-V (510 MW) of NHPC station already having long term access, Gati Infrastructure HEP (99 MW) at 132 kV LILoed at Rangpo and now Dikchu (96 MW).

(d) The petitioner is going to make an investment in assets which will be redundant after 3 years i.e. after commissioning of original scheme. Even if this arrangement is the only interim arrangement, the Commission may decide whether the proposed LILO would be a dedicated system or an ISTS.

(e) In Sikkim, number of projects are coming and CTU has planned Mangan pooling station for which land is an issue and this pooling station may be near the

petitioner's HEP. Therefore, in order to discuss these issues, there should be an integrated planning for evacuation of power from Sikkim area.

3. The representative of the State of Sikkim submitted that the 132 kV transmission system has been sanctioned by the Govt. of India for which survey has not been done and land has not been acquired due to ROW issues in the State of Sikkim which would be resolved within three years. He further submitted that line from Teesta Urja Ltd (TUL) to Rangpo pooling station would be commissioned by 2015.

4. The representative of CEA submitted that there is no technical problem in the proposed interim arrangement and unless the interim arrangement is materialized, evacuation of power from Dikchu is not possible. There are two 400 kV systems for evacuation of power from Sikkim, namely first is 400 kV Teesta-V to Siliguri which is operational and the other is 400 kV D/C Teesta-III to Kishanganj which has not been commissioned yet and it is facing serious ROW issue. He further submitted that the issue of implementation of 132 kV system has been seriously perused with Power and Electricity Deptt., Govt. of Sikkim since 2010 onwards but progress on ground is not encouraging. The representative of CEA further submitted as per CEA observation, 400 kV D/C Teesta-III to Kishanganj transmission line is getting LILLOed at Rangpo pooling station for evacuation of generation projects in southern part of Sikkim and now one circuit is proposed to be LILLOed at Dikchu. Therefore, it is to be determined that the proposed LILLO would be a dedicated line or ISTS line. In case it is treated as dedicated line, the power should flow in one direction but if the line is LILLOed than power will flow in both the directions.

5. After hearing the learned counsel for the petitioner and representatives of POSOCO and CEA, the Commission directed Teesta Power Transmission Ltd. to submit, on affidavit by 14.10.2014 the current status of line and its expected DOCO.

6. The Commission directed the Power and Electricity Department, Govt. of Sikkim to submit on affidavit by 14.10.2014 the progress report of 132 kV system in the State.

7. The Commission directed that due date of filing the information should be strictly complied with.

8. Subject to the above, the Commission reserved order in the petition.

By order of the Commission

Sd/-
(T. Rout)
Chief (Law)