

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 267/MP/2014

**Coram:
Shri Gireesh B.Pradhan, Chairperson
Shri A.K.Singhal, Member
Shri A.S.Bakshi, Member**

**Date of Hearing: 04.9.2014
Date of Order: 10.9.2014**

In the matter of

Petition seeking permission to allow injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing upto declaration of commercial operation of Units 51, 52 and 53 of DGEN Mega Power Project.

**And
In the matter of**

Torrent Energy Ltd,
Torrent House, Off Ashram Road,
Near Income Tax Circle,
Ahmedabad-380009

..... **Petitioner**

Vs

1. Western Regional Load Despatch Centre
F-3, MIDC Area,
Marol, Andheri (East)
Mumbai-400093

2. Western Regional Power Committee
F-3, MIDC Area,
Marol, Opp, SEEPZ, Central Road
Andheri (East), Mumbai-400093

3. Torrent Power Limited,
Electricity House, Lal Darwaja,
Ahmedabad-380001

4. Torrent Power Limited,
Torrent House, Station Road,
Surat-3895003

5. PTC India Ltd



Parties present:

1. Shri A.K.Ghosh, TEL
2. Shri R.K.Nair, TEL
3. Shri Vinod Khanna, TEL
4. Ms.Jyoti Prasad, POSOCO

ORDER

This petition has been filed by the petitioner, Torrent Energy Ltd (TEL), seeking permission of the Commission for injection of infirm power into the grid during testing including full load testing beyond the period of 6 months from the date of first synchronization up to declaration of commercial operation of the Units 51, 52 and 53 of DGEN Mega Power Project (1196.85 MW) (3 x 398.95 MW) (hereinafter referred to as 'the project') 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) Regulations, 2009, ('Connectivity Regulations') as amended from time to time.

2. The petitioner has submitted that necessary grant of connectivity to the grid for injection of infirm power has been approved by the Respondent No1.WRLDC after taking grid security into consideration. The petitioner has further submitted that the Units 51, 52 and 53 of the project were synchronized with the grid with effect from 20.11.2013, 29.11.2013 and 23.12.2013 respectively. After synchronization, all three units have been under testing phase before COD and consequently injection of infirm power is being done into the system since the dates of synchronization.

3. The Commission by its order dated 31.7.2014 in Petition No. 128/MP/2014 had allowed injection of infirm power from the Units of the project for testing including full load testing till 15.9.2014 or upto the declaration of Commercial operation of the respective units, whichever was earlier. The petitioner has submitted that it is not possible to achieve the COD by 15.9.2014 as the technical issues relating to Water Treatment and DM Plant Control System, Sulphuric Closing System and 400 Volt Switchgear are yet to be resolved. The petitioner has submitted that based on the current progress of work, the technical issues are expected to be resolved by 15.10.2014 after which the performance test like Unit Characteristic test, Reliability test, Performance Guarantee test shall start which will continue for two more weeks. Therefore, the COD is expected to be achieved by 31.10.2014.

4. The petitioner has indicated the tentative schedule of the remaining commissioning activities to be undertaken before declaration of COD as under:

Activities pending to be completed (as on 23.8.2014)	Number of days expected for completion (on and from 23.8.2014)
Control logic modification and tuning requirement Water Treatment and DM Plant Control System	58
Replacement of piping and other equipment repairing of leakage of Sulphur Dosing System	39
Resolution of 400 volt switchgear issue	47
Resolution of technical issues	58 days i.e around 15.10.2014
Unit Characteristic test, Reliability test, Performance Guarantee test	12
Total	70

5. The petitioner has submitted that the technical issues relating to COD of the project would be resolved by 15.10.2014; to be followed by all tests like Unit Characteristic test, Reliability test, Performance Guarantee test, etc. for which two weeks are needed and COD is then expected to be completed by 31.10.2014. The petitioner has submitted that commissioning activities of the project are based on procurement of commissioning fuel (RLNG) at market driven price, which is very costly. Even without any fault of the petitioner, WRLDC compelled it to curtail the testing including full load testing and commissioning activities on daily basis, which would result in wastage of costly RLNG. The petitioner has requested the Commission for a suitable direction to be given to WRLDC to facilitate and allow unrestricted injection of infirm power for testing including full load testing from the present to October 2014. The petitioner has prayed for grant of extension of time for injection of infirm power into the grid for the purpose of commissioning tests including full load testing up to the COD of the Units or upto 31.10.2014, whichever is earlier. The petitioner has also submitted that since the delay is due to circumstances beyond its control and has a bearing on the capital cost of the project, the IEDC/IDC shall be attributable to the project capital cost.

6. No reply has been filed by the respondents.

7. During the hearing on 8.7.2014, the representative of the petitioner reiterated the details of the technical problems, namely pipe failures in Sulpheric Dosing System, Control System and design rectification in DM Plant and 400 volt Switchgear, leading to delay in achieving COD of the project. The representative of the petitioner further submitted that the rectification work would be completed by 31.10.2014.

8. We have considered the prayer of the petitioner. The fourth proviso to Regulation 8 (7) of the Connectivity Regulations, as amended from time to time, provides as under:

"Provided that the Commission may in exceptional circumstances, allow extension of the period for inter-change of power beyond the period as prescribed in this clause, on an application made by the generating station at least two months in advance of completion of the prescribed period:

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

9. The petitioner has submitted that most of the technical issues relating to the COD of project shall be resolved by 15.10.2014 and thereafter all tests like Unit Characteristic test, Reliability test, Performance Guarantee test, etc. would be undertaken. Taking into consideration the technical problems faced by the petitioner, we allow extension of time for injection of infirm power into the grid for the commissioning tests including full load test of Units up to 31.10.2014 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. We expect the petitioner to make all efforts to ensure the commercial operation of Units of the project by this date.

10. As regards the petitioner's submission for direction to WRLDC to allow unrestricted injection of infirm power, it is clarified that under the Connectivity Regulations, WRLDC is required to keep the grid security in view while permitting injection of infirm power. Therefore, there is no requirement to issue any specific direction to WRLDC in this regard. The petitioner's prayer for allowing IEDC/IDC for the period up to COD cannot be considered in this petition, which is filed for extension of time for injection of infirm power. It is however, clarified that the extension of time granted as above shall not automatically entitle the petitioner for IEDC/IDC for the delay in declaration of COD from the scheduled COD and the same shall be considered on merits at the time of determination of tariff of the unit/generating station.

11. The petition is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(A.S.Bakshi)
Member

sd/-
(A.K.Singhal)
Member

sd/-
(Gireesh B.Pradhan)
Chairperson