

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 306/MP/2013

Coram:

**Shri M. Deena Dayalan, Member
Shri A.K.Singhal, Member**

Date of Hearing: 10.06.2014

Date of Order : 02.07.2014

In the matter of

Petition for extension of period for testing including full load testing, and subsequent injection of infirm power by Gas Turbine No. 4 and its associated waste heat recovery unit of Pragati-III CCPS (1371 MW) beyond six months from its first synchronization.

And

In the matter of

Pragati Power Corporation Limited
Himadri, Corporate Office,
Rajghat Power House Complex,
New Delhi-110 001

...Petitioner

Vs

1. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited
BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place,
New Delhi-110 019

2. BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.
Shakti Kiran Building,
Karkardooma, Delhi-110 009

3. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited
Grid sub-station Building, Hudson Lines,
Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110 009

4. New Delhi Municipal Council,
Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110 001

5. HQ CWE(Uilities)
Kotwali Road,

Military Engineering Services,
Delhi Cantt-110 010

6. Haryana Power Purchase Centre
Shakti Bhawan, Sector-6,
Panchkula-134 109

7. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
T-8, Thermal Design, Shakti Vihar,
Patiala-147 001

..Respondents

Parties present:

Shri Jagdish Kumar, PPCL
Shri Shri S.M.Verma, PPCL
Shri Surendra Kumar, PPCL
Shri P.Shah, Advocate, TPDDL
Ms. Supriya Juneja, Advocate, TPDDL

ORDER

This petition has been filed by the petitioner, Pragati Power Corporation Limited 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) To Inject infirm power into the grid from Gas Turbine# 4 of Block-II beyond a period of six months for testing of STG and associated auxiliaries as per requirement;

(b) To allow additions/alterations/change/modification to the application at future date;

(c) To allow any other relief and/or pass any other order as Hon`ble Commission may deem fit and appropriate under the circumstances of the case; and

(d) Condone any inadvertent omission/errors/differences/shortcomings."

2. The petitioner, which is a Government of Delhi undertaking, is setting up 1371.2 MW combined Cycle Gas Based Power Station, namely Pragati-III (Project) at Bawana. The project comprises of two power blocks of 685.6 MW each (Block 1 and 2) with a combined capacity of 1371.2 MW. Each power block comprises two advance class Gas Turbines (GT), one Steam Turbine and Generators connected in multi shaft configuration. The Gas Turbines are Advance Class 9FA+e of GE make, having better operating efficiency and lower NOx emissions.

3. The petitioner has enumerated the details of first synchronization and commercial operation of different Units as under:

S. No	Description	Date of first synchronization	Date of commercial operation
1	GT #1	11.10.2010	27.12.2011
2	GT #1 with its associated Waste Heat Recovery Unit	3.10.2011	1.4.2012
3	GT #2	9.2.2011	16.7.2012
4	GT #2 with its associated Waste Heat Recovery Unit	3.10.2011	14.12.2012
5	GT #3	26.6.2012	28.10.2013
6	GT #4	1.5.2013	27.2.2014

3. Gas Turbine No. 4 Block 2 of Pragati-III has already been test synchronized on 1.5.2013 in open cycle mode. However, due to delay in commissioning activities of its associated units and non-availability of gas, unit could not be declared under commercial operation.

4. The petitioner in its petition, while praying for extension of time for testing, including full load testing and consequent injection of infirm power, has mainly submitted as under:

(a) GT#4 was required to run on various mode viz FSNL and at various loads to conduct various activities related to commissioning of HRSG # 4 and STG # 2. These activities include alkali boil out, steam blowing of HRSG #4 steam lines, steam dumping of HRSG #4, safety valve floating of HRSG #4 and running of steam turbine as well.

(b) The scheduled program of the trial operations at various conditions of HRSG #4 was started from 25.11.2013. The testing of GT #4 along with its auxiliaries will further require the commissioning of other activities for full load operation. However, the commissioning activities of GT and its Auxiliaries are interlinked and cannot be done in isolation. It is the normal industry practice to test synchronize GT independently and other activities of Waste Heat Recovery Unit, Steam

Turbine Generator (STG) and Auxiliaries go parallel before synchronizing STG.

(c) Once the machine is declared under commercial operation after demonstrating the maximum continuous rating (MCR) or the installed capacity, it is not possible commercially to operate the machine including starts/stops/ part load as per the commissioning schedule of the Auxiliaries.

(d) The tariff of the project is determined by the Commission in accordance with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2009 wherein any revenue earned by the generating company from sale of infirm power after accounting for the fuel expenses shall be applied for reduction in capital cost. Therefore, there is no gain to the petitioner company in wilfully delaying the declaration of commercial operation of the project.

(e) Since, GT#3 has not injected any power in to the grid after initial commissioning of unit in the month of June 2012, the present petition has been filed under the Connectivity Regulations.

5. During the course of hearing, the representative of the petitioner submitted that the unit has been declared under commercial operation on 27.2.2014 and requested to pass the order accordingly.

6. As stated, the petitioner has filed the present petition in terms of Clause (7) of Regulation 8 of the Connectivity Regulations, amended on 21.3.2012, 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. The six months period of injection of infirm power for commissioning/testing as permissible under the Connectivity Regulations expired on 31.10.2013. The petitioner approached the Commission for permission to inject the infirm power for a further period of six months with effect from 31.11.2013. Taking into consideration the submissions of the petitioner and the documents available on record, it is noticed that the declaration of commercial operation of GT #4 of Block-II of the project on 27.2.2014 is beyond six months from the date of first synchronization due to the delay in commissioning activities of its associated units i.e, GT Auxiliaries which cannot be done in isolation of GT and due to non-availability of gas. In view of this, we allow the extension of time for injection of infirm power into the grid for the purpose of testing, including full load testing of the unit, up to 26.2.2014. It is clarified that the extension of time as allowed in this order shall not automatically entitle the petitioner for IDC/IEDC for delay in declaration of COD which shall be considered on merit at the time of determination of tariff of the unit/generating station.

8. Petition No. 306/MP/2013 is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(A.K.Singhal)
Member

sd/-
(M Deena Dayalan)
Member