

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

**Petition No. 116/TL/2016**

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

**Date of Hearing: 27.9.2016  
Date of Order: 29.9.2016**

**In the matter of**

Application under Section 14 read with Section 15 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of transmission licence with respect to transmission system being established by North Karanpura Transco Limited.

**And  
In the matter of**

North Karanpura Transco Limited  
C/o North Karanpura Transco Limited,  
Core 4, SCOPE Complex, 7 Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003

..... **Petitioner**

**Vs**

1. Jharkhand Bijili Vitran Nigam Limited  
Engineer's Building, Dhurwa,  
Ranchi-834 004
2. North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,  
Patna-800 001
3. South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,  
Patna-800 001
4. Gridco Limited  
Grid Corporation of Orissa Limited, Janpath,  
Bhubneshwar-751 011

5. West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited  
Bidyut Bhawan, A-Block, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091

6. Bhupendra Gupta, Chief Executive Officer,  
REC Transmission Projects Company Ltd.  
12-21, Upper Ground Floor,  
Antriksh Bhawan,  
22-K.G. Marg,  
New Delhi-110001

7. Chief Executive Officer, CTU Planning  
Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd.  
Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29,  
Gurgaon-122001

.....Respondents

**The following was present:**

Shri Venkatesh, Advocate, NKTL  
Shri Pratyesh Singh, Advocate, NKTL

**ORDER**

The petitioner, North Karanpura Transco Limited (NKTL), has filed the present petition for grant of transmission licence under Section 14 read with Section 15 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") to establish Transmission System for "Immediate evacuation for North Karanpura (3x660 MW) generation project and creation of 400/220 kV sub-station at Dhanbad-proposal of JUSNL (ERSS-XIX)" (hereinafter referred to as "Transmission System") comprising the following element:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Transmission Element</b>	<b>Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date</b>
1.	North Karanpura-Gaya 400 kV D/C line with quad moose conductor	40 months # (September 2019)
2.	North Karanpura-Chandwa (Jharkhand) Pooling Station 400 kV D/C line with quad moose conductor	16 month # (September 2017)

3.	Establishment of 400/220 kV, 2x500 MVA sub-station at Dhanbad <u>400 kV</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICTs: 400/220 kV, 2X500 MVA</li> <li>• ICTs bays: 2 no</li> <li>• Line bays: 4 no</li> <li>• 400 kV bus reactors bays:2 no</li> <li>• Bus reactor:2x125 MVAR</li> <li>• Space for future bays:4 no</li> <li>• Space for future 400/220 kV, 500 MVA ICT along with associated bay</li> </ul> 220 kV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICTs bays: 2 no</li> <li>• Line bays: 2 no</li> <li>• Space for future bays:4 no</li> </ul>	34 months
4.	LILO of both circuits of Ranchi-Maithon-RB 400 kV D/c line at Dhanbad	34 months

2. Based on the competitive bidding carried out by REC Transmission Projects Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as RECTPCL) in accordance with the Guidelines issued by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India under Section 63 of the Act, M/s Adani Transmission Limited emerged as the successful bidder with the lowest levelized transmission charges of ₹ 559.9978 million/annum.

3. The Commission after considering the application of the petitioner in the light of the provisions of the Act and the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as “the Transmission Licence Regulations”) *prima facie* proposed to grant licence to the petitioner. Relevant para of our order dated 6.9.2016 is extracted as under:

“16. We have considered the submissions of the petitioner and perused documents on record. As per para 12.1 of the Guidelines as amended from time to time, finally selected bidder shall make an application for grant of transmission licence within ten days of selection. Adani Transmission Limited has been selected on the basis of the tariff based competitive bidding as per the Guidelines issued by Government of India, Ministry of Power. Lol has been issued to Adani Transmission Limited by the BPC on 24.5.2016. BPC vide its letters dated 7.6.2016 and 17.6.2016 extended the last of completion of various activities stipulated in the RfP up to 8.7.2016. BPC vide letter dated 8.7.2016 finally extended the last date of completion of various activities up to 12.7.2016. Accordingly, Adani Transmission Limited has acquired 100% stake in the North Karanpura Transco Limited which has been transferred to the petitioner on 8.7.2016 after execution of Share Purchase Agreement. Considering the material on record, we are *prima facie* of the view that the petitioner satisfies the conditions for grant of inter-State transmission licence under Section 15 of the Act read with Transmission Licence Regulations for construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission system as described in para 1 of this order. We, therefore, direct that a public notice under clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be published to invite suggestions or objections to grant of transmission licence aforesaid. The objections or suggestions, if any, be filed by any person before the Commission by 22.9.2016.”

4. A public notice under Section 15 (5) of the Act was published on 14.9.2016 in all editions of Hindustan Times and Dainik Jagran. No suggestions/objections have been received from the members of the public in response to the public notice.

5. The petitioner, vide order dated 6.9.2016, was directed to file an affidavit to the effect that the execution of the transmission project shall not be delayed due to time taken in obtaining statutory clearances required under RfP and the TSA or adjudication of any claim of the petitioner arising under the TSA. In response, the petitioner vide its affidavit dated 12.9.2016 has submitted that the terms of the TSA are binding on the parties (TSP and LTTCs). The petitioner has further submitted that any claim for escalation in transmission charges or for extension of time in pursuance of such competitive bidding process need to be dealt with in accordance with the terms contained in the bidding documents including the TSA. The petitioner has submitted that

post selection of the successful bidder and the decision to award the project, there cannot be a review of the bidding terms including cope of the implications of the clauses such as force majeure and change in law stipulated in the TSA. The petitioner has submitted that in terms of the TSA, it would implement the project as per the provisions of the Article 16.4 of the TSA which is extracted as under:

"16.4. Parties to Perform Obligation: Notwithstanding the existence of any Dispute and difference referred to the Appropriate Commission or the Arbitration Tribunal as provided in Article 16.3 and save as the Appropriate Commission or the Arbitration Tribunal may otherwise direct by a final or interim order, the Parties hereto shall continue to perform their respective obligations (which are not in dispute) under this Agreement."

6. The petitioner has further submitted that claims, if any, made by it, shall be in accordance with the provisions of the RFP documents. We direct that the petitioner shall remain bound by the commitment given by it under affidavit dated 12.9.2016.

7. In our order dated 6.9.2016, the following provisions of the TSA with regard to quality control and workmanship were taken note of:

(a) As per Article 5.1.1 of the TSA, the TSP at its own cost and expense, shall be responsible for designing, constructing, erecting, completing and commissioning each element of the project by Scheduled COD in accordance with the various regulations of the Central Electricity Authority regarding Technical Standards and Grid Standards, Prudent Utility Practices and other applicable laws.

(b) Article 5.4 of the TSA provides that the TSP shall ensure that the project is designed, built and completed in a good workmanlike manner using sound

engineering and construction practices and using only materials and equipment that are new and of international utility grade quality such that the useful life of the project will be till the expiry date.

(c) The design, construction and testing of all equipment, facilities, components and systems of the project shall be in accordance with Indian Standards and Codes issued by Bureau of India Standards.

Accordingly, the petitioner was directed to submit the information with regard to quality control mechanism available or to be put in place by to ensure the compliance of the requirements stipulated in Article 5.1.1 and Article 5.4 of the TSA.

8. The petitioner, vide its affidavit dated 12.9.2016, has submitted as under:

“14. That according to the terms of the TSA, there are two external agencies which monitor the quality of the construction of the Transmission Project being constructed by the Applicant. Further, the Applicant under the TSA is entrusted with the obligation of providing on a monthly basis, a progress report to the Long term Transmission Customer and Central Electricity Authority (CEA), with regard to the project and its execution, to enable them to monitor and co-ordinate the development of the Project. Further, it is most respectfully submitted that in terms of the TSA, the Lead LTTC is duty bound to designate, at the most 3 employees for the purpose of inspecting the progress of the Project. In addition the CEA may carry out random inspections during the Project execution, as and when deemed necessary by it.

15. That the TSA further provides that TSP i.e. the Applicant must ensure that the design and construction of the project is in accordance with Indian Standards and Codes issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards and in case they are not applicable, other equivalent internationally recognised Standards and Codes shall be followed. Further in terms of the TSA, the Applicant is also responsible for constructing and commissioning the Project in accordance with the norms prescribed in various Regulations issued by the CEA Prudent Utility Practices and other applicable Laws.

16. That in terms of above quoted provisions of the TSA, there are sufficient checks and balances and the quality control mechanism is already available whereby both, CEA and the Lead LTTC will monitor the overall quality of

construction of the Project by the Applicant to ensure that the Applicant is complying with Article 5.5.1 and 5.4 of the TSA .

18. The Applicant being an experienced entity will ensure that the project is constructed by following the required quality standard and prudent utility practices by putting in place the following:

- (a) At the procurement stage, the Qualification Requirement for short listing's of a supplier/contractor is done on the basis of the technical specifications as mentioned on the TSA. The purchase order/contract mentions the technical standards and the testing requirements. Material despatch is allowed after the conformance report is validated.
- (b) For tower material, a Manufacturing Quality Plan (MQP) in line with the applicable technical standards and the one followed by CTU is followed.
- (c) For ensuring construction quality, a Field Quality Plan (in line with the standards mentioned in TSA and that followed by CTU) is specified to the contractors in advance. The conformance report to the said document is also maintained at site.
- (d) The construction and material supply quality is also validated with respect to the TSA by the Lenders Independent Engineer during its quarterly construction review.

9. We find that the petitioner has laid out a systematic protocol to ensure quantity control of the equipment and workmanship in the execution of the project. In the TSA, there is provision for the lead procurer to designate at least three employees for inspection of the progress of the project. Further, the petitioner is required to give a monthly progress report to the lead procurer and the CEA about the project and its execution. The TSA also vests a responsibility in the CEA to carry out random inspection of the project as and when deemed necessary. We consider it necessary to request CEA to devise a mechanism for random inspection of the project every three months to ensure that the project is not only being executed as per the schedule, but

the equipment and workmanship of the project conforms to the Technical Standards and Grid Standards notified by CEA and IS Specifications. In case of slippage in execution of the project within the timeline specified in the TSA or any non-conformance to the Grid Standards/Technical Standards/IS Specifications, the same should be promptly brought to the notice of the Commission so that appropriate direction can be issued to the licensee for compliance.

10. We have considered the submission of the petitioner and perused the documents on record. Clauses (15) and (16) of Regulation 7 of Transmission Licence Regulations provide as under:

“(15) The Commission may after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice aforesaid, grant licence as nearly as practicable in Form-III attached to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application if such application is not in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the rules or regulations made thereunder or any other law for the time being in force or for any other valid reasons.

(16) The Commission may, before granting licence or rejecting the application, provide an opportunity to the applicant, the Central Transmission Utility, the Long-term customers, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other person:

Provided further that the applicant shall always be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before rejecting the application.”

11. In our order dated 6.9.2016, we had proposed to grant transmission licence to the petitioner company and directed for issue of public notice. In response to the public notice, no suggestions/objections have been received. We are satisfied that the petitioner company meets the requirements of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations for grant of transmission licence for the subject transmission system mentioned at para 1 of this order. Accordingly, we direct that transmission licence be granted to the petitioner, North Karanpura Transco Limited, to establish the

transmission system for “Immediate evacuation for North Karanpura (3x660 MW) generation project and creation of 400/220 kV sub-station at Dhanbad-proposal of JUSNL (ERSS-XIX)” on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain basis as per the details given in para 1 above.

12. The grant of transmission licence to the petitioner is subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions throughout the period of licence:

(a) The transmission licence shall, unless revoked earlier, remain in force for a period of 25 years;

(b) The transmission licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Transmission Licence Regulations or any subsequent enactment thereof during the period of subsistence of the licence.

(c) Since the expiry date as per the TSA is 35 years from the scheduled COD of the project, the petitioner may make an application, two years before the expiry of initial licence period, for grant of licence for another term in accordance with Regulation 13 (2) of the Transmission Licence Regulations which shall be considered by the Commission in accordance with law;

(d) The petitioner shall not enter into any contract for or otherwise engage in the business of trading in electricity during the period of subsistence of the transmission licence;

(e) The petitioner shall have the liability to pay the license fee in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012, as amended from time to time or any subsequent enactment thereof. Delay in payment or non-payment of licence fee or a part thereof for a period exceeding sixty days shall be construed as breach of the terms and conditions of the licence;

(f) The petitioner shall comply with the directions of the National Load Despatch Centre under Section 26 of the Act, or the Regional Load Despatch Centre under sub-section (3) of Section 28 or sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Act, as may be issued from time to time for maintaining the availability of the transmission system;

(g) The petitioner shall remain bound by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of inter-State Transmission Licensees) Regulations, 2012 or subsequent enactment thereof.

(h) The petitioner shall provide non-discriminatory open access to its transmission system for use by any other licensee, including a distribution licensee or an electricity trader, or generating company or any other person in accordance with the Act, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 as amended from time to time and Central Electricity Regulatory

Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2010 as amended from time to time;

(i) The petitioner shall not undertake any other business for optimum utilization of the transmission system without prior intimation to the Commission and shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of revenue derived from utilization of transmission assets for other business) Regulations, 2007, as amended from time to time;

(j) The petitioner shall remain bound by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2010 as amended from time to time;

(k) The petitioner shall remain bound by the provisions of the Act, the rules and regulations framed thereunder, in particular the Transmission Licence Regulations, the Grid Code, the Standards specified by the Central Electricity Authority, orders and directions of the Commission issued from time to time; and

(l) The petitioner shall ensure execution of the project within timeline specified in the Schedule 3 of the TSA and as per the Technical Standards and Grid Standards of CEA prescribed in Article 5.1.1 and Article 5.4 of the TSA.

(m) The petitioner shall as far as practicable coordinate with the licensee (including deemed licensee) executing the upstream or downstream transmission projects and the Central Electricity Authority for ensuring execution of the project in a matching timeline.

13. Central Electricity Authority shall monitor the execution of the project and bring to the notice of the Commission any lapse on the part of the licensee to meet the schedule for further appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Transmission Licence Regulations.

14. A copy of this order shall be sent to CEA for necessary action.

15. Petition No. 116/TL/2016 is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/-  
**(Dr. M.K.Iyer)**  
Member

sd/-  
**(A.S. Bakshi)**  
Member

sd/-  
**(A.K. Singhal)**  
Member

sd/-  
**(Gireesh B. Pradhan)**  
Chairperson