

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**I.A. No. 10/2016
in
Petition No. 95/MP/2015**

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

**Date of Hearing: 12.4.2016
Date of Order : 15.6.2016**

In the matter of

Interlocutory Application under regulation 111 read with 116 of CERC conduct of business regulations seeking time extension for implementing Hon'ble commission's order dated 27-04-2015 in petition no. 95/MP/2015 filed by APTRANSCO before CERC in the matter of providing protection systems having reliability, selectivity, speed and sensitivity and keeping them functional in terms of " regulation 5.2 (i) of the CERC (Indian Electricity Grid Code) (first amendment) Regulations, 2012 read along with Regulation 3 (e) of Central Electricity Authority (Grid Standards) regulations, 2010 and following best practices of O&M of Transmission Elements for ensuing security of the Southern Regional Grid as well as the interconnected Indian Grid may kindly be registered.

**And
In the matter of**

Transmission Corporation of A.P. Limited
Vidyut Soudh, Khairatabad,
Hyderabad-82

..... **Petitioner**

Vs.

1. Southern Regional Load Despatch Centre
29, Race Course Cross Road,
Bangalore-110 016.

2. Southern Regional Power Committee
29, Race Course Cross Road,
Bangalore-110 016

...**Respondents**

Following were present:

Shri T.V. Nageshara Rao, APTRANSCO
Ms. Anusha Das J, SRPC
Ms. Jayantika Singh, SRLDC

ORDER

The petitioner, Transmission Corporation of A.P. Limited (APTRANSCO) has filed the present Interlocutory Application for seeking extension of time till 31.12.2016 for complying with the Commission`s direction dated 12.12.2013 in Petition No. 146/MP/2013. The petitioner has made the following prayers:

“In view of the submissions made above by APTRANSCO and the difficulties faced by APTRANSCO, regarding timely implementation of the CERC orders dated 20.2.2014 and 27.4.2015, in the matter of completion of Phase-I and Phase-II works of protection audit, it is prayed that the Hon`ble Commission may be pleased to extend the time for Phase I and II works till 31.8.2015.”

Background of the case

2. As per the recommendations of Enquiry Committee report, a third party protection audit in Southern Region was carried out and all constituents of Southern Region (SR) agreed in-principle for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. Since a number of recommended items were not implemented by the constituents, Southern Regional Load Despatch filed Petition No. 146/MP/2013 seeking directions to the constituents of SR to ensure timely implementation of recommendations of Protection Audit. The Commission, after hearing all the constituents of SR and SRLDC, by order dated 20.2.2014 issued the following directions:

“27. We agree to the petitioner's contention that the linking implementation of protection audit/PCC recommendations with funding modality has resulted into implementing schedule becoming uncertain which is undesirable as the matter involves grid security. The petitioner has proposed to segregate the works of implementation in two Phases, namely Phase-I requiring immediate attention and Phase-II requiring timely implementation. Phase-I involves minor works such as revision of settings, replacement of numerical relays, implementation of bus-bar protection in critical 220 kV sub-stations etc. and Phase-II involves activities such as replacement of old breakers etc. which may require some time. Accordingly, we direct the respondents to implement the works as mentioned in Phase-I and Phase-II by 1.5.2014 and 1.9.2014 respectively. SRPC is directed to coordinate the protection setting issue and submit a report regarding implementation of Phase-I activities by 1.6.2014. SRPC is further directed to submit bimonthly status report for works mentioned in Phase-II to the Commission.

.....

29. The petitioner has submitted that number of respondents are not complying with the provisions of Regulation 5.2 (r) of the Grid Code and the directions of the Commission. We administer a strong warning to the respondents to take all possible measures permissible under the Act and the Grid Code to provide data /information to RLDC and RPC for maintaining reliability and security of the grid. We also make it clear that failure in this regard will amount to non-compliance of the directions of this Commission and render the constituent liable for proceedings under Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and other relevant provisions. We also direct the petitioner and SRPC to coordinate and monitor the progress and compliance of Commission's directions and ensure compliance of Regulations 5.2 (r) of the Grid Code and report instances of non-compliance to the Commission.”

3. Subsequently, the petitioner filed Petition No. 95/MP/2015 for extension of time for implementation of the Commission’s direction dated 20.2.2014 in Petition No. 146/MP/2013. The Commission after considering the submissions of the petitioner and SRLDC, vide order dated 27.4.2015 in Petition No. 95/MP/2015 granted time till 31.12.2015 for completion of Phase-I and Phase-II of protection audit remarks respectively. Relevant portion of the said order dated 27.4.2015 is extracted as under:

“7. We have considered the submissions of the petitioner, SRLDC and SRPC. We have perused the averments of the parties in the petition. It is not in dispute

that the petitioner has initiated action to implement the remarks of protection audit. However, the petitioner has sought extension of time on account of certain difficulties. During the course of hearing, the representatives of SRPC and SRLDC submitted that considering the stages of implementation, time till 31.12.2015 is considered sufficient to complete the works on Phase-I and Phase-II of remarks of protection audit...

8. Noting the submissions of the petitioner, SRPC and SRLDC and activities initiated by the petitioner for procurement of materials required for implementation of the remarks of protecting audit, we allow time to the petitioner till 31.12.2015 for completion of our directions in order dated 19.12.2013 in Petition No. 146/MP/2013.”

Submission of the petitioner

4. The petitioner has submitted as under:

(a) Out of 43 and 27 Phase-I and Phase-II protection audit remarks, 19 (1 No was requested to drop) and 11 (2 nos were requested to drop) respectively are yet to be completed due to non-completion of tendering process, poor response from suppliers and line clearances, etc.

(b) For implementation of phase I and II protection audit remarks in AP Transco, procurement is in progress (revised tendering, bid evaluation, suppliers, etc.) for the material required for implementation of balance protection audit remarks for which time is required up to 31.3.2016 and commissioning would be completed after receipt of the above material for which time is required up to 31.8.2016.

(c) Most of the phase-I and Phase-II works have already been completed and completion of certain works under Phase-I is related with Phase-II.

(d) As per SRPC`s letter dated 2.3.2016, the status of protection audit remarks for the period September, 2015 to February, 2016 pertains to APTRANSCO is as under:

<u>S.No</u>	Name of sub-station	Status of Implementation of Protection Audit Recommendations
Phase I		
1	220 kV Bommur S/S	All 3 remarks are pending
2	220 kV CK Palli S/S	Out of 3 remarks 1 is completed and 2 are pending.
3	220 kV Chittor S/S	Out of 5 remarks 4 is completed and 1 is pending.
4	220 kV Gooty S/S	All 3 remarks are pending
5	220 kV Ongole S/S	Out of 2 remarks 1 is completed and 1 is pending.
6	220 kV Renigunta S/S	Out of 6 Remarks 4 are completed and 2 are pending
7	220 kV Sullurpet S/S	Complied
8	220 kV Tadikonda S/S	Complied
9	400 kV Chittor S/S	Out of 2 remarks 1 is completed and 1 is pending.
10	400 kV Kalpaka	Remark is pending
11	400 kV Kurnool(Nannur) S/S	Out of 10 remarks 5 are completed, 4 are pending and 1 is dropped.
12	400 kV Vemagiri S/S	Dropped.
<u>Phase-II</u>		
1	220 kV Chittor S/S	Out of 6 Remarks 3 are completed and 3 are pending
2	220 kV Renigunta	Complied
3	400 kV Kurnool (Nannur) S/S	Out of 3 remarks 2 are completed, and 1 is dropped.
4	220 kV Ongole S/S	Out of 3 Remarks 2 are completed and 1 is pending
5	220 kV Podili S/S	Out of 5 Remarks 3are completed and 2 are pending
6	220 kV Sullurpet S/S	Out of 4 Remarks 2 are completed and 2 are pending
7	220 kV Tadikonda S/S	Out of 4 Remarks 2 are completed and 2 are pending

5. The matter was heard after notice to the respondents. During the course of hearing, the representative of the petitioner reiterated the submission made in the petition.

Analysis and decision

6. We have considered the submissions of the petitioner. According to the petitioner, out of 43 and 27 Phase-I and Phase-II protection audit remarks, 19 (1 No was requested to drop) and 11 (2 nos were requested to drop) respectively are yet to be implemented. The petitioner has submitted that tendering process is not yet completed which are extended due to poor response from the suppliers and line clears are required for attending the remarks like replacing of transformer and feeder C&R panels, etc. Perusal of SRPC Bi-Annual status report for the period September 2015 to February, 2016 reveals that out of 43 observations of Third Party Protection Audit in Phase-I activities, 22 observations have been complied with by the petitioner, 2 observations are dropped and 19 observations are still pending and out of 26 observations of Third Party Protection Audit in Phase-II activities, 15 observations have been complied with by the petitioner, one observation is dropped and 10 observations are still pending. As per SRPC bi-annual report, details of Third Party Protection Audit remarks is as under:

Phase I		
Total protection audit observations: 43 Nos.		
Complied	Dropped	Pending
22	2	19
Phase II		
Total protection audit observations: 43 Nos.		
Complied	Dropped	Pending
15	1	10

7. It is noted that the petitioner vide order dated 20.2.2014 in Petition No 146/MP/2013 was granted time to implement the works as mentioned in Phase-I and Phase-II by 1.5.2014 and 1.9.2014 respectively. Subsequently, the petitioner sought further time in Petition No. 96/MP/2015. Considering the difficulties faced by the petitioner, the Commission vide order dated 27.4.2016 in Petition No. 96/MP/2015 allowed time to the petitioner till 31.12.2015 to complete the works on Phase-I and Phase-II of remarks of protection audit. However, the petitioner did not complete the Phase-I and Phase-II despite enough time. We express our displeasure to the conduct of the petitioner for not taking appropriate steps to complete the entire work of Phase-I and Phase-II. The implementation of protection audit remarks is essential, not only to protect the equipment/isolate the faulty elements from the grid and avoid any major grid incidents but also to keep them in healthy condition for safe and secure operation of the grid.

8. The petitioner has contended that due to the difficulties faced during implementation of protection audit remarks, namely poor response from the suppliers and getting line clearances for attending remarks like replacing of transformers and feeder C&R panels, it could not complete the remaining activities. Taking note of difficulty projected by the petitioner, we allow time to the petitioner till 31.8.2016 as a last opportunity for completion of Phase-I and Phase-II of protection audit remarks failing which the petitioner shall be liable for proceedings under Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and other relevant provisions.

9. The petitioner is directed to file the status with SRPC every quarter to facilitate proper monitoring in PCSC meetings. SRPC is directed to monitor the status of completion of remarks in these sub-stations vis-à-vis protection audit remarks in Protection Coordination Sub Committee (PCSC) meetings. SRPC is further directed to coordinate the periodic protection audit to be carried out in Southern Region after deliberation in SRPC. SRPC is directed to submit status report bi-annually confirming the completion of Phase-I and Phase-II of protection audit remarks of the petitioner.

10. IA. No. 10/2016 is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(A.S.Bakshi)
Member

sd/-
(A. K. Singhal)
Member

sd/-
(Gireesh B. Pradhan)
Chairperson