

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 10/MP/2018

**Coram:
Shri A.K. Singhal, Member
Shri A.S. Bakshi, Member
Dr. M. K. Iyer, Member**

Date of Order: 19th of January, 2018

In the matter of

Petition under Section 79 (1) (c) (f) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

And

In the matter of

Essar Power M.P. Limited
Essar House,
11th Floor, 11 KK Marg, Opp Racecourse,
Mahalaxmi, Mumbai-400 034

..... **Petitioner**

Versus

1. Central Transmission Utility
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,
Katwaria Saria,
New Delhi-110 016
2. Western Regional Power Committee
F-3, MIDC Area, Marol,
Opp SEEPZ, Central Road,
Andheri (East), Mumbai-400 093.
3. Essar Power Transmission Company Limited
Lower Ground Floor, Hotel Treebo Conclave Riviera,
A-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110 048
4. Central Electricity Authority
Sewa Bhawan, R.K.Puram,
New Delhi-110 066

.....**Respondents**

The following were present:

Shri Sanjay Sen, Senior Advocate for the Petitioner
Shri Alok Shanker, Advocate for the Petitioner
Ms. Shruti Verma, EPMP
Ms. M. Gupta, EPMP

Shri Swapnil Verma, PGCIL
Ms. Joyti Prasad, PGCIL
Shri P.S.Das, PGCIL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Essar Power MP Limited, has filed the present petition pursuant to the direction given in 35th WRPC meeting held on 20.12.2017 at Jabalpur to the Petitioner to approach the Commission for seeking direction on continuation of LILO of 400 kV D/C Vindhyachal-Korba Transmission Line at Mahan TPS. The Petitioner has made the following prayers:

“(a) Admit the present petition;

(b) In view of WRPC direction to approach the Hon`ble CERC immediately for getting further direction on the issue of continuation/discontinuation of interim LILO arrangement of 400 k V Vindhyachal-Korba circuit beyond 20.1.2018, it is prayed that the Hon`ble Commission may pass appropriate orders in the matter;

(c) Direct the appropriate authority to declare that the LILO of the Vindhyachal-Korba D/C line (which is ISTS) at Mahan as a permanent element in light of the above mentioned technical requirements;

(d) Pending decision of the WRPC direction CTU to not take any coercive steps for opening the LILO;

(e) Pass such other and further orders/directions as the Hon`ble Commission may deem appropriate in the facts and circumstances of the case.”

2. The Petitioner, a subsidiary of Essar Power Ltd., is setting up a 1200 MW (2X600 MW) thermal power plant at district Singrauli in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Petitioner has a long term Power Purchase Agreement with MPPMCL for 150 MW and 5% net power under MoU route. The Petitioner has entered into Long Term Power Purchase Agreement with Essar Steel for supply of 450 MW of power for a period of 12 years. According to the Petitioner, power from the generating station is to be evacuated through the 400 kV D/C Mahan-Sipat Transmission Line terminating at WR Pooling Station at Bilaspur. This transmission

line is being executed by Essar Power Transmission Company Limited (EPTCL), a group company of the Petitioner after being granted an inter-State Transmission Licence by the Commission on 29.4.2008 to develop the following transmission lines and the sub-stations:

- a) 400 kV D/c Mhan-Sipat along with associated bays;
- b) LILO of 400 kV Vindhyachal Korba at Mahan;
- c) 400 kV D/c Gandhar Hazira line along with associated bays and
- d) 400/220 kV substation at Hazira

3. The Petitioner has submitted that out of the above four elements, three have been commissioned and are already in operation. Only 400 kV D/C Mahan-Sipat line with associated bays is yet to be completed. The Petitioner has submitted that it has been making diligent efforts to expedite the commissioning of the transmission line in all respects. As a result of delay in the commissioning of the second unit, interest burden of second unit is piling up.

4. The Petitioner has submitted that EPTCL has assured the Petitioner that the tower erection works would be completed by second week of January and stringing works would be completed by Mid March 2018 and inspection, testing and commissioning shall be completed by the end of March 2018 subject to assumption that there will be no hold up in completing the remaining tower and stringing works.

5. The Petitioner has submitted that issue with regards the LILO at Mahan was discussed in the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Power Systems Planning for Western Region held on 17.11.2017. The Petitioner has submitted that the status of works on the Mahan-Sipat transmission line was reviewed on

20.12.2017 and WPRC while allowing the use of the LILO till 20.1.2018 directed the Petitioner to approach the Commission for seeking permission to use the interim LILO arrangement after 20.1.2018. Accordingly, the Petitioner has sought a direction in this petition to WRPC to continue interim LILO arrangement of 400 kV Vindhyachal Korba circuit beyond 20.1.2018.

6. During the hearing of the petition, learned senior counsel for the Petitioner submitted that time be granted till 31.3.2018 by which time the Petitioner expects that the subject transmission line would be put under commercial operation.

Analysis and Decision:

7. We have considered the submissions of the learned senior counsel for the Petitioner. The Petitioner has filed the present petition for seeking direction to CTU and to WRPC for continuation of LILO of 400 kV D/C Vindhyachal-Korba transmission line at Mahan TPS pursuant to decision in 35th WRPC meeting held on 20.12.2017. Member-Secretary, WRPC vide its letter dated 22.12.2017 conveyed the decision of 35th meeting held on 20.12.2017 regarding interim LILO arrangement of 400 kV Vindhyachal-Korba transmission line. Relevant portion of the said letter is extracted as under:

“This is to inform that in 35th WRPC meeting, which was held on 20.12.2017 at Jabalpur (MP), matter regarding extension of interim LILO arrangement of 400 k V Vindhyachal-Korba circuit-I for evacuation of power by M/s Essar Power M.P.Ltd., 2x600 MW (“EMMPL”) was discussed in detail and the following decisions were taken:

(1) One month time (i.e till 20.01.2018) is given to M/s Essar Power M.P. Ltd. and M/s Essar Power M.P. Ltd. is directed to approach Hon`ble CERC immediately for getting further direction on the issue of continuation/disconnection of interim LILO arrangement of 400 kV Vindhyachal-Korba circuit-I beyond 20.01.2018.

(2) The Status quo of the said interim LILO arrangement of 400 kV Vindhyachal-Korba circuit-I shall be maintained till 20.01.2018.

The above decisions are hereby conveyed to all stakeholders for information and for further necessary action at their end.”

8. According to the Petitioner, execution of works is progressing at good pace and the line is expected to be completed by March 2018. The Petitioner has also stated that the LILO on Circuit 1 of the Vindhyachal- Korba D/C Line at Mahan is not an interim LILO but is a permanent LILO and is required for reliable operation of both the Vindhyachal-Korba D/C Line and Essar Mahan Generating Station. CEA and CTU in a meeting Chaired by Member (PS) CEA held on 28.6.2017 have concluded that LILO is required to be retained even after commissioning of the Mahan-Sipat Line.

9. CEA in the meeting held on 5.1.2018, reviewed the progress of transmission line and directed the Petitioner to commission the transmission line before the end of March, 2018. Relevant portion of the minutes of meeting held on 5.1.2018 is extracted as under:

“2. Representative of EPTC updated the present status of Mahan-Sipat Transmission Line as given below:

Tower foundation/Erection:

- a. All the foundations have been completed
- b. Out of total towers of 942, Balance to complete-9 no.
- c. Out of 9,5 tower erection gangs are working at 3 different tower locations (68 F, 219 and 5B) and will start the work at other 2 location from tomorrow at 2D/0 and 10A/6
- d. * * *

Stringing:

- a. Total stringing involved is 337 km
- b. At present balance stringing is about 67 about.
- c. 6 km under progress.
- d. Stringing section with TSE:
 - i. 5 TSE machines are already deployed and are in operation but the manpower deployment is to be augmented to expedite the progress.
 - ii. Manpower in 1st and 2 TSE is ok

e. Stringing section with Manual gangs:

- i. 1st gang-currently doing repaid and restoration. Will continue work on the repaid works.
- ii. 2^{ns} gang-currently working at Korba
- iii. 3rd gang-Currently working at EPMPPL plant gantry.
- iv. 4th gang-Gang reached at site and will be fully operation by 6th Jan.
- v. 5th gang-arrived at Waidhan and they will start working from 6th Jan.

2. EPTCL informed that they are actively coordinating with the local administration to quickly resolve the ROW issues being encountered at every location repeatedly at the time of foundation, erection, insulator hoisting and stringing and releasing compensation very fast. The district collector Singrauli has agreed to provide full time police team of 15 members. Police assistance is being regularly obtained in Wadraf Nagar tehsil of Chhattisgarh.

* * * * *

11. With regard to PLCC, EPTCL informed that they had taken up the matter for clearance for PLCC frequency allocation for line protection and communication with Ministry of Communication and requested CEA also to expedite the matter. CEA agreed to look into the issue.

12. Chief Engineer (PSPM), CEA noted the speeding up of progress in the months of November and December, 2017. Taking note of RoW challenges in the area, CEA requested EPTCL to intensify efforts and synergy with a view to ensuring that the line is commissioned positively before the end of March 2018.”

10. Keeping in view the decision in the minutes of the meeting in CEA held on 5.1.2018, we direct the Petitioner to ensure completion of the Mahan-Sipat line by 31.3.2018. Till that time, *status quo* shall be maintained. If the transmission line is not commissioned by the Petitioner on or before 31.3.2018, CTU shall take immediate necessary action for disconnection of the LILO arrangement with effect from 1.4.2018.

11. The Petitioner is directed to submit the fortnightly progress report of the execution of transmission line.

12. The Petitioner has also prayed to direct appropriate authority to declare that the LILO of the Vindhyachal-Korba D/C line at Mahan as a permanent element. In this order, we are concerned with the completion of 400 kV D/C Mahan-Sipat transmission line by 31.3.2018 failing which the LILO shall be opened by CTU on

1.4.2018. In case, CTU wants to continue with the LILO beyond 31.3.2018, CTU shall approach the Commission well before 31.3.2018 with proper justification.

13. The Petition is disposed of in terms of the above directions.

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

Sd/-
(A. S. Bakshi)
Member

Sd/-
(A.K. Singhal)
Member