

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI

Petition No. 198/TT/2017

Subject : Petition for determination of transmission tariff from COD to 31.3.2019 for 2014-19 block for assets under the transmission system associated with "Transmission system for development of pooling station in Northern part of West Bengal and transfer of power from Bhutan to NR/WR".

And in the matter of:

Petition No.363/TT/2018

Subject : Petition for approval of transmission tariff of 8 assets under "Transmission system associated with North East-Northern/Western Inter Connector-I" for the 2014-19 tariff period.

Petitioner : Power Grid Corporation of India

Respondents : Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Ltd. Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd and 80 others

Date of Hearing : 23.4.2019

Coram : Shri P.K. Pujari, Chairperson
Dr. M. K. Iyer, Member
Shri I.S. Jha, Member

Parties present : Shri R.B Sharma, Advocate, BRPL & BSP(H)CL
Shri Mohit Mudgal, Advocate, BRPL & BSP(H)CL
Shri S.Valliningayam, Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri Mansoor Ali, Advocate, TPDDL
Shri Raj Kumar Mehta, Advocate, GRIDCO
Ms. Himanshi Andley, Advocate, GRIDCO
Shri S.S. Raju, PGCIL
Shri S.K. Venkatesan, PGCIL
Shri Zafrul Hasan, PGCIL
Shri Vivek Kumar Singh, PGCIL
Shri Sudhir Aggrawal, PGCIL



Record of Proceedings

PGCIL filed Petition No.198/TT/2017 for determination of transmission tariff of Asset-I: ± 800 kV 3000 MW HVDC Pole-III and LILO of Bishwanath Chariali-Agra HVDC line for parallel operation of the HVDC station at Alipurduar, Asset-II: ± 800 kV 3000 MW HVDC Pole-IV along with Earth electrode station and Earth Electrode line at Alipurduar and Agra end, Asset-III: LILO of Bongaigaon-Siliguri 400 kV D/C line (quad) along with associated bays at Alipurduar, Asset-IV: LILO of Birpara-Salakati 220 kV D/C line along with associated bays at new pooling station in Alipurduar, Asset-V: 1x315MVA 400/220 kV, ICT-I at Alipurduar, Asset-VI: 1x315 MVA 400/220 kV ICT-II at Alipurduar, Asset-VII: 1x125MVA 400 kV Bus Reactor-I at Alipurduar and Asset-VIII: 1x125 MVA 400 kV Bus Reactor-II at Alipurduar for the period from COD to 31.3.2019 under the 2014 Tariff Regulations. PGCIL has also filed Petition No.363/TT/2018 for determination of tariff 8 assets under "Transmission system associated with North East-Northern/Western Inter Connector-I"

2. The representative of the petitioner submitted that in Petition No. 198/TT/2017, initially the petitioner claimed COD of the Assets-I to Asset-VIII on anticipated basis. Later, vide affidavit dated 21.9.2017, the petitioner combined Assets-I and II and renamed them as Asset-A and similarly combined Assets-III to VIII and renamed them as Asset-B. The petitioner has claimed tariff on the basis of the actual COD of Asset-A and Asset-B in the instant petition. He submitted that the Pole-III and Pole-IV along with AC system at Alipurduar are covered under the scope of transmission system for development of pooling station in Northern part of West Bengal and transfer of power from Bhutan to NR/ER project. He submitted that scheduled COD of the subject assets was 15.1.2015 against which they were put into commercial operation on 21.9.2017 with time over-run of 32 months. He submitted that the delay in execution was mainly due to delay in land acquisition for HVDC station, Earth Electrode station at Alipurduar and Agra, ROW issues and law and order problem. He prayed that the time over-run may be condoned and tariff as claimed in the petition be allowed. He submitted that the estimated completion cost for Asset-A and B is within the RCE cost. He further submitted that vide affidavit dated 22.9.2017, 16.11.17, 13.3.2018, 27.8.2018 and 22.2.2018 MMPCL, UPPCL, GRIDCO, TPDDL and BRPL have respectively submitted its reply to the petition and in response, the petitioner has also filed its rejoinder to the above replies.

2. Learned counsel for GRIDCO submitted that an Appeal has been filed by GRIDCO before Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (Tribunal) against the Commission's directions regarding the sharing of transmission charges dated 15.12.2017 in Petition No. 184/TT/2016 and the same is pending before the Tribunal. He submitted that the direction for sharing of the charges of the instant HVDC assets by the Discoms of all the regions of the country is contrary to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) (3rd Amendment) Regulations, 2015. He submitted that the present petition may be adjourned till the disposal of the Appeal filed before the Tribunal.



3. Learned counsel for BRPL raised issues relating to cost over-run and time over-run. He submitted that the capacity of the instant transmission system is more than the present requirement. He submitted that 3000 MW converter capacity planned at Alipurduar appears to be on the higher side and further requested the Commission to direct the petitioner to submit the power flow to justify 3000 MW converter capacity. He further submitted that the petitioner has claimed O&M expenses for Earth Electrode line as a transmission line. He submitted that the Earth Electrode is part of the terminal equipment for which O&M expenses have already been allowed, and thus the petitioner cannot claim the O&M twice for the same asset. Learned counsel for TPDDL raised issues relating to time over-run, sharing of transmission charges and non-disclosure of certain facts by the petitioner.
4. In response to the reply of GRIDCO, the representative of the petitioner submitted that with respect to sharing of transmission charges with respect to HDVC, the Commission has already discussed the issue in detail in Petition No. 67/TT/2015 and 184/TT/2016 and stated that the transmission charges of the instant assets will be shared as per the directions issued in Petition No.184/TT/2016. He further submitted that the principle laid down by the Commission regarding the sharing of HVDC charges by all beneficiaries is not contrary to the Sharing Regulations. The petitioner further submitted that for the aforesaid projects EBR of ₹2889 crore has been raised and received on 14.2.2019. The EBR realized has been adjusted towards the capital cost of the assets covered in Petition No.363/TT/2018. The revised Auditor's certificate upto 31.3.2018 and revised tariff forms have been submitted and requested the Commission to allow the final tariff for the assets covered in both the petitions.
5. In Petition No.363/TT/2018, learned counsel for BRPL & BSP(H)CL submitted that in RCE dated 30.11.2015, petitioner has provided for huge reactive compensation which was not there in the initial investment approval dated 24.2.2009. He further submitted that RCE is for revision of cost and not for revising the scope of the project. He submitted that there is nothing in the petition to show that a power system study was undertaken to justify the requirements of reactive compensation. The petitioner may be directed to submit all the above information along with the consent of Standing Committee on Power System Planning for reactive compensation.
6. In response, the representative of the petitioner submitted that all technical issues were discussed and deliberated in order dated 19.2.2019 in Petition No. 363/TT/2018.
7. The Commission observed that in Petition No.198/TT/2017, the Auditor Certificate of Asset-A, submitted through affidavit dated 22.2.2019 is not legible and directed to resubmit the Auditor certificate. The Commission, directed the petitioner to submit the two parts of calculations for Assets-A and B i.e (i) from COD to 13.3.2019 and (ii) from 14.2.2019 to 31.3.2019 after adjustment of EBR raised on 14.4.2019 on affidavit with the advance copy to the Respondents by 17.5.2019.



8. The Commission further directed the petitioner to submit the following in Petition No. 363/TT/2018, on affidavit with a copy to the respondents by 17.5.2019

a. Year wise Statement of discharge of Initial Spares of all the assets;

b. Since the estimated completion cost of Assets-I, IV and V is more than their approved apportioned cost, submit RCE, if any.

9. After hearing, the Commission reserved order in both the petitions.

By order of the Commission

sd/-
(T. Rout)
Chief (Law)

