

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

**Petition No. 217/MP/2019**

**Coram:**

**Shri P.K.Pujari, Chairperson**

**Dr. M. K. Iyer, Member**

**Shri I.S.Jha, Member**

**Date of Order: 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019**

**In the matter of**

Petition under Section 79 (1) (k) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 8 (7) 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 seeking permission for injection of infirm power beyond six months in case of Parbati Hydroelectric Project-Stage-II.

**And**

**In the matter of**

NHPC Limited  
NHPC Office Complex,  
Sector-33, Faridabad-121 003

**...Petitioner**

**Vs.**

1. Executive Director  
Regional Load Despatch Centre  
(Power System Operation Corporation Limited)  
18-A, Shaheed Jeet Singh Sansanwal Marg,  
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016

2. Member Secretary,  
Northern Regional Power Committee  
18-A, Shaheed Jeet Singh Sansanwal Marg,  
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016

3. Chairman,  
Central Electricity Authority  
Sewa Bhawan, R.K.Puram  
Sector-1, New Delhi 110 066

4. Chairman and Managing Director  
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited  
Saudamini, Plot No. 2,  
Sector-29, Near IFFCO Chowk,  
Gurgaon, Haryana-122 001

5. Parbati Koldam Transmission Company Limited  
Building No. 10 B, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
DLF Cyber City, Shankar Chowk,  
Gurgaon, Haryana-122 002

...Respondents

**The following was present:**

Shri Prashant Kaul, NHPC

**ORDER**

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, NHPC Limited, seeking permission of the Commission for injection of infirm power into the grid upto 31.8.2020 or till declaration of commercial operation of the generating station of 800 MW (4X200 MW) Parbati Hydroelectric Project, Stage-II (hereinafter referred to “the generating station”) in the State of Himachal Pradesh in terms of 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 (hereinafter referred to as ‘Connectivity Regulations’) as amended from time to time. The Petitioner has made the following prayers:

*“(a) Allow the Petitioner to inject infirm power from Unit-I & Unit-II of Parbati Hydroelectric Project-Stage-II beyond the permissible limit of six months as per provisions of Regulation 8 (7) (b) of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long Term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009;*

*(b) Allow generation of infirm power upto 31.8.2020 as requested in Para 13 above; and*

*(c) Allow the Petitioner to operate Unit-III and Unit-IV of Parbati Hydroelectric Project-Stage-II also in rotation to keep the generating units in healthy condition as requested in Para 14 above.”*

2. The Petitioner has submitted that the generating station consists of four units (4x200 MW). Scheduled COD of the generating station was 11.9.2009. The Petitioner has submitted that due to various reasons, namely delay in forest clearance, natural calamities, strikes, uncertain and unpredictable adverse geological conditions in Himalayan terrain, the project is likely to be completed in December, 2021. The Petitioner has submitted that Unit-I and Unit-II of the generating station was first synchronized with grid on 14.9.2018 and 22.9.2018 respectively with available water from Jiwa Nallah. However, due to unavailability of surplus water, Unit-I and Unit-II could not be declared under commercial operation. Accordingly, with the prior permission of NRLDC, Unit-I and Unit-II of the generating station were re-synchronised with the grid on 5.7.2019 and 6.7.2019 respectively. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking permission for injection of infirm power into the grid upto 31.8.2020 on account of the following reasons:

- (a) Additional work in Adit-II due to change in its diameter and length;
- (b) Cloud burst in Pulia Nallah;
- (c) Delay due to Back Hill Slope failure of surface power house;
- (d) Flash flood in Jigrai Nallah;
- (e) Delay in excavation of Dam due to delay in felling of trees after revised forest clearance;
- (f) Burial of TBM, removal of silt, refurbishment of TBM, Up-gradation of TBM and up-keeping of TBM; treatment of 1st Shear zone at RD 4057 m in face-4 upto re-start of TBM; and advance probing at RD 4097 and treatment of 2<sup>nd</sup> Shear zone;
- (g) Ban on use of aggregate by the Hon`ble High Court of Himachal;
- (h) Fatal accident in left inclined pressure shaft;
- (i) Delay due to termination of contract of Jiwa Nallah and re-award of balance works;

(j) Delay owing to termination of contract of HRT works and re-award of balance HRT works in two packages;

(k) Strike by contract labour of M/s Patel Engineering on account of non-payment of wages;

(l) Due to cash crunch, no work by M/s Coastal Project Ltd., Contractor of Jiwa Nallah works;

(m) Change in methodology for treatment of Shea zone and mobilization of additional equipment at HRT Face-4; and additional work to treat Shear zone between RD 4118.72 to 4150.72 m in HRT Face-4;

(n) Slow progress of TBM due to weak geological condition in HRT; and

(o) Stoppage of work at Adit-I by M/s Valecha Engineering Ltd. due to cash crunch resulting in termination of works and retendering thereof.

3. The Petition was heard after notice to the Respondents. None was present on behalf of the Respondents. During the course of hearing, the representative of the Petitioner submitted that due to certain developments beyond the control of the Petitioner, the Petitioner could not declare commercial operation of the project within time and requested to grant permission for injection of infirm power into the grid for testing including full load testing and trial run operation of Units of the generating station upto 31.8.2020.

4. We have considered the submission of the Petitioner. The Fourth Proviso to Regulation 8 (7) of the Connectivity Regulations, as amended from time to time, provides as under:

*“Provided that the Commission may in exceptional circumstances, allow extension of the period for inter-change of power beyond the period as prescribed in this clause, on an application made by the generating station at least two months in advance of completion of the prescribed period:*

*Provided further that the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre while granting such permission shall keep the grid security in view.”*

5. The Petitioner has submitted that it has completed the works of Right Pressure Shaft, Excavation of HRT-590.20M, Plugging of Diversion tunnel, Excavation of Puncha feeder tunnel-77.40 m, Concrete lining of HRT-312 km and Excavation of u/s transition portion of Hurla Desilting Chamber-18.27 m. The Petitioner has submitted that due to reasons enumerated in Para 2 above, it was not able to complete testing including full load testing within the prescribed period from the date of first synchronization of Unit-I and Unit-II of the generating station. The Petitioner has submitted that the balance works of HRT will take time and the project as a whole is expected to be commissioned by December, 2021. The Petitioner has submitted that time is required to complete the balance works and to carry out the operation of testing and commissioning including injection of infirm power into the grid. Considering these facts, the Petitioner has requested for permission to inject infirm power till 31.8.2020 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier.

6. The Petitioner has also sought permission to operate Unit-III and Unit-IV of the generating station in future with the grid depending upon the availability of water in the said Nallahs so that healthiness of all four machines are maintained and zero cost is used for generation (infirm power) upto 31.8.2020 in the interest of grid and consumers.

7. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner and in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in Para 4 above, we allow injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of all four Units of the generating station upto 31.8.2020 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. We expect

the Petitioner to make all efforts to ensure the commercial operation of the Units by this date. It is, however, clarified that extension of time granted as above shall not automatically entitle the Petitioner for IEDC/IDC for the delay in declaration of COD from the scheduled COD which will be decided in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tariff Regulations.

8. With the above, the Petition No. 217/MP/2019 is disposed of.

**Sd/-  
(I.S.Jha)  
Member**

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

**sd/-  
(P.K. Pujari)  
Chairperson**