CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION NEW DELHI

Coram

1. Shri Bhanu Bhushan, Member

2. Shri A.H. Jung, Member

Petition No. 146/2004

In the matter of

Approval of tariff in respect of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station Stage-II (1000 MW) for the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009.

And in the matter of

National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

.....Petitioner

Vs

- 1. Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board, Jabalpur
- 2. Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, Mumbai,
- 3. Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd, Vadodara.
- 4. Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board, Raipur,
- 5. Electricity Department, Government of Goa, Panaji,
- 6. Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman
- 7. Electricity Department, Administration of Dadra & Nager Haveli, Silvassa.

----Respondents

The following were present

- 1. Shri V.B.K.Jain, NTPC
- 2. Shri I.J.Kapoor, NTPC
- 3. Shri S.K.Johar, NTPC
- 4. Shri G.S.Agesh, NTPC
- 5. Shri S.K.Sharma, NTPC
- 6. Shri A.S.Pandey, NTPC
- 7. Ms.. Alka Saigal, NTPC
- 8. Shri.M K Narang, NTPC
- 9. Shri.S.P.Singh, MPSEB
- 10. Shri.D.K. Shrivastava, MPSEB.

ORDER (DATE OF HEARING : 22.12.2005)

This petition has been filed by the petitioner, a generating company owned or

controlled by the Central Government for approval of tariff in respect of Vindhyachal

Super Thermal Power Station, Stage-II (1000 MW) (hereinafter referred to as "the generating station") for the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009 based on the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2004, (hereinafter referred to as "the 2004 regulations").

2. The generating station with a total capacity of 1000 MW comprises of 2 units of 500 MW each. The dates of commercial operation of these units of the generating station are as under :

Unit-I	1.7.2000
Unit-II	1.10.2000

3. The tariff for the generating station for the period ending 31.3.2004 was approved by the Commission vide its order dated 1.8.2003 in Petition No. 77/2002 based on the capital cost of Rs.239211 lakh. The petitioner's claim for tariff in the present petition was initially based on the capital cost of Rs.254756 lakh which included admitted capital cost of Rs.239211 lakh as on 1.4.2001, FERV amounting to Rs 9996 lakh and additional capital expenditure on works amounting to Rs.5549 lakh for the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004. In the meantime, the Commission vide its order dated 4.4.2005 in Petition No.154/2004 approved additional capital expenditure on works of Rs.5522 lakh for the period 2001-04. Subsequently, the petitioner amended the petition and revised its claim for tariff based on capital cost of Rs 254728 lakh, which included admitted capital cost of Rs.239211 lakh as on 1.4.2001, FERV amounting to Rs.5522 lakh during 2001-04. All references to the petitioner's claim are to the revised tariff, in the amended petition.

4. The year-wise details of additional capitalization, on works, approved by the Commission by order dated 4.4.2005, in Petition No.154/2004 are as under :

(Rs in lakh)

2001-02	4009.4
2002-03	1674.9
2003-04	(-) 162.7
Total	5521.6

5. The details of the annual fixed charges claimed by the petitioner are given

hereunder:

	(Rs. in lakh)				
Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Interest on loan	7399	6198	4914	3770	3037
Interest on Working Capital	271	2708	2747	2696	2634
Depreciation	9298	9298	9298	9298	9298
Advance against Depreciation	7548	6840	8533	4635	0.00
Return on Equity	10699	10699	10699	10699	10699
O&M expenses.	9360	9730	10120	10520	10950
TOTAL	47016	45473	46311	41618	36618

6. The details of interest on working capital furnished by the petitioner and its claim for interest thereon are summarised hereunder :

				(Rs. in lakh))
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Coal Stock	5970	5970	5970	5986	5970
Oil Stock	356	356	356	357	356
O & M expenses	780	811	843	877	913
Spares	3199	3391	3595	3810	4039
Receivables	16152	15895	16034	15275	14419
Total Working Capital	26457	26423	26798	26305	25697
Rate of Interest	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%
Interest on Working capital	2712	2708	2747	2696	2634

7. In addition, the petitioner has claimed energy charge of 79.67 paise/kWh. The energy charge claimed is subject to fuel price variation.

8. The reply to the petition was filed by the MPSEB, GUVNL, and MSEDCL. The other respondents have not filed their reply. The petitioner has published notices in the newspapers in accordance with the procedure specified by the Commission.

However, no objections or suggestions have been received in response to these notices.

De-capitalization of Assets

9. The petitioner has de-capitalised certain assets during the period 2001-04. These de-capitalised assets were removed from the gross block to arrive at admissible additional capitalization for the purpose of capital cost by order dated 4.4.2005 in Petition No.154/2004. It is also observed that the petitioner is maintaining accounts on accrual basis. This resulted in inflated capital base in earlier tariff period due to capitalization of liability provision. The expenditure for which provision was made did not materialise and it was de-capitalised subsequently. But the petitioner has been charging tariff on the inflated capital base till 31.3.2004. In these cases, the past period calculations to assess impact on tariff have not been re-opened and are to be mutually settled between the petitioner and the beneficiaries. In case of a dispute, any of the parties may approach the Commission for appropriate relief. Accordingly, adjustment of an amount of Rs 6 lakh, due to decapitalisation of assets, has been allowed.

CAPITAL COST

10. As per the second proviso to regulation 17 of the 2004 regulations, in case of the existing generating stations, the capital cost admitted by the Commission for determination of tariff prior to 1.4.2004 shall form the basis for determination of tariff.

11. The petitioner has claimed tariff based on the capital cost of Rs 254728 lakh which included admitted capital cost of Rs.239211 lakh as on 1.4.2001, FERV during 2001-04 amounting to Rs. 9996 lakh and additional capital expenditure of Rs.5522 lakh.

12. The petitioner, vide affidavit filed on 19.12.2005 has confirmed that all the assets included in the balance sheet for 2003-04 of the generating station were in use as on 1.4.2004. The petitioner has further submitted that the assets that will be out of use in the tariff period 2004-09 will be de-capitalised and the details of such assets not in use/amounts decapitalised shall be furnished to the Commission along with the claims for capitalisation to be filed separately.

13. The Commission vide its order dated 4.4.2005 in Petition No.154/2004 has decided that the opening capital cost (excluding FERV) for the purpose of tariff for the period 2004-09, as on 1.4.2004 shall be Rs.244733 lakh. This has been adopted for the purpose of tariff in this petition. Next we consider the additional capitalisation on account of FERV.

FERV / Extra Rupee Liability during the years 2001-04

14. Regulation 1.13 (a) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2001 provided as under:

(a) Extra rupee liability towards interest payment and loan repayment actually incurred, in the relevant year shall be admissible; provided it directly arises out of foreign exchange rate variation and is not attributable to Utility or its suppliers or contractors. Every utility shall follow the method as per the Accounting Standard-11 (Eleven) as issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to calculate the impact of exchange rate variation on loan repayment

(b) Any foreign exchange rate variation to the extent of the dividend paid out on the permissible equity contributed in foreign currency, subject to the

(c) Ceiling of permissible return shall be admissible. This as and when paid, may be spread over the twelve-month period in arrears.

15. Regulation 1.7 of the 2001 regulations, further provided that recovery of foreign exchange rate variation would be done directly by the utilities from the beneficiaries without filing a petition before the Commission. In case of any objections by the beneficiaries to the amounts claimed on these counts, they may file an appropriate petition before the Commission.

16. The petitioner has claimed FERV as per the following details :

	(Rs. In lakh)					
Year	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total		
FERV	2843	7539	(-) 386	9996		

17. MPSEB, GUVNL and MSEDCL have opposed the petitioner's claim for capitalisation of FERV.

18. The petitioner's claim for capitalization on account of FERV has been considered. In the present case, the normative loan exceeds the actual loan. The interest on loan is allowed on normative loan. Therefore, justice demands that the computation of FERV should also be based on normative loan. Based on normative loan outstanding, FERV works out to Rs.10392 lakh which has been admitted for tariff calculations as per the details given below:

	(Rs. in lakh)				
Year	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total	
FERV	2954.76	7838.25	(-) 401.36	10391.65	

19. Based on the above, the gross block as on 1.4.2004 comes to Rs.255125 lakh as per details given hereunder:

(Rs	. in lakh)
Capital cost admitted as on 1.4.2004 as per order dated 4.4.2005	239211
Additional capitalisation approved by the Commission for the period 2001-04	5522
FERV allowed for the tariff period 2001-2004	10392
Opening Capital cost as on 1.4.2004	255125

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

DEBT-EQUITY RATIO

20. Clause (1) of Regulation 20 of the 2004 regulations *inter alia* provides that in case of the existing generating stations, debt–equity ratio considered by the Commission for fixation of tariff for the period ending 31.3.2004 shall be considered for determination of tariff.

21. The Commission, while approving tariff vide its order dated 1.8.2003, in Petition No 77/2002, for the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004, had considered the normative debt-equity ratio of 70:30. Therefore, for the purpose of present petition, debt-equity ratio of 70:30 has been adopted in the working. The additional capitalisation on works (Rs 5522 lakh) and on account of FERV (Rs 10392 lakh) for the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004 is deemed to have been financed through debt and equity in the ratio of 70:30. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs.76537 lakh has been considered as equity as on 1.4.2004.

TARGET AVAILABILITY

22. The petitioner has considered target availability of 80%, based on the provisions of the 2004 regulations. Accordingly, target availability of 80 % has been considered for recovery of full fixed charges and computation of fuel element in the working capital for the period from 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009.

RETURN ON EQUITY

23. As per clause (iii) of regulation 21 of the 2004 regulations, return on equity shall be computed on the equity base determined in accordance with regulation 20 @ 14% per annum. Equity invested in foreign currency is to be allowed a return in the same currency and the payment on this account is made in Indian Rupees based on the exchange rate prevailing on the date of billing.

24. The petitioner has claimed return on equity @ 14%. The return on equity has been worked out on equity base of Rs 76537 lakh. The petitioner shall recover an amount of Rs.10715 lakh each year, during the period 2004-09, as return on equity.

INTEREST ON LOAN

25. Clause (i) of regulation 21 of the 2004 regulations inter alia provides that,-

(a) Interest on loan capital shall be computed loan-wise on the loans arrived at in the manner indicated in regulation 20.

(b) The loan outstanding as on 1.4.2004 shall be worked out as the gross loan as per regulation 20 minus cumulative repayment as admitted by the Commission for the period up to 31.3.2004. The repayment for the period 2004-09 shall be worked out accordingly on normative basis.

(c) The generating company shall make every effort to swap the loan as long as it results in net benefit to the long-term transmission customers. The costs associated with such swapping shall be borne by the beneficiaries.

(d) The changes to the loan terms and conditions shall be reflected from the date of such swapping and benefits passed on to the beneficiaries.

(e) In case of any dispute, any of the parties may approach the Commission with proper application. However, the beneficiaries shall not withhold any payment as ordered by the Commission to the generating company during the pendency of the any dispute relating to swapping of loan.

(f) In case any moratorium period is availed of by the generating company, depreciation provided for in the tariff during the years of moratorium shall be treated as repayment during those years and interest on loan capital shall be calculated accordingly.

(g) The Generating Company shall not make any profit on account of swapping of loan and interest on loan.

26. The fixed charges for the period prior to 1.4.2004 were allowed by the Commission on normative loan. Therefore, the interest on loan has been worked out in the manner as mentioned below:

(a) Normative loan considered as per order dated 1.8.2003, has been considered. Additional capital expenditure on works and FERV for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been added to this notional loan.

(b) Cumulative repayment of loan up to 31.3.2004, amounting to Rs 57507 lakh has been considered, as per order dated 1.8. 2003 in Petition No. 77/2002.

(c) In case of moratorium period in respect of SBI-II and Bonds, depreciation proportionate to the loan has been considered as actual repayment of loan.

(d) Annual repayment of actual loan has been used to calculate normative repayment of loan. Normative repayment has been worked out as per formula below:

Normative Repayment =

Actual Repayment x Normative Loan Actual Loan

(e) Where the normative repayment of the loan is less than the depreciation of the same year, the repayment has been considered to the extent of depreciation in accordance with the order dated 5.5.2006 in Petition No.162/2004.

(f) The weighted average rate of interest calculated on actual loan and actual repayment have been applied on normative loan for computation of interest on loan component of tariff.

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

27. The necessary calculations in support of weighted average rate of interest are

appended below:

				(Rs. in lakh)	
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	HDFC-II	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
•	Gross Loan -Opening	1713	2856	3999	5142	6284
	Cum. Repayment upto	6287	5144	4001	2858	1716
	Previous Year	0207		4001	2000	1710
	Net Loan-Opening	0	0	0	0	0
	Addition	1143	1143	1143	1143	1143
	Repayment	5144	4001	2858	1716	573
	Net Loan-Closing	5716	4573	3430	2287	1144
	Average loan	8.40%	8.40%	8.40%	8.40%	8.40%
	Rate of Interest	480	384	288	192	96
	Interest					
2	SBT					
	Gross Loan -Opening	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	0	143	286	429	571
	Net Loan-Opening	1000	857	714	571	429
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	143	143	143	143	143
	Net Loan-Closing	857	714	571	429	286
	Average loan	929	786	643	500	357
	Rate of Interest	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%
	Interest	68	57	47	37	26
3	SBH					
•	Gross Loan -Opening	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	71	214	357	500	643
	Net Loan-Opening	929	786	643	500	357
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	143	143	143	143	143
	Net Loan-Closing	786	643	500	357	214
	Average loan	857	714	571	429	286
	Rate of Interest	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%
	Interest	63	52	42	31	21
4	SBI-I	00	52	74	51	<u> </u>
	Gross Loan -Opening	21100	21100	21100	21100	21100
	Cum.Repayment upto	4521	7535	10550	13564	16578
	Pre. Year		1000	10000		10070
	Net Loan-Opening	16579	13565	10550	7536	4522
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	3014	3014	3014	3014	3014
	Net Loan-Closing	13565	10550	7536	4522	1508
	Average loan	15072	12058	9043	6029	3015

CALCULATIONS OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST

	Rate of Interest	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%
	Interest	1454	1164	873	582	291
5	SBI-II					
	Gross Loan -Opening	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre.	0	0	172	343	515
	Year	Ŭ	J		0.0	0.0
	Net Loan-Opening	1200	1200	1028	857	685
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	0	172	172	172	172
	Net Loan-Closing	1200	1028	857	685	513
	Average loan	1200	1114	942	771	599
	Rate of Interest	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%	9.65%
	Interest	116	108	91	74	58
6	State Bank of Patiala					
	Gross Loan -Opening	2300	2300	2300	2300	2300
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre.	0	329	657	986	1314
	Year					
	Net Loan-Opening	2300	1971	1643	1314	986
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	329	329	329	329	329
	Net Loan-Closing	1971	1643	1314	986	657
	Average loan	2136	1807	1479	1150	821
	Rate of Interest	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%
	Interest	156	132	108	84	60
7	United Bank of India					
	Gross Loan -Opening	700	700	700	700	700
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	0	100	200	300	400
	Net Loan-Opening	700	600	500	400	300
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	100	100	100	100	100
	Net Loan-Closing	600	500	400	300	200
	Average loan	650	550	450	350	250
	Rate of Interest	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%	7.31%
	Interest	47	40	33	26	18
8	Bonds XII Series	47	40		20	10
0	Gross Loan -Opening	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre.	0	0	0	0	500
	Year	0	U	0	U	500
	Net Loan-Opening	2500	2500	2500	2500	2000
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	0	0	0	500	500
	Net Loan-Closing	2500	2500	2500	2000	1500
	Average loan	2500	2500	2500	2250	1750
	Rate of Interest	10.03%	10.03%	10.03%	10.03%	10.03%
	Interest	251	251	251	226	176
9	Bonds XIV Series		201	201		
0	Gross Loan -Opening	600	600	600	600	600
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre.	0	0	000	300	600
	Year		0	U	500	000
	Net Loan-Opening	600	600	600	300	0
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0

	Repayment	0	0	300	300	0
	Net Loan-Closing	600	600	300	0	0
	Average loan	600	600	450	150	0
	Rate of Interest	8.08%	8.08%	8.08%	8.08%	8.08%
	Interest	48	48	36	12	0
10A	SBI NY-I (in INR)					
	Gross Loan -Opening	19510	19510	19510	19510	19510
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	19510	19510	19510	19510	19510
	Net Loan-Opening	0	0	0	0	0
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	0	0	0	0	0
	Net Loan-Closing	0	0	0	0	0
	Average loan	0	0	0	0	0
	Rate of Interest	7.58%	7.58%	7.58%	7.58%	7.58%
	Interest	0	0	0	0	0
В	IBRD-O (USD-EQ)-INR					
	Gross Loan -Opening	93483	93483	93483	93483	93483
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	22106	27207	32694	38597	44947
	Net Loan-Opening	71377	66276	60789	54886	48536
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment-	5101	5487	5903	6350	6830
	Net Loan-Closing	66276	60789	54886	48536	41706
	Average loan	68827	63533	57838	51711	45121
	Rate of Interest	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%
	Interest	4026	3717	3383	3025	2640
С	IBRD-A (USD)-INR					
	Gross Loan -Opening	12222	12222	12222	12222	12222
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	4155	6172	8189	10206	12222
	Net Loan-Opening	8067	6050	4033	2016	0
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	2017	2017	2017	2016	0
	Net Loan-Closing	6050	4033	2016	0	0
	Average loan	7059	5042	3025	1008	0
	Rate of Interest	6.64%	6.64%	6.64%	6.64%	6.64%
	Interest	469	335	201	67	0
D	IBRD-B (Tr. A) (EURO)- INR					
	Gross Loan -Opening	14378	14378	14378	14378	14378
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	4609	7036	9463	11890	14317
	Net Loan-Opening	9769	7342	4915	2488	61
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	2427	2427	2427	2427	61
	Net Loan-Closing	7342	4915	2488	61	0
	Average loan	8556	6129	3702	1275	31
	Rate of Interest	5.18%	5.18%	5.18%	5.18%	5.18%

Е	IBRD-B (Tr. B) (EURO)					
	Gross Loan -Opening	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	0	0	0	0	0
	Net Loan-Opening	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	0	0	0	0	0
	Net Loan-Closing	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Average loan	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Rate of Interest	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
	Interest	0	0	0	0	0
	IBRD-Total INR					
	Gross Loan -Opening	139594	139594	139594	139594	139594
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	50380	59925	69856	80203	90996
	Net Loan-Opening	89214	79669	69738	59391	48598
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment-15th June	9545	9931	10347	10793	6891
	Repayment-15th Dec	0	0	0	0	0
	Total repayment	0	0	0	0	0
	Net Loan-Closing	79669	69738	59391	48598	41707
	Average loan	84441	74703	64564	53994	45152
	Rate of Interest	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%	5.85%
	Interest	4938	4369	3776	3158	2641
	TOTAL LOAN					
	Gross Loan -Opening	177994	177994	177994	177994	177994
	Cum.Repayment upto Pre. Year	56685	71258	86341	102115	118751
	Net Loan-Opening	121308	106736	91653	75879	59505
	Addition	0	0	0	0	0
	Repayment	14573	15083	15774	16636	12434
	Net Loan-Closing	106736	91653	75879	59505	47071
	Average loan	114022	99195	83766	67692	53288
	Rate of Interest	6.68%	6.64%	6.58%	6.50%	6.34%
	Interest	7614	6585	5515	4401	3379

28. The computations of interest on notional loan by applying weighted average

interest rate are appended herein below:

COMPUTATION OF INTEREST ON LOAN

(Rs. in lakh)

Loan	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Gross loan-Opening	178587	178587	178587	178587	178587
Cumulative repayments of loans upto previous year	57507	72052	87135	102909	119545
Net loan-Opening	121080	106535	91452	75678	59042
Increase/ Decrease due to FERV	0	0	0	0	0
Increase/ Decrease due to Additional Capitalization	0	0	0	0	0
Total	121080	106535	91452	75678	59042
Repayments of loans during the year	14545	15083	15774	16636	12434

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

Net loan-Closing	106535	91452	75678	59042	46607
Average Net Loan	113807	98994	83565	67360	52825
Rate of Interest on Loan	6.68%	6.64%	6.59%	6.51%	6.35%
Interest on loan	7602	6578	5511	4386	3352

DEPRECIATION

29. Sub-clause (a) of clause (ii) of regulation 21 of the 2004 regulations provides for computation of depreciation in the following manner, namely:

(i) The value base for the purpose of depreciation shall be the historical cost of the asset.

(ii) Depreciation shall be calculated annually based on straight line method over the useful life of the asset and at the rates prescribed in Appendix II to these regulations. The residual life of the asset shall be considered as 10% and depreciation shall be allowed up to maximum of 90% of the historical capital cost of the asset. Land is not a depreciable asset and its cost shall be excluded from the capital cost while computing 90% of the historical cost of the asset. The historical capital cost of the asset shall include additional capitalization on account of Foreign Exchange Rate Variation up to 31.3.2004 already allowed by the Central Government / Commission

(iii) On repayment of entire loan, the remaining depreciable value shall be spread over the balance useful life of the asset.

(iv) Depreciation shall be chargeable from the first year of operation. In case of operation of the asset for part of the year, depreciation shall be charged on pro rata basis.

30. Weighted average rate of depreciation calculated, based on gross value of assets as on 31.3.2004, is 3.63% against the petitioner's claim of 3.65%. The petitioner has considered depreciation rate of 11.25% for 'other electrical

installations' and "satellite communication system" though the depreciation rates, specified as per 2004 regulations, are 3.6% and 6% respectively. Accordingly, the rates of depreciation of 3.6% and 6% have been adopted.

31. The cost of land in the present case is Rs.2188 lakh. The gross depreciable value of the generating station, excluding land cost, is 0.9 X (Rs. 255124 lakh- Rs 2188 lakh) =Rs. 227643 lakh. Cumulative depreciation and AAD recovered in tariff up to 31.3.2004, after adjusting the depreciation of Rs 6 lakh recovered on assets decapitalised and adding depreciation of Rs 662 lakh recovered on account of FERV for the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004, is Rs.32214 lakh. Remaining depreciable value as on 1.4.2004 is thus Rs.195429 lakh. The petitioner is entitled to recover depreciation of Rs 9264 lakh each year during 2004-09 on capital cost of Rs 255124 lakh.

ADVANCE AGAINST DEPRECIATION

32. As per sub-clause (b) of clause (ii) of regulation 21 of the 2004 regulations, in addition to allowable depreciation, the transmission licensee is entitled to Advance Against Depreciation, computed in the manner given hereunder:

AAD = Loan repayment amount as per regulation 56 (i) subject to a ceiling of 1/10th of loan amount as per regulation 54 minus depreciation as per schedule

33. It is provided that Advance Against Depreciation shall be permitted only if the cumulative repayment up to a particular year exceeds the cumulative depreciation up to that year. It is further provided that Advance Against Depreciation in a year shall be restricted to the extent of difference between cumulative repayment and cumulative depreciation up to that year.

34. The petitioner has claimed Advance Against Depreciation. In the following manner namely :

- (a) 1/10th of gross loan is worked out from the gross notional loan.
- (b) Cumulative loan as well as repayment of notional loan during the year has been considered.
- (c) Depreciation as claimed in the petition.

35. In our calculations, Advance Against Depreciation has been worked out in accordance with the following methodology, namely :

(a) 1/10th of gross loan is worked out from the gross notional loan.

- (b) Repayment of notional loan during the year as per para 26 above.
- (c) Depreciation as worked out in para 29 above.
- (d) Cumulative depreciation upto 31.3.2004 is worked out considering cumulative depreciation /AAD up to 2003-04 as per order dated 4.4.2005 and depreciation recovered on the additional capitalization on account of FERV, excluding the depreciation due to de-capitalisation of physical assets.
- (e) Cumulative depreciation for calculation of AAD is worked out considering depreciation up to the year of calculation.

36. Based on the above, the petitioner is entitled to Advance Against Depreciation, as shown hereunder :

				(Rs in lakh)	1
Advance against Depreciation	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1/10th of Loan(s)	17859	17859	17859	17859	17859
Scheduled Repayment of the Loan(s)	14545	15083	15774	16636	12434
Minimum of the above	14545	15083	15774	16636	12434
Depreciation during the year	9264	9264	9264	9264	9264
(A) Difference	5281	5819	6511	7373	3171
Cumulative Repayment of Loan	72052	87135	102909	119545	131980
Cumulative Depreciation/Advance Against					
Depreciation.	46759	61842	77616	94252	106687
(B) Difference	25293	25293	25293	25293	25293
Advance against Depreciation					
Minimum of (A) and (B)	5281	5819	6511	7373	3171

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

O&M EXPENSES

37. The 2004 regulations have prescribed the following O&M expense norms for a generating station with 500 MW units :

		(Rs.in lakh /MW)						
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09			
O&M expenses	9.36	9.73	10.12	10.52	10.95			

38. The petitioner has claimed O&M expenses as detailed below:

(Rs. in lakh)								
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09			
O&M Expenses	9360	9730	10120	10520	10950			

39. O&M expenses claimed by the petitioner are in order and are allowed.

40. In addition to the above, the petitioner has prayed for a specific deviation pertaining to water charges in O&M. The petitioner has submitted that in the past years, the State Governments have been resorting to manifold increase in the rates of water charges / royalty payable, which is not normally based on common commercial principles. Therefore, this increase cannot be covered under the normal O&M expenses allowed in the tariff. The petitioner has, therefore, submitted that any increase in the rates of water charges / royalty etc. by more than 4% per annum over the rates prevailing on 31.3.2004 should be additionally payable by the respondent beneficiaries.

41. The normative O&M expenses were finalized by the Commission after going through the transparent process of hearing and consulting all concerned and were based on the data furnished by the concerned utilities for different components of O&M, including water charges. Further, an escalation of 4% per year is inbuilt in the normative O&M expenses specified by the Commission. There may be other heads in O&M expenses where actual expenses may be less than the normative expenses

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

specified by the Commission. Therefore, we do not consider it to be justified to allow increase under one head, that is, water charges in isolation. As such, recovery of additional O&M expenses on account of any increase in the rates of water charges / royalty etc. during tariff period cannot be allowed. However, the petitioner is at liberty to approach the Commission in accordance with law for recovery of additional water charges with proper justification and details of actual expenses recovered under other heads, if State Governments resort to abnormal increase in the rates of water charges / royalty during the tariff period.

42. The petitioner has submitted that the wage revision of its employees is due with effect from 1.1.2007. Therefore, O &M expenses should be subject to revision on account of revision of employee cost from that date. In the alternative, it has been prayed that the increase in employee cost due to wage revision be allowed as per actuals for extra cost to be incurred consequent to wage revision. We are not expressing any view, as this issue does not arise for consideration at this stage. The petitioner may approach for a relief in this regard at an appropriate stage in accordance with law.

INTEREST ON WORKING CAPITAL

43. In accordance with clause (v) of Regulation 21 of the 2004 regulations, working capital in case of Coal based/Lignite-fired generating stations shall cover:

(i) Cost of coal or lignite for 1½ months for pit-head generating stations and two months for non-pit-head generating stations, corresponding to the target availability;

(ii) Cost of secondary fuel oil for two months corresponding to the target availability;

(iii) Operation and Maintenance expenses for one month;

(iv) Maintenance spares @ 1% of the historical cost escalated @ 6% per annum from the date of commercial operation; and

(v) Receivables equivalent to two months of fixed and variable charges for sale of electricity calculated on the target availability.

44. Under the 2004 regulations, the rate of interest on working capital shall be on a normative basis and shall be equal to the short-term Prime Lending Rate of State Bank of India as on 1.4.2004 or on 1st April of the year in which the generating station or a unit thereof is declared under commercial operation, whichever is later. Interest on working capital shall be payable on normative basis notwithstanding that the generating company has not taken working capital loan from any outside agency.

45. Working capital has been calculated considering the following elements:

(a) **Coal stock**: The petitioner in the amended petition has revised its claim for interest on working capital from July, 2004 onwards urging that the price of coal has increased w.e.f 15.6.2004. As per provisions of the 2004 regulations, interest on working capital has to be frozen as normative number at the beginning of the tariff period based on the price and GCV of the fuel applicable during preceding three months and prevailing applicable rate of interest and is not to be revised based on subsequent revision of the price of fuel or applicable rate of interest. As such, the plea of the petitioner to allow interest on working capital based on escalated fuel price w.e.f 15.6.2004 cannot be accepted. The coal stock has been worked out for 1.5 months on the basis of operational parameters given in the 2004 regulations and weighted average price and GCV of coal.

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

(b) Secondary Fuel Oil:. The petitioner has claimed cost of fuel in the working capital based on price and GCV of coal for preceding three months of January 2004 to March 2004 and based on the price and GCV of HFO for the months of October 2003 to December 2003 and HSD for the month of April 2003. Since HFO is the main secondary fuel oil, it is considered for the computation of working capital and base rate of energy charge.

Accordingly, the fuel component in working capital works out as follows for the tariff period 2004-09 :

⁽Rs in lakh)

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Cost of coal for 1.5 months	5672.10	5672.10	5672.10	5687.64	5672.10
Cost of secondary fuel oil for two months.	336.08	336.08	336.08	337.00	336.08

(c) **O&M Expenses:** O&M expenses for working capital has been worked out for 1 month of O&M expenses approved above and are considered in tariff of the respective year.

(d) **Spares:** The petitioner has calculated the value of maintenance spares for the purpose of working capital considering additional capital expenditure in respective year after the date of commercial operation. Starting with the 1% of historical cost as on commercial date of operation, the cost of maintenance spares for a particular year has been calculated by the petitioner, by escalating the previous year's cost by 6% plus 1% of the additional capital expenditure for that particular year. The amounts claimed by the petitioner for maintenance spares for interest on working capital calculation, are as given below :

_	(Rs.in lakh)					
Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Amount claimed	3199	3391	3595	3810	4039	

The 2004 regulations do not provide for taking into account additional capital expenditure for working out the cost of maintenance spares for the working capital. The cost of maintenance spares for the working capital has, therefore, been computed based on historical cost of Rs.238207 lakh, including initial spares of Rs 1984 lakh as on 1.10.2000 (closing date of financial year in which the generating station was declared under commercial operation). The value of the spares as on 1.4.2004 works out to Rs. 2982 lakh.

(e) **Receivables**: The receivables have been worked out on the basis of two months of fixed and variable charges. The supporting calculations in respect of receivables are tabulated hereunder:

				(Rs.in lakh)			
Variable Charges	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09		
Coal (Rs/kwh)	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000		
Oil (Rs/kwh)	0.0311	0.0311	0.0311	0.0311	0.0311		
Rs./kwh	0.7311	0.7311	0.7311	0.7311	0.7311		
Variable Charges per year	47393	47393	47393	47523	47393		
Variable Charges -2 months	7899	7899	7899	7921	7899		
Fixed Charges - 2 months	7466	7450	7457	7485	6673		
Receivables (Rs in lakh)	15365	15349	15356	15406	14572		

46. The average SBI PLR of 10.25% as on 1.4.2004 has been considered as the rate of interest on working capital during the tariff period 2004-05 to 2008-09.

47. The necessary details in support of calculation of interest on working capital are appended below:

004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
5672	5672	5672	5688	5672
336	336	336	337	336
780	811	843	877	913
	5672 336	5672 5672 336 336	5672 5672 5672 336 336 336	5672 5672 5672 5688 336 336 336 337

Calculation of Interest on Working Capital

C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Local Settings\Temp\order in petition 146-04.doc

Spares	2982	3161	3351	3552	3765
Recievables	15365	15349	15356	15406	14572
Total Working Capital	25135	25329	25558	25859	25257
Rate of Interest	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%	10.25%
Total Interest on Working capital	2576	2596	2620	2651	2589

ANNUAL FIXED CHARGES

48. A statement showing summary of the capital cost and other related matters is annexed to this order. The annual fixed charges for the period 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009 allowed in this order are summed up as below:

			(Rs. in lakh)					
	Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09		
1	Interest on Loan	7602	6578	5511	4386	3352		
2	Interest on Working Capital	2576	2596	2620	2651	2589		
3	Depreciation	9264	9264	9264	9264	9264		
4	Advance against Depreciation	5281	5819	6511	7373	3171		
5	Return on Equity	10715	10715	10715	10715	10715		
6	O & M Expenses	9360	9730	10120	10520	10950		
	TOTAL	44799	44702	44740	44908	40040		

ENERGY/VARIABLE CHARGES

49. The petitioner has claimed the rate of energy charge at 79.67 paise/kWh. However, the base rate of energy charge works out to be 73.11 paise/kWh as per the following computations :

Gross Station Heat Rate	kCal/kWh	2450.00
Specific Fuel Oil Consumption	ml/kWh	2.00
Aux. Energy Consumption	%	7.50
Weighted Average GCV of Oil	kCal/I	9726.67
Weighted Average GCV of Coal	kCal/Kg	4095.33
Weighted Average Price of Oil	Rs./KL	14386.91
Weighted Average Price of Coal	Rs./MT	1091.00
Rate of Energy Charge from Sec. Fuel Oil	Paise/kWh	2.88
Heat Contributed from SFO	kCal/kWh	19.45
Heat Contributed from Coal	kCal/kWh	2430.55
Specific Coal Consumption	Kg/kWh	0.59
Rate of Energy Charge from Coal	Paise/kWh	64.75
Rate of Energy Charge ex-bus per kWh Sent	Paise/kWh	73.11

50. The Base Energy Charges have been calculated on base value of GCV, base price of fuel and normative operating parameters as indicated in the above table and

are subject to fuel price adjustment. The notification dated 26.3.2004 provides for fuel price adjustment for variation in fuel price and GCV of fuels. Accordingly, the base energy charges approved shall be subject to adjustment. The formula applicable for fuel price adjustment shall be as given below: -

FPA = A + B

Where,

FPA – Fuel price Adjustment for a month in Paise/kWh Sent out

A – Fuel price adjustment for Secondary Fuel oil in Paise/kWh sent out

٦

B – Fuel price adjustment for Coal in Paise/kWh sent out

Α

$$B = ------ \left\{ (SHR_{n}) \quad (P_{cm}/K_{cm}) - (P_{cs}/K_{cs}) \right\} - (SFC_{n}) \left\{ (K_{om}xP_{cm}/K_{cm}) - (K_{os}xP_{cs}/K_{cs}) \right\}$$

Where,

SHR_n – Normative Gross Station Heat Rate in kCal/kWh

P_{om} – Weighted Average price of fuel oil on as consumed basis during the month in Rs./KL.

- K_{om} Weighted average GCV of fuel oils fired at boiler front for the month in Kcal/Litre
- P_{os} Base value of price of fuel oils as taken for determination of base energy charge in tariff order in Rs. / KL.
- K_{os} Base value of gross calorific value of fuel oils as taken for determination of base energy charge in tariff order in Kcal/Litre

- K_{cm} Weighted average gross calorific value of coal fired at boiler front for the month in Kcal/Kg
- Base value of price of coal as taken for determination of base energy P_{cs} charge in tariff order in Rs. /MT
- Base value of gross calorific value of coal as taken for determination of K_{cs} base energy charge in tariff order in kCal/Kg

IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL CAPITALISATION

51. In Petition No 154/2004, filed by the petitioner for approval of revised fixed charges for additional capitalization for the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004, the Commission has decided the additional capital expenditure of Rs 5522 lakh. The petitioner shall be entitled to recover a total amount of Rs.981.92 lakh (in five yearly installments of Rs.196.38 lakh) from the respondents, through tariff on account of return on equity and interest on loan on additional equity and loan on account of additional capitalisation on works for the period 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004 :

		(Rs. In la	akh)					
IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE								
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04					
1. Additional capitalisation during the year vide order	4009.4	1674.9	(-) 162.7					
dated 4.4.2005 in Petition No.154/2004								
2. Amount considered for Impact from 1st April of financial year	0	4009.4	5684.3					
following the financial year to which ACE relates.								
3. Equity - 30%	0	1202.82	1705.29					
4. Loan – 70%	0	2806.58	3979.01					
5. Actual Rate of Interest		7.59%	7.63%					
Rate of Return on Equity	16%	16%	16%					
ІМРАСТ								
(I) Interest on Loan	0	213.02	303.60					
(ii) Return on Equity	0	192.45	272.85					
		405.47	5576.44					
Total			981.92					

53. The petitioner vide its affidavit dated 28.2.2006 has submitted that the expenditure amounting to Rs 3,02,294/- has been incurred towards publication of notices in the newspapers and has sought approval for reimbursement of this expenditure. The petitioner shall claim reimbursement of the said expenditure directly 24

from the respondents in one installment in the ratio applicable for sharing of fixed charges, subject to the petitioner filing an affidavit before the Commission. The petitioner has also sought reimbursement of filing fee of Rs.25 lakh paid. A final view on reimbursement of filing fee is yet to be taken by the Commission for which views of the stakeholder have been called for. The view taken on consideration of the comments received shall apply in the present case as regards reimbursement of filing fee.

54. In addition to the charges approved above, the petitioner is entitled to recover other charges also like incentive, claim for reimbursement of Income-tax, other taxes, cess levied by a statutory authority, and other charges in accordance with the 2004 regulations, as applicable.

55. The petitioner is already billing the respondents on provisional basis in accordance with the Commission's interim directions. The provisional billing of tariff shall be adjusted in the light of final tariff now approved by us.

56. This order disposes of Petition No.146/2004.

Sd/-(A.H. JUNG) MEMBER Sd/-(BHANU BHUSHAN) MEMBER

New Delhi, dated the 21st August, 2006

			Sı	ummary She	eet		
Name of the Company			NTPC Ltd.				
	e of the Station		Vindhyachal STPS - II				
Tarrif setting Period			2004-09				
	ion No.		146/2004				
				-		Rs.in lakh	
1	Capital Cost of the F	Project as or	31.3.200)1			239211
-	Cumulative dep				001		0
2	Admitted Capital Cost as on 01.4.2004 for Calculation of Debt and Equity						255124
3	Additional Capitalisation(works)						5522
v	2001-02					4009.40	UULL
	2002-03					1674.90	
	2003-04					(-) 162.70	
	Total					5521.60	
4	Additional Capitalisation(FERV)						10392
-	2001-02				2843.00		
	2002-03					7539.00	
	2003-04					(-) 386.00	
	Addition of FERV	' due to				395.65	
	Normative loan						
	Total					10391.65	
5	Total Capital Cost as	s on 1.4.2004	4				255125
6	Means of Finance :						
	Debt 70.0	0%				178586.98	
	Equity 30.0	0%				76537.28	
	Total 100.0	00%				255124.25	
7	Debt details-Notiona	Debt details-Notional Debt (Net) as on 1.4.2004					
	Notional debt (Net) as on 01.04.2004						
	Notional Debt(Gross i.e.70% of 255125) 178586.98						
	Repayment upto 31.3.04					57507.00	
	Balance Debt					121079.98	
8	Weighted Av. Rate of interest-Calculated						
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09		
	6.68%	6.64%	6.58%	6.50%	6.34%		
9	Depreciation recovered upto 31.3.2009:						106687
				Dep	AAD	Total	
	Recovered upto 31.3.2001			0.00	0.00	0	
	1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004			26064.00		31558	
	1.4.2004 to 31.3.2009			46318	28154	74473	
	FERV Impact From 2001-04			662.00	0.00	662.00	
		Less- Depreciation earned due to			0.00	6.00	
	de-capitalisation of assets					100000	
	Total					106687	
10	Balance Depreciation to be recovered beyond 31.3.2009 :						120956
	Capital cost for the purpose of Depreciation 239211						
	ACE + FERV					15914	
	Capital cost as 1.4.2004 Less: Land Cost					255125	
	Less: Land Cost	·				2188	
	90% of Capital Cost as above					227643	
	Cum. Depreciation to be recovered upto			0 31 3 2000		106687	
	Balance			.0 31.3.2009		120956	
	Dalalice					120900	
