

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 217/MP/2011

Sub: Petition under Section 28 (e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with clause 1.5 of IEGC for establishment and maintenance of data and communication facilities by the USERS of the Northern Region in terms of clause 4.6.2 of IEGC, 2010 read with clause 5 (3) of the CEA (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) Regulations, 2007 to ensure availability of reliable real time data at NERLDC.

Date of hearing : 9.2.2012

Coram : Dr. Pramod Deo, Chairperson
Shri S.Jayaraman, Member
Shri V.S.Verma, Member
Shri M.Deena Dayalan, Member

Petitioner : North Eastern Regional Load Despatch Centre, New Delhi

Respondents : Chief General Manager (LDC), SLDC, APGCL, Kahilipar and others

Parties present : Shri T.S.Singh, NERLDC
Ms. Joyti Prasad, NRLDC
Shri R.K.Bansal, NRLDC
Shri S.K.Meena, NHPC
Shri Amrik Singh, NHPC
Shri C.Vinod, NHPC
Shri G.K.Das, SLDC, Assam
Shri H.H.Saran

Record of Proceedings

Through this application, the petitioner North Eastern Regional Load Despatch Centre has prayed to issue directions to all the respondents to establish and maintain the data telemetry and communication facilities in terms of the Indian Electricity Grid Code, and other Regulations issued by CERC from time to time and the Grid standard of Central Electricity Authority.

2. The representative of the petitioner submitted that the responses to the petition have been received from the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited, Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited and NHPC Limited. He requested the Commission to issue directions to all the users to improve their

data and voice communication systems to enable NERLDC to discharge its function of real time operation effectively and efficiently.

3. The representative of the Power Grid submitted that under the Unified Load Dispatch and Communication (ULDC) scheme, Power Grid has established the communication systems in North Eastern Region during 2002-04 with only six channel on wide band and rest on the microwave frequencies and mostly with the Power Line Carrier Communication (PLCC) systems. The existing PLCC need replacement as it cannot handle high bandwidth requirement for Wide Area Measurement System (WAMS). Most of the problems faced by the NERLDC have been rectified and remaining problems would be rectified by the end of February, 2012. The representative of the Power Grid further submitted that in addition to replacement of the microwave communication system, four additional wideband communication systems are proposed to be installed. NERPC in its 12th meeting held on 15.11.2011 has already approved the Fibre Optic based communication network comprising of around 1901 km of OPGW; however, the implementation is subject to availability of grant from Government of India.

4. The representative of NHPC Ltd. submitted that PLCC has been installed in the generating stations of NHPC. Out of the four transmission lines leaving the Loktak HPS line, two transmission lines are owned and maintained by Powergrid and these lines have PLCC. However, two transmission lines are owned and maintained by Government of Manipur. PLCC on these lines will be installed after receipt of grant-in-aid by Govt. of Manipur from Govt. of Delhi.

5. The representative of the petitioner further requested the Commission to direct the Power Grid to replace the microwave links, which were earlier part of the ULDC scheme, on priority basis by fibre optics. In response, the representative of the Power Grid submitted that most of the microwave links would be vacated by the month of March, 2012 and the work of installation of optic fibre would be completed within three months i.e. by June, 2012. However, implementation of the rest of scheme approved by NERPC requires funding by the users.

6. The representative of the petitioner submitted that as per the original ULDC scheme, 21 RTUs were installed by Power Grid in Assam and subsequently, 30 RTUs were installed by Assam and out of 21 RTUs, only 10 RTUs are in working conditions and these 21 RTUs are replaced at location vital for grid operations. The representative of the petitioner requested the Commission to direct the State of Assam to restore all 21 RTUs, out of 51 RTUs on priority basis since the maintenance of RTUs is within the purview of Assam. In response, the

representative of the SLDC, Assam submitted that STU has undertaken the expansion of SCADA system for which backbone communication chosen was PLCC. The project was awarded to M/s Areva and due to cabling problem some RTUs are not reporting which would be rectified by the month of May, 2012.

7. In response to Commission's query regarding time bound programme for implementation, the representative of the petitioner submitted that the Power Grid has committed to complete the project by the month of May, 2012 for optical fibre network for 600 km length and remaining 640 km OPWG is under the scope of AEGCL to be completed by the Month of April, 2013. Therefore, total 1060 km OPWG would be available for communication by the end of April 2013. The remaining feeder point communication system would be implemented through PLCC. He further submitted that the work has been awarded for AEGCL to LS cables system of Korea, who has already started the survey works along with the transmission lines.

8. After hearing representatives of the petitioner and respondents, the Commission directed the respondents to file their response, if already not submitted, on affidavit, latest by 10.5.2012 with advance copy to the petitioner.

9. Subject to above, Commission reserved the order.

By order of the Commission
Sd/-
(T. Rout)
Joint Chief (Law)