

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 265/MP/2017

Coram:

Shri A. K. Singhal, Member

Shri A. S. Bakshi, Member

Dr. M. K. Iyer, Member

Date of order: 2nd of January, 2018

In the matter of

Petition for seeking permission for extension of the period for injection of infirm power and drawal of start-up power for commissioning & testing including full load testing of second unit (Unit No.1) (300 MW) of (4x300 MW) Binjkote TPP of SKS Power Generation (Chhattisgarh) Limited, from 1.1.2018 to 31.3.2018

And in the matter of

SKS Power Generation (Chattisgarh) Limited
501B, Elegant Business Park,
Andheri- Kurla road, J.B. Nagar,
Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400 059

...Petitioner

Vs.

Power System Operation Corporation Limited
WRLDC, F3, MIDC Area,
Marol, Andheri (East),
Mumbai – 400 093

...Respondent

ORDER

This petition has been filed by the Petitioner, SKS Power Generation (Chhattisgarh) Limited, under 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 as amended from time to time (Connectivity Regulations) with the following prayers:

“(a) Condone the delay of 51 days in filing of the instant Petition;

(b) Grant extension of time to the Petitioner for interchange of power i.e. drawal of start-up power from the grid for synchronization and allow injection of infirm power for testing including full load trial operation of by Second Unit (Unit No.1) of the Binjkote TPP up to 31.03.2018 or achievement of COD, whichever is earlier; and

(c) Pass any such other order(s) as this Hon’ble Commission may deem fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case and in the interest of justice.”

2. The Petitioner is setting up a 1200 MW (4X300 MW) thermal power project (“the project”) at Villages Binjkote and Darramura of Kharsia Tehsil, Raigarh district in the State of Chhattisgarh.

3. The Commission vide its order dated 2.2.2017 in Petition No. 8/MP/2017 had allowed drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power from second unit (Unit No.1) of the project for testing including full load testing till 31.7.2017 or up to the declaration of commercial operation of the Unit No.1, whichever is earlier. Subsequently, the Commission vide order dated 31.7.2017 in Petition No. 147/MP/2017 had further allowed extension of time upto 31.12.2017 or actual date of Commercial Operation, whichever is earlier for injection of infirm power into the Grid for commissioning tests including full load test of Second Unit (Unit No.1). The Petitioner has submitted that COD of Second Unit (Unit No.1) could not be achieved due to the following reasons:

(a) The Petitioner vide emails dated 12.9.2017, 26.9.2017, 25.10.2017, 6.11.2017 and 28.11.2017 requested the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to be present on Binjkote TPP site for commissioning of important system like Generator Excitation, Turbine Governing and Control system, Generator Hydrogen & Stator



water cooling system etc. However, despite repetitive emails by the Petitioner, OEM Engineers from China could not reach the Binjkote TPP site at the requested time i.e. on 5.10.2017 due to various reasons including delay in grant of visa. Subsequently, AVR System Engineer (part of the team of OEM Engineers) finally arrived only on 3.12.2017. Therefore, the delay in arrival of the OEM Engineers has considerably delayed the schedule for synchronization of Second Unit (Unit No.1).

(b) On 6.12.2017, the rolling activities of the turbine for commissioning and oil synchronization were started. However, during rolling activities, vibrations in the turbine increased to the extent that turbine tripped due to inbuilt protective measures. Therefore, the commissioning activities and conduct investigation of the equipment was stopped immediately. However, the said rolling activity occurred in the presence of OEM Engineers and the faults/problems in the turbine are being investigated by the professionals of the Petitioner in association with the OEM Engineers whereas as on date, the OEM Engineers are working at the Binjkote TPP site for rectification of the problems/faults.

(c) On 6.11.2017, during erection and commissioning checks it was observed that Turbine Trip Valve ("TV1") of Second Unit (Unit-1) was not functioning as the spring inside the TV1 was faulty and a replacement from the OEM was requested. However, the spring of TV1 was received by the Petitioner after 3 weeks contributing to the delay in synchronization of Second Unit (Unit No.1).

(d) The delay in commissioning of Second Unit (Unit No.1) is attributable to delay in grant of Consent to Operate ("CTO") and Factory License. The Petitioner vide its



Application No. 522809 dated 7.9.2017, sought CTO for coal for Second Unit (Unit No.1). However, the Petitioner still awaits the CTO approval from the appropriate authorities as the coal synchronization and consequent declaration of COD cannot be achieved in absence of CTO approval on coal. Subsequently, on 16.10.2017, the Petitioner made an application to the Government of Chhattisgarh for Factory License which was issued on 21.11.2017 valid upto 31.12.2017. The Petitioner has applied for renewal of Factory license vide its application dated 27.11.2017.

4. The Petitioner has indicated the revised commissioning Schedule for Second Unit (Unit No.1) as under:

MILESTONE	Planned	Actual	Reasons for Delay
<u>Milestones</u>	<u>Second Unit (Unit No.1)</u>		
Chimney readiness	30.09.2016	15.10.2016	Commissioned
DCS charging	14.08.2016	12.08.2016	Commissioned
Production of qualified water from DM plant	20.08.2016	20.08.2016	Commissioned
Non-Drainable Hydro	10.02.2017	11.03.2017	Achieved
Boiler light-up	25.02.2017	28.03.2017	Achieved
Boiler chemical clean completion	16.04.2017	20.04.2017	Achieved
Turbine on barring gear	15.08.2017	30.08.2017	Achieved
Steam blowing completion	25.09.2017	22.09.2017	Achieved
Synchronization	22.10.2017	28.02.2018	MOP Shaft eccentricity and due to increased vibration, turbine tripped at the cut of vibration value. OEM is examining and trying to resolve the issue. It may take some more time as problem is being diagnosed. Expected date of Synchronization is expected to be 28.02.2018.
Coal System Commissioning	31.07.2017	30.11.2017	Due to delay in Commissioning of Stacker Reclaimer (M/s Elecon)
Ash Handling System Commissioning	31.10.2017	31.10.2017	Commissioned
COD	31.12.2017	31.03.2018	COD is to be achieved after full load operation and stabilization of two months. COD is expected by 31.03.2018.

5. The Petitioner vide affidavit dated 29.12.2017 has submitted that the First Unit (Unit No. 2) had achieved COD on 6.10.2017. It has also submitted that after obtaining No Objection Certificate from WRLDC, the First Unit (Unit No. 2) was operated from 13.10.2017 till 1.12.2017. However, the said unit is under shut down on account of damage of coal handling plant. The crusher has been inspected by OEM and materials for repair are under procurement. The Petitioner has submitted that it is unable to operate the commissioned First unit (Unit No.2) and therefore needs to draw start-up power for the on-going commissioning of Second Unit (Unit No. 1) from the grid.

6. The Petitioner vide affidavit dated 29.12.2017 has submitted that there has been a delay of 51 days in filing the present Petition. It has submitted that the same was caused due to reasons which were completely unforeseeable and beyond the control of the Petitioner. It has submitted that the Second Unit (Unit No.1) was intended to achieve COD by 31.12.2017 and therefore the need for the instant Petition could not have foreseen prior to the occurrence of the above circumstances. However, the Petitioner has submitted that the delay in filing the instant Petition is attributable to the following reasons:

(a) The Petitioner repetitively requested for the presence of the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) Engineers for commissioning of important system like Generator Excitation, Turbine Governing and Control system, Generator Hydrogen & Stator water cooling system etc. However, OEM Engineers from China could not reach the Binjkote TPP site at the requested time due to various reasons including delay in grant of visa which is beyond the control of the Petitioner.

(b) The Petitioner could not have foreseen the faults/ problems with the turbine which were observed during the rolling activity of the turbine on 6.11.2017. The Petitioner had to immediately stop the commissioning activities and conduct the investigation of the equipment due to faults/ problems in the turbine which are beyond the control of the Petitioner.

(c) The Petitioner found the spring inside the TV1 to be faulty and accordingly requested for a replacement from the OEM which caused delay in starting the synchronization activities.

(d) The delay in grant of CTO and Factory License is completely beyond the control of the Petitioner. The Petitioner has duly completed the formalities well in advance for seeking CTO and Factory License. However, despite regularly following up with the concerned authorities, there has been considerable delay in aforesaid permissions/ licenses which were unforeseeable and were beyond the control of the Petitioner.

Accordingly, the Petitioner has prayed that the delay in filing the Petition may be condoned.

7. We have considered the submissions. 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."

The above proviso in the Connectivity Regulations provides that the Petitioner can seek extension of the period for interchange of power on an application to be filed atleast two months in advance of the completion of the prescribed period. The Petitioner has submitted that it could not foresee the need for the present petition prior to the occurrence of certain circumstances like faults/problems with turbine which were observed during the rolling activities, delay in synchronization activities due to replacement of spring inside the faulty TV1 by the OEM, OEM Engineers from China not being able to reach the site due to delay in grant of Visas. Accordingly, the Petitioner has stated that these circumstances which were unforeseen caused delay in filing of the Petition and the same was beyond the control of the Petitioner. Only due to the occurrence of the events, it was constrained to file the present Petition seeking extension of time for drawal of infirm power and hence there has been a delay of 51 days. In consideration of the submissions of the Petitioner, we condone the delay of 51 days in filing the Petition for reasons which are apparently beyond the control of the Petitioner.

8. The Petitioner has submitted that it has made all efforts to ensure completion of the project within time granted by the Commission but could not succeed for reasons beyond its control. The Petitioner has submitted that due to delay in arrival of Chinese experts, high vibrations in turbines during rolling activities, delay in arrival of Turbine Trip Valve, delay in grant of Statutory approvals, like, Consent to Operate and Factory Licence, the synchronization and commercial operation of Second Unit (Unit No.1) could not be achieved. The Petitioner has further submitted that it is seeking extension of time for drawal



of startup power and injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of Second Unit (Unit No.1) of the project upto 31.3.2018 for *bona-fide* reasons. Considering the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner and in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in Para 7 above, we allow extension of time for injection of infirm power into the grid and drawal of start-up power for the grid for the commissioning tests including full load test of Second Unit (Unit No.1) up to 31.3.2018 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier.

9. With the above, the Petition No. 265/MP/2017 is disposed of.

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

Sd/-
(A. S. Bakshi)
Member

Sd/-
(A.K. Singhal)
Member

