

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No.527/MP/2020

Coram:

**Shri P.K. Pujari, Chairperson
Shri I. S. Jha, Member
Shri Arun Goyal, Member**

Date of order: 17th June, 2020

In the matter of:

Anticipated delay in the declaration of Commercial Operation Date of Unit II of the 2x500 MW NLCIL- Neyveli New Thermal Power Project (NNTPP).

And

In the matter of

Seeking Commission's permission to maintain status-quo for drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power under UI mechanism till declaration of Commercial Operation Date of Unit II or 30.9.2020, whichever is earlier.

And

In the matter of

NLC India Limited
No. 8, 1st Floor, Mayor Sathyamurthy Road,
FSD, Egmore Complex of FCI, Chetpet
Chennai-600 031.

.....Petitioner

Vs

1. The Member Secretary,
Southern Regional Power Committee
29, Race Course Cross Road, Bangalore – 560 009

2. Executive Director (SEF & CE)
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
'Saudamini', Plot No.-2, Sector-29,
Nr. IFFCO Chowk, Gurgaon-122 001, Haryana.

3. The General Manager (Commercial)
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
Southern Region Transmission System II,
Nr. RTO Driving Test Track,
Singnayakanahalli, Yelahanka-Dodaballapur Road,
Bangalore-560 064.

4. The General Manager



POSOCO, Southern Regional Load Despatch Centre,
29, Race Course Cross Road, Bangalore – 560 009.

5. The Chief Engineer/Planning
Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited
6th Floor, Eastern Wing, 144, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

6. The Chief Engineer/Corporate Planning TRAC
Kerala State Electricity Board,
8th Floor, Vidyuthi Bhavanam,
Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram-695 004.

7. The Director (Commercial)
State Power Purchase Co-ordination Committee,
Power Company of Karnataka Limited
Kaveri Bhavan, Bangalore- 560 009.

8. The Superintendent Engineer
Puducherry Electricity Department,
137, N.S.C Bose Road, Puducherry- 605 001.

9. The Chief Engineer/Commercial
Andhra Pradesh Power Co-ordination Committee
Vidyuth Soudha, 48-12-4/1, Elluru Road,
Gunadala, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh – 520 008.

10. The Chief Engineer/Commercial
Telangana State Power Co-ordination Committee
Vidyuth Soudha, Khairatabad, Hyderabad- 500 082.

.....**Respondents**

ORDER

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, NLC India Limited, seeking permission of the Commission for drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power into the grid up to 30.9.2020 or till declaration of commercial operation, whichever is earlier, in respect of Unit-II of 1000 MW (2x500 MW) Lignite based Neyveli New Thermal Power Project (hereinafter referred to as 'generating station' or 'Project') at Neyveli District in the State of Tamil Nadu 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.

2. The Petitioner has submitted that the generating station consists of two lignite fired units of 500 MW each (2x500 MW). Unit-I of the generating station has achieved COD on 28.12.2019.

3. The Commission in its order dated 20.3.2020 in Petition No. 242/MP/2020 had allowed injection of infirm power of Unit-II till 30.6.2020 or date of commissioning of the generating station, whichever is earlier. However, Unit-II could not be declared under commercial operation due to the following reasons:

“(a) After completion of hydro test activities, boiler of Unit-II was lighted up on 15.2.2020 and synchronised on 26.2.2020. The electrical tests were completed successfully and the unit was shut down on the same day. Further activities related to COD were under progress.

(b) During the course of activities for COD, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused entire India to be under lockdown from 25.3.2020 to 31.5.2020. The site activities of Unit-II have been hampered severely due to the movement of migrant workers from the site to their native places. Further, the specialized personnel involved in commissioning works could not come to site, as per the instructions received from their headquarters. Therefore, the balance works in Unit-II could not be completed since mobilizing of suitable skilled manpower is not possible.

(c) Unit-II is scheduled to be synchronised with grid for testing and trial operation on 10.8.2020 and COD is likely to be achieved on 19.9.2020.”

4. The Petitioner has submitted that the following works are simultaneously being carried out to achieve COD of Unit-II:

(a) Pending works in AHS;

(b) Pending erection and commissioning balance feeders and their lignite conveyor belt systems;

(c) Pending defect rectification in Mill 20 voith coupling. Voith specialist will visit in the plant before the end of July, 2020;

(d) Pending Mill 30 refractory dry out and balance erection completion; and



(e) Commissioning of balance systems and initial operation activities and the same are expected to be completed by August, 2020.

5. The Petitioner has submitted that the above mentioned problems encountered in commissioning of the Unit-II were unexpected and beyond the control of the Petitioner. The Petitioner has submitted that it is making all efforts to rectify the above defects and achieve COD of Unit-II by 19.9.2020.

6. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

7. We have considered the submission of the Petitioner. The Fourth and Fifth Provisos to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations 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.”

8. The Petitioner has submitted that it has made all efforts to ensure completion of activities of Unit-II of the generating station within stipulated time but could not succeed for reasons beyond its control. The Petitioner has submitted that due to COVID-19 pandemic, entire country was under lockdown for the period from 25.3.2020 to 31.5.2020. Therefore, the site activities of Unit-II have been hampered due to migration of migrant workers from the site to their native places. According to the Petitioner, since Cuddalore district in the State of Tamil Nadu has been identified as red zone, mobilization of materials and machineries is not possible at present and would take time .



9. The Petitioner has submitted that time is required beyond 30.6.2020 to complete the balance works and to carry out the operation of testing and commissioning including injection of infirm power into the grid.

10. Keeping in view the difficulties being faced by the Petitioner on account of COVID-19 pandemic with effect from 25.3.2020 and in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in Para 7 above, we allow the Petitioner to draw the start-up power and to inject the infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of Unit-II up to 30.9.2020 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. We expect the Petitioner to make all efforts to ensure the commercial operation of the Unit 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.

11 With the above, the Petition No. 527/MP/2020 is disposed of.

Sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member

sd/-
(I.S. Jha)
Member

sd/-
(P.K. Pujari)
Chairperson

