

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI**

**Petition No. 602/MP/2020**

**Coram:**

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

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

**Shri Arun Goyal, Member**

**Date of Order: 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

**In the matter of**

Petition under Regulation 8 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 for seeking permission to allow inter change of infirm power for balance activities and declaration of commercial operation of unit-II of Lara STPP (2X800 MW) from the grid beyond the extension period of six months from the date of its first synchronization, i.e. beyond 13.8.2020.

**And**

**In the matter of**

NTPC Limited,  
NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, Scope Complex,  
7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003

**...Petitioner**

**Vs.**

1. Chairman and Managing Director  
Power System Operation Corporation Limited  
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,  
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi -110016

2. Managing Director  
MPPMCL, Shakti Bhawan,  
Vidyut Nagar, Rampur  
Jabalpur-110003

3. Managing Director  
CSPDCL  
P.O.-Sundernagar  
Danganiya, Raipur-492013

4. Managing Director  
MSEDCL, Prakashgad,  
Bandra (East),

Mumbai-400051

5. Managing Director,  
GUVNL, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhawan,  
Race Course,  
Vadodara, Gujarat-390007

6. Superintending Engineer  
Electricity Department,  
Govt. of Goa, Vidyut Bhawan,  
Panaji, Goa-403001

7. Superintending Engineer  
Electricity Department,  
Administration of Daman and Diu,  
Daman-396210

8. Chief Engineer  
Electricity Department,  
Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli,  
Silvasa-396 230

...**Respondents**

### **ORDER**

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, NTPC Ltd. seeking permission of the Commission for interchange of infirm power including drawl of start-up power into the grid upto 13.2.2021 or till declaration of commercial operation of unit-II of 1600 MW (2x800 MW) Lara Super Thermal Power Project (hereinafter referred to as 'the generating station') at Raigarh District in the State of Chhattisgarh 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 'the Connectivity Regulations').

2. The Petitioner has submitted that Lara STPP consists of two units of 800 MW each. Unit-II of the generating station was first synchronized with the grid on

14.2.2020. However, unit-II could not be declared under commercial operation due to the following reasons:

(a) Delay due to Covid-19 pandemic: As a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the country, Government of India put the entire country under lock-down from 25.3.2020 to 31.5.2020 which affected all balance work of erection, commissioning and supplies of the generating station. During the said period, the workers/ labours left the site and there was complete demobilization of workers/ labours bringing the erection activities to the standstill.

(b) To implement lock-down, various measures were required to be taken across the country such as suspension of public transport services and hospitality services, closure of manufacturing units, work with minimum number of employees and work from home measures, etc.

(c) Although the Petitioner was permitted to resume work by Government of India granting relaxation in certain areas, the commissioning activities at site could not pick up the pace due to various restrictions imposed on the movement by various States/ districts/ local administration.

(d) Later on, the District Magistrate, Raigarh vide his order dated 25.7.2020 directed the industries not to call labours from the other States for next 30 days. Subsequently, the Petitioner also intimated its agencies not to bring labours to the site from outside the State.

(e) Commissioning activities in various areas including ash handling system and CW system, etc. got delayed. Further, delay in inspection and subsequent supply of AVR for TG package also got delayed from Switzerland on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. The Petitioner has submitted that due to reasons beyond its control, it could not declare commercial operation of the generating station. The Petitioner has requested to grant permission for injection of infirm power into the grid for testing including full load testing and trial run operation of Unit-II of the generating station beyond 13.8.2020 upto 13.2.2021 or the date of its commercial operation, whichever is earlier.

4. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

5. We have considered the submissions 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.”*

6. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of balance works and not for the purpose of trading in infirm power or otherwise derive any undue advantage. The Petitioner has submitted that due to Covid-19 pandemic, it was not able to complete testing including full load testing within the prescribed period from the date of first synchronization of unit-II of the generating station. The Petitioner has submitted that time is required beyond 13.8.2020 to complete the balance work 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 13.2.2021 or actual date of commercial operation of unit-II of the generating station, whichever is earlier.

7. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in Paragraph 2 above and in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in paragraph 5 above, we allow injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of unit-II upto 13.2.2021 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.

8. With the above, the Petition No. 602/MP/2020 is disposed of.

**Sd/-  
(Arun Goyal)  
Member**

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

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