

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
New Delhi

Petition No. 690/TT/2020

Subject	:	Petition for determination of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 tariff period for two assets under "Transmission System Strengthening in WR-NR Transmission Corridor for IPPs in Chhattisgarh".
Date of Hearing	:	29.10.2021
Coram	:	Shri P.K. Pujari, Chairperson Shri Arun Goyal, Member Shri I.S. Jha, Member Shri P. K. Singh, Member
Petitioner	:	Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
Respondents	:	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited and 31 others
Parties Present	:	Shri Manish Garg, Advocate, UPPCL Shri S.S. Raju, PGCIL Shri A.K. Verma, PGCIL Shri V.P. Rastogi, PGCIL Shri D.K. Biswal, PGCIL Shri Anindya Khare, MPPMCL

Record of Proceedings

Case was called out for virtual hearing.

2. The representative of the Petitioner made the following submissions:
 - a. The instant petition is filed for determination of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 period in respect of following two assets under "Transmission System Strengthening in WR-NR Transmission Corridor for IPPs in Chhattisgarh":

Asset-I: Pole-III (1500 MW) Extension of ± 800 kV Champa & Kuruchetra HVDC stations for up gradation of existing HVDC convertor stations from 3000 MW to 6000 MW and

Asset-II: Pole-IV (1500 MW) Extension of ± 800 kV Champa & Kuruchetra HVDC stations for up gradation of existing HVDC convertor stations from 3000 MW to 6000 MW.
 - b. The date of commercial operation (COD) of Asset-I and Asset-II was 5.10.2019 and 30.3.2020 respectively.



- c. The other asset, namely, 400 kV D/C Quad Kurukshetra-Jind Transmission Line (not covered in the instant petition) alongwith associated bays is a part of the instant transmission system and was put under commercial operation on 11.12.2017. The transmission tariff for the 2014-19 tariff period for the said asset was allowed *vide* order dated 19.11.2018 in Petition No. 58/TT/2018.
- d. The scope of the scheme was discussed and agreed in 17th meeting of WR constituents regarding LTOA application in WR/35th meeting of Standing Committee on Power System Planning in Western Region held on 3.1.2013. The scheme was also agreed by the Northern Region constituents in 31st Standing Committee meeting of Northern Region held on 2.1.2013. The scheme was also agreed to in the 22nd WRPC meeting held on 26.2.2013 and 31st NRPC meeting held on 24.7.2014.
- e. The LTA generators identified with the transmission scheme viz. Jayaswal Neco, KPCL and Sarda Energy Minerals Ltd. cancelled/ revoked the LTA and the generators SEI Sunshine and LARA (NTPC) were added in the project. The revised memo of parties, additional information, details of the current LTA/ generators' project status along with copy of the dispatch proof served on the Respondents is submitted in response to the technical validation letter *vide* affidavit dated 20.10.2021.
- f. The Investment Approval (IA) to the transmission system was accorded by Board of Directors of the Petitioner Company on 21.6.2014. The reasons and justification for time over-run of 564 days and 741 days in case of Asset-I and Asset-II respectively have been submitted. It is requested to condone the time over-run and approve transmission tariff from COD to 31.3.2024 for the instant assets.
- g. Rejoinder to the reply of MPPMCL has been filed *vide* affidavit dated 28.10.2021.

3. In response to the Commission's query regarding the LTA of generators, the Petitioner submitted that Lara-I (NTPC) and SEI Sunshine have signed the LTA agreements. However, LTA agreement has not been signed with Jayaswal Neco, KPCL and Sarda Energy Minerals Ltd. which were originally parties in the project. 1500 MW of NTPC and 90 MW of SEI Sunshine were commissioned prior to the commissioning of the instant assets and 90 MW, which was added later, is yet to be commissioned. Since the assets are being utilised by the generators, the Petitioner has prayed to allow the transmission tariff.

4. The representative of MPPMCL submitted that the reply in the matter has been filed *vide* affidavit dated 23.2.2021 and it may be considered.

5. The learned counsel for UPPCL submitted that the time over-run in respect of the assets from 28.11.2014 to 30.12.2014 may be condoned, whereas the time over-run from 30.12.2014 to 25.4.2015 may not be condoned since the Petitioner has not submitted the details of exact date of cheque distribution. It is further submitted that the software of existing Bipole-I was with standalone features, i.e., without parallel operation with Bipole-II (covered under the subject project). The software needs to be modified for making it compatible for parallel operation. Thus, it was clear to the Petitioner that the software was not compatible for parallel operation and accordingly, the time over-run was within the control of the Petitioner and cannot be condoned. He submitted that the delay due to the fault of the OEM manufacturer of 800 kV wall bushings should not be condoned as it does not fall under the provision related to uncontrollable factors as per the 2019 Tariff Regulations.



6. The learned counsel for UPPCL also prayed for grant of one week time to file reply in the matter.
7. After hearing the parties, the Commission directed the Respondents, including UPPCL, to file reply by 18.11.2021, with an advance copy to the Petitioner, who shall file its rejoinder if any, by 25.11.2021 and observed that no extension of time shall be granted.
8. Subject to the above, the Commission reserved order in the matter.

By order of the Commission

sd/-
(V. Sreenivas)
Deputy Chief (Law)

