

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 116/MP/2021

Coram:

Shri P.K.Pujari, Chairperson

Shri I.S.Jha, Member

Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Shri P.K.Singh, Member

Date of Order: 12th June, 2021

In the matter of

Petition 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.

And

In the matter of

Seeking Commission`s permission to allow interchange of power for testing including full load testing of trial run operation of Unit-II of Nabinagar STPS Stage-I (3X660 MW), beyond 31.5.2021.

And

In the matter of

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

...Petitioner

Vs.

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

2. Eastern Regional Load Dispatch Centre (ERLDC)
14, Golf Club Road, Tollygunge,
Kolkata-700 033

3. Eastern Regional Power Committee (ERPC)
14, Golf Club Road, Tollygunge,
Kolkata-700 033

4. North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited
Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna-800 001

5. South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited
Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna 800 001

6. Power Department,
Government of Sikkim,
Kazi Road, Ganktok,
Sikkim-737 101

7. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited
Shakti Bhawan,
14, Ashok Marg,
Lucknow – 226001

8. Jharkhand Bijlee Vitaran Nigam Limited
Engineering Building, HEC Township, Dhurwa,
Ranchi – 834 004

...Respondents

ORDER

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, Nabinagar Power Generating Company Limited, seeking permission of the Commission for injection of infirm power including drawl of start-up power into the grid upto 31.8.2021 or till declaration of commercial operation of Unit-II of 1980 MW (3X660 MW) Thermal Power Plant (hereinafter referred to as 'the generating station') at New Nabinagar district in the State of Bihar 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 the generating station consists of three units (3x660 MW). Unit-II of the generating station was first synchronized with the grid on 12.2.2020. The Commission in its order dated 4.3.2021 in Petition No. 38/MP/2021 had allowed injection of infirm power of Unit-II of the generating station up to 31.5.2021 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier.

However, Unit-II of the generating station could not be declared under commercial operation due to the following reasons as per the Petitioner:

(a) Since the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic beginning in March 2021, was much larger than the first wave, the Home Department, Government of Bihar put the entire State of Bihar under strict lockdown. During this period, the workers/ labour left the site and there was complete demobilization of workforce, bringing the balance activities to a standstill; and

(b) Number of employees & family members of the generating station and its associates got infected with Covid-19 pandemic which also affected the progress of the balance work. Certain employees/ associates have lost their life due to Covid-19 pandemic. Affected employees/ associates are still recovering and few of them are still hospitalised.

3. The Petitioner has submitted that due to reasons beyond its control, it could not declare commercial operation of the generating station. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that all efforts are being made to re-mobilize the resources to complete balance work progressively.

4. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

5. 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 all balance activities of Unit-II of the generating station are in advance stage of

completion for declaration of COD. However, due to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, it was not able to complete balance work within the time allowed by the Commission i.e. by 31.5.2021. The Petitioner has submitted that time is required beyond 31.5.2021 to complete the balance work and to carry out the operation of testing and commissioning including injection of infirm power into the grid. In view of these, the Petitioner has requested for permission to inject infirm power including drawl of start-up power into/ from the grid till 31.8.2021 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 31.8.2021 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. We expect the Petitioner to make all sincere efforts to ensure the commercial operation of the Unit-II of the generating station by this date.

8. It is, however, clarified that extension of time granted as above shall not automatically entitle the Petitioner for IEDC/IDC for delay in declaration of COD from the scheduled COD which will be decided in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tariff Regulations.

9. The Petition No. 116/MP/2021 is disposed of in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(P.K.Singh)
Member

sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member

sd/-
(I.S.Jha)
Member

sd/-
(P.K. Pujari)
Chairperson