

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 182/MP/2021

Coram:

Shri P.K.Pujari, Chairperson

Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Shri P.K.Singh, Member

Date of Order: 16th September, 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 seeking extension of time for interchange of power of Unit-I (660 MW) of Barh Super Thermal Power Station, Stage-I (3X660 MW) till 24.3.2022.

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. Eastern Regional Power Committee,
14, Golf Club Road,
Tollygunge, Kolkata, West Bengal-700 033.

2. Southern Regional Power Committee,
29, Race Course Cross Road,
Bangalore - 560 009.

3. Power System Operation Corporation Limited,
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai,
New Delhi-110 016.

4. North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited,
Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna-800 021.

5. South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited,
Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna-800 021.

6. Jharkhand Urja Vikas Nigam Limited,
Engineering Building, HEC Township,
Dhurwa, Ranchi-834 004.

7. GRIDCO Limited,
24th Janpath,
Bhubaneshwar-751 007.

8. Power Department,
Government of Sikkim,
Kazi Road, Gangtok,
Sikkim-737 101.

...Respondents

ORDER

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, NTPC Ltd., seeking permission of the Commission for interchange of power including drawl of start-up power and injection of infirm power into the grid up to 24.3.2022 for Unit-I of Stage-I of Barh Super Thermal Power Station (hereinafter referred to as 'the generating station') at Patna 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-I of Stage-I of the generating station was first synchronized with grid on 27.9.2020.

3. The Commission in its order dated 24.3.2021 in Petition No. 80/MP/2021 had allowed injection of infirm power of Unit-I of Stage-I of the generating station up to 25.9.2021 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. The

Petitioner has submitted that Unit-I was synchronized with grid during February 2021, March 2021 and April 2021. However, the unit could not be declared under commercial operation within given timeframe due to the following reasons:

(a) The commissioning activities were severely affected due to second wave of Covid 19 pandemic. Since there were many Covid-19 positive cases reported in Barh Project during the month of April 2021 to June 2021, the work area was often isolated and sensitization work was carried out as per the Guidelines issued by Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs and NTPC internal Guidelines which affected all activities in Project area.

(b) Due to second wave of covid-19 pandemic, the Petitioner is facing various difficulties in arranging mobilization of workforce for commissioning activities. Due to fear of spread of corona virus, the work force and labour do not turn up at site in required numbers.

4. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that delay in analysis and overcoming the same is due to non-availability of experts from OEM/ contractors due to travel restrictions, which is beyond the control of the Petitioner. It has been further submitted by the Petitioner that despite its best efforts, it is possible that the trial operation to establish stable and reliable operation at rated parameters, and subsequent COD of Unit-I may go beyond 25.9.2021 allowed by the Commission for injection of infirm power into the grid. 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-I of Stage-I of the generating station beyond 25.9.2021 up to 24.3.2022.

5. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

6. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner. The fourth and fifth provisos to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations provide 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.”

7. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of all regulatory requirements and not for the purpose of trading in infirm power or otherwise to derive any undue advantage. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that time is required beyond 25.9.2021 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 24.3.2022 of Stage-I of Unit-I of the generating station.

8. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 above and treating it as exceptional circumstances in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in paragraph 6 above, we allow injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of Unit-I up to 24.3.2022 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.

9. With the above, the Petition No. 182/MP/2021 is disposed of.

**Sd/-
(P.K.Singh)
Member**

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

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