

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 80/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: 24th March, 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) beyond six months from the date of initial synchronization.

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

...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 into the grid upto 25.9.2021 of 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. However, Unit-I could not be declared under commercial operation due to the following reasons:

“(a) Foreign travel restriction due to Covid-19 pandemic: Boiler of Stage-I, which technology is completely new to NTPC, has been designed by TKZ, Russia. Therefore, presence of technical experts were required during commissioning of various systems/auxiliaries and full load run up for fine tuning of control loops and smooth & safe operation of ST and TG along with auxiliaries. Since there was no bubble agreement/restrictions for international arrivals, the experts had to book India bound flights via Dubai, However, the bubble agreement provisions with Dubai does not allow other nationals to board India bound flights from Dubai. Since experts were required as post synchronization, abnormal rise in boiler water wall metal temperature was observed during operation. The issue was taken up with OEM at TKZ Russia and based on its recommendation various tests, such as thermal flow test of individual tubes and overheating analysis, etc. were carried out which took some time. After carrying out recommended jobs and modifications, first coal firing was successfully done in boiler. However, during raising operation of fuel firing into the boiler, the water wall metal temperature issue still persisted and technical experts are further analysing the same for resolution.

(b) Covid-19 positive cases in Barh STPS: Since there were many Covid-19 positive cases reported in Barh township till the month of December, 2020, 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.”

3. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that delay in analysis and overcoming the same is due to non-availability of experts from OEM due to international travel restrictions, which is beyond the control of the Petitioner. It has been further submitted by the Petitioner that despite best efforts, there could be a situation that the trial operation to establish stable and reliable operation at rated parameters, and subsequent COD of Unit-I may go beyond 26.3.2021. 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 Stage-I of the generating station beyond 26.3.2021 upto 25.9.2021.

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 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.”

6. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of all regulatory approvals and not for the purpose of trading in infirm power or otherwise derive any undue advantage. It has been submitted by the Petitioner that time is required beyond 26.3.2021 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 25.9.2021 of Stage-I of Unit-I of the generating station.

7. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3 above and treating it as exceptional circumstances 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-I upto 25.9.2021 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. 80/MP/2021 is disposed of.

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

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

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

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