

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 48/TL/2022

Subject : Application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2009 with respect to Transmission Licence to Powergrid Sikar Transmission Limited (Formerly, Sikar New Transmission Limited)

Petitioner : Powergrid Sikar Transmission Limited (PSTL)

Respondents : SBE Renewables Seventeen Private Limited and 8 Ors.

Petition No. 49/AT/2022

Subject : Application under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for adoption of Transmission charges with respect to the Transmission System being established by Powergrid Sikar Transmission Limited.

Petitioner : Powergrid Sikar Transmission Limited

Respondents : SBE Renewables Seventeen Private Limited and 8 Ors.

Petition No. 50/TL/2022

Subject : Application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2009 with respect to Transmission Licence to Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited (Formerly, Sikar-II Aligarh Transmission Limited)

Petitioner : Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited (PASTL)

Respondents : SBE Renewables Seventeen Private Limited and 5 Ors.

Petition No. 51/AT/2022

Subject : Application under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for adoption of Transmission charges with respect to the Transmission System being established by Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited.

Petitioner : Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited

Respondents : SBE Renewables Seventeen Private Limited and 5 Ors.

Date of Hearing : 24.3.2022



- Coram : Shri I. S. Jha, Member
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
Shri P. K. Singh, Member
- Parties Present : Shri M. G. Ramachandran, Sr. Advocate, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, PSTL & PASTL
Ms. Poorva Saigal, Advocate, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Ravi Nair, Advocate, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Nipun Dave, PSTL & PASTL
Shri V. C. Sekhar, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Burra Vamsi Rama, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Prashant Kumar, PSTL & PASTL
Ms. Supriya Singh, PSTL & PASTL
Shri Kashish Bhambhani, CTUIL
Shri Yatin Sharma, CTUIL
Shri Swapnil Verma, CTUIL
Shri Sidharth Sharma, CTUIL
Shri Ranjeet Singh Rajput, CTUIL
Shri Bhanu Prakash Pandey, CTUIL
Shri Akshayvat Kislay, CTUIL
Shri Neeraj Singh, PFCCL
Shri Manish Agrawal, PFCCL
Shri Harish Bhakuni, PFCCL
Shri Anubhav Kansal, PFCCL
Shri Kunal Kumar, PFCCL

Record of Proceedings

Cases were called out for virtual hearing.

2. Learned senior counsel for the Petitioners submitted that the present Petitions have been filed for grant of transmission licence and for adoption of transmission charges with respect to the transmission systems being established by the Petitioners. Learned senior counsel submitted that the Petitioners, Powergrid Sikar Transmission Limited and Powergrid Aligarh Sikar Transmission Limited are establishing 'Transmission System for evacuation of power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II Part-C' (In short, 'Part-C Transmission System') and 'Transmission System for evacuation of power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II Part-D' (In short, 'Part-D Transmission System'), respectively.
3. In response to the specific query of the Commission to CTUIL regarding scheme of the transmission systems, details of Connectivity/LTA applications received and status of renewable generation in the vicinity of these transmission systems, the representative of CTUIL made a brief presentation and mainly submitted the following:
- (a) Concerned transmission systems are part of Phase-II of the transmission systems for evacuation of power from Solar Energy Zones in the State of Rajasthan (8.1 GW). Part-C Transmission System *inter-alia* consists of Bhadla-II PS to Sikar-II 765 kV D/C line, establishment of 765/400 kV, 2x1500 MVA at Sikar-II, and Sikar-II to Neemrana 400 kV D/C line. Whereas, Part-D Transmission System *inter-alia* consists of Sikar-II to Aligarh 765 kV D/C line.

(b) These transmission systems are primarily for the purpose of evacuation of solar power from Bhadla II (with envisaged potential of 2.5 GW in Phase I and 1.05 GW in Phase II) and Fatehgarh II.

(c) As per the details collected from the generating projects for the Joint Co-ordination Committee meeting held in December, 2021 and next to be held by the end of the March, 2022, approximately 2.37 GW of renewable generation is coming up at Bhadla II PS having the Long-Term Access ('LTAs') with the Phase-II transmission system. About 200 MW generation is likely to come up in March, 2022 and about 1000 MW is likely to come up by another 3-4 months. For the purpose of evacuation of power from these generators, Part-C and Part-D Transmission Systems are essential.

(d) Although the generating stations that are coming up at Bhadla II are in potential area of Great Indian Bustard ('GIB'), none of them have as such reported any difficulties being faced in commissioning of their projects. The status of their projects including anticipated date of commissioning has been collected by CTUIL for the 21st JCC-NR meeting to be held by end of March, 2022.

(e) As of now, the generators have installed the bird diverters on their dedicated transmission lines and have further given an undertaking that they will abide by the outcome of application filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court in GIB Judgment.

(f) For the renewable projects that are coming up in March, 2022 or in near future at Bhadla II, the evacuation their power is presently envisaged on the basis of the existing margin in the Phase -I transmission systems.

(g) At Fatehgarh II, the LTAs have been granted for approximately 700 MW with Phase II transmission systems and the generation is expected to come up in next few months.

4. Learned senior counsel for the Petitioners further submitted as under:

(a) Part-D Transmission System does not fall within the GIB priority or potential area and consequently is not subject to measures prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 19.4.2021 in IA No. 85618 of 2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 in the case of M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ors. v. UoI and Ors. ('GIB Judgment')

(b) For Part-C Transmission System, the Committee constituted in terms of the GIB Judgment, vide its letter dated 13.1.2022, has recommended the overhead laying the transmission line with condition of installing bird diverters.

(c) Pursuant to the above, CTUIL vide its letter dated 11.3.2022 has recommended for grant of transmission licence to the Petitioners for executing the transmission systems under Section 15(4) of the Electricity Act, 2003. In the said letter, CTUIL has noted that the implementation of these projects/transmission systems shall facilitate the transfer of power from renewable energy generation proposed to be connected at Bhadla-II PS as well as Fatehgarh II PS and that Bhadla-II-Sikar-II-Aligarh 765 kV corridor will act as a major gateway for transfer of power outside of the State of Rajasthan to various beneficiaries.

(d) The Petitioners envisage completion of Part C and Part D Transmission Systems within a period of 15 months after grant of transmission licence and adoption of tariff.

(e) The Petitioner may be permitted to approach the Commission for seeking appropriate remedies with regard to impact of Change in Law and force majeure events after implementation of concerned transmission systems.

5. After hearing the learned senior counsel for the Petitioner and the representative of CTUIL, the Commission directed the CTUIL to submit the following information on affidavit within two weeks:

(a) Status of generation projects including Stage-II Connectivity and LTA grant under Phase-I Transmission System and status of transmission system under Phase-I;

(b) Status of generation projects including Stage-II Connectivity and LTA grant under Phase-II transmission system and status of transmission system under Phase-II;

(c) Status of Fatehgarh-II PS-Bhadla-II PS 765 kV D/c line (2nd) and clarify if Hon`ble Supreme Court Committee has been approached for Fatehgarh-II to Bhadla transmission line and status thereof; and

(d) Expected commissioning shown for generation projects under Phase-II is from March 2022 onwards. Whether the evacuation system is available for such projects or they may be stranded.

6. The Petitioner, PSTL was directed to file letter dated 10.9.2021 within a week vide which it approached the Committee constituted in terms of GIB Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

7. Subject to the above, the Commission reserved the order in the matters.

By order of the Commission

**Sd/-
(T.D. Pant)
Joint Chief (Law)**