

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No.208/MP/2022

Coram:

Shri I.S. Jha, Member

Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Shri P.K. Singh, Member

Date of Order: 4th August, 2022

In the matter of

Petition under Regulation 8 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 for seeking permission to allow drawal of start-up power for Unit-I (800 MW) of Telangana Ph-I (2X800 MW) from the grid till 15.2.2023.

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. Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO),

B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,

Katwaria Sarai,

New Delhi -110016.

2. Telangana State Northern Distribution Company Limited,

H.No.2-5-31/2, Vidyut Bhawan,

Nakkalagutta, Hanamkonda,

Warangal-506 001.

3. Telangana State Southern Distribution Company Limited,

Mint Compound, Corporate Office,

Hyderabad-500 063.

...Respondents

ORDER

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, NTPC Ltd. seeking permission of the Commission for drawal of start-up power up to 15.2.2023 or the date of its first

synchronization, whichever is earlier, for Unit-I of 1600 MW (2x800 MW) Telangana Super Thermal Power Station, Phase-I (Telangana STPS) at Joyti Nagar, district Peddapalli in the State of Telangana 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') as amended from time to time.

2. The Petitioner has submitted that Telangana STPS consists of two units of 800 MW each. The Commission in its order dated 2.2.2022 in Petition No. 34/MP/2022 had allowed the Petitioner to draw the start-up power from the grid till 15.8.2022 or the date of its first synchronization, whichever is earlier. The Petitioner has submitted that Unit-I was planned to be synchronized with the grid during 15.8.2022 for initial testing. However, due to the following reasons, Unit-I could not be synchronized:

(a) Second wave of Covid-19 pandemic: There were huge number of positive cases reported in the State of Telangana from April 2021 onwards. The work area in the Plant was often insolated and sanitization work was carried out as per the Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which affected all the ongoing activities in project area causing delay of commissioning activities.

(b) Third wave of Covid-19 panedmic: The third wave of corona virus again spread very rapidly in India. The contagious Omicron variant of Covid-19 was mainly responsible for the third wave which was although less severe than Delta variant. Moreover, the impact of fear created by the second wave of pandemic

was upto such extent that due to fear of third wave the skilled and unskilled as well as experts were hesitant to re-mobilize at the site.

(c) The Petitioner has submitted that during covid-19 pandemic, the workers left the site and there was complete demobilization of workers bringing the erection activities to the standstill. The Petitioner has submitted that various experts, who were required for commissioning activities, could not visit the site due to travel restrictions imposed by the Government of India.

3. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

4. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner. The relevant Provisos to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations, as amended from time to time, provide as under:

“(a) Drawal of start-up power shall not exceed 15 months prior to the expected date of first synchronization and 6 months after the date of first synchronization:

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.”

5. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of balance works and not to derive any undue advantage out of it. The Petitioner has submitted that due to Covid-19 pandemic, it could not synchronize the Unit-I of Phase-I of the Telangana STPS.

6. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in Paragraph 2 above and in terms of the provisos to Regulation 8(7) of

the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in paragraph 4 above, we consider them to be exceptional circumstances within the meaning of the regulations and are inclined to allow drawal of start-up power of Unit-I of the Telangana STPS up to 15.2.2023 or the date of its first synchronization, whichever is earlier. It is, however, clarified that the extension of time as allowed in this order shall not automatically entitle the Petitioner for IDC/IEDC for the period of delay in declaration of COD, which shall be considered on merit at the time of determination of tariff of the unit/ generating station.

7. With the above, the Petition No.208/MP/2022 is disposed of. Let a copy of the order be provided to POSOCO and SRLDC with a direction to keep grid security in consideration while granting permission to the Petitioner generator for drawal of start-up power.

Sd/-
(P.K. Singh)
Member

sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member

sd/-
(I.S. Jha)
Member