

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
New Delhi**

**Petition No. 15/TT/2023**

- Subject** : Petition for determination of transmission tariff for 2019-24 period in respect of Asset 1: Bypassing of 400 kV D/C Farakka-Kahalgaon (Ckt-3 & Ckt-4) and 400 kV S/C Farakka-Durgapur (Ckt-1 & Ckt-2) existing transmission line from NTPC, Farakka so as to form 400 kV D/C Kahalgaon - Durgapur along with upgraded bays at Durgapur Sub-station and Kahalgaon Sub-station (COD:2.1.2022), Asset 2: 01 number 500 MVA, 400/220 kV Transformer (4<sup>th</sup> ICT) along with 01 number 400 kV ICT bay (AIS) & 01 number 220 kV ICT bay (GIS) along with 220 kV Cable from ICT to GIS bay at Muzaffarpur (POWERGRID) 400/220 kV Sub-station (COD:8.4.2022) and Asset 3: LILO of both circuits of Kishanganj (POWERGRID)- Darbhanga (DMTCL) 400 kV D/C (Quad) Line at Saharsa New (POWERGRID) Sub-station along with associated 04 nos 400 kV Line Bays at Saharsa New (POWERGRID) Sub-station (COD:28.4.2022) under "Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-XXIII" in Eastern Region.
- Date of Hearing** : 30.10.2023
- Coram** : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson  
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
- Petitioner** : Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)
- Respondents** : Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited (BSPHCL) & 6 Others
- Parties Present** : Ms. Rohini Prasad, Advocate, BSPHCL  
Ms. Suchitra, PGCIL  
Shri Vivek Kumar Singh, PGCIL  
Shri Amit Yadav, PGCIL  
Shri B.B. Rath, PGCIL  
Ms. Ashita, PGCIL

**Record of Proceedings**

The instant petition has been filed for the determination of transmission tariff for the 2019-24 tariff block in respect of three assets under "Eastern Region Strengthening



Scheme-XXIII" in the Eastern Region.

2. The representative for the Petitioner made the following submissions:
  - a. The scheme was discussed in various Eastern Region Power Committee (ERPC) & TCC meetings and finally it was ratified in the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ERPC (Transmission Planning) held on 14.2.2020. IA of the project was accorded on 15.7.2020.
  - b. The petition covers the entire scope of the project and all the transmission assets have been put into commercial operation;
  - c. The CODs of the Asset-1, 2 and 3 are 2.1.2022, 8.4.2022 and 28.4.2022 respectively.
  - d. There is a time overrun of 206 days, 302 days and 322 days with respect to Asset-1, 2 and 3 respectively.
  - e. The total cost is within FR cost, and there is a cost overrun in the case of Asset-2.
  - f. Additional Capital Expenditure (ACE) is on account of balance and retention payment, and the same is within the original scope of the petition, up to the cut-off date. The Initial Spares (IS) claimed are within the norms under the 2019 Tariff Regulations.
  - g. In response to the technical validation letter, information has been filed vide affidavit dated 26.9.2023.
  
3. The learned counsel for the Respondent, BSPHCL, has submitted as follows:
  - a. Reply to the petition has been filed vide affidavit dated 17.10.2023. The Petitioner may be asked to clarify, whether the additional conditions, as set out in approval for energization for Asset-2 and 3 have been complied with or not.
  - b. The reasons for time overrun in view of the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be sustained as IA was accorded to the Petitioner by the Competent Authority on 11.7.2020 during the Covid-19 situation. Keeping Covid-19 situations in mind, the SCOD of the project was calculated.
  - c. For time over-run in respect of Asset-1, the Petitioner has submitted the letter of the year 2020 but claimed during 2021.
  - d. The time overrun claimed on account of Bihar Assembly Elections, 2020 with respect to Asset-2 and 3 are not liable to be condoned as the assembly elections were pre-announced events. Also, the reasons for time overrun pertaining to waterlogging and RoW are beyond COD.
  - e. The time overrun issue on account of the non-availability of 11/33 kV shutdown during stringing work cannot be sustained as the Petitioner did not give timely notice for availing the requisite shutdown. One short notice was given on 10.1.2022 for shutdown on 15.1.2022, and another short notice was given on 14.2.2022 for shutdown on 17.2.2022.
  - f. Further, the Petitioner may be directed to file all the supporting documents for condonation of time over-run claims.
  
4. After hearing the parties, the Commission directed the Petitioner, to submit the following on an affidavit by 20.11.2023, with an advance copy to the Respondents:



- a. Status of the project as on 25.3.2020 and 1.4.2021-in accordance with MoP letters dated 27.7.2020 and 12.6.2021 respectively.
- b. Percentage of work completed pre-Covid-19 and the activities impacted due to Covid-19.
- c. Details of cost variation and reasons for cost overrun.
- d. Supporting evidence for time overrun.

5. The Commission further directed the Respondents to file the reply on an affidavit by 4.12.2023 with an advance copy to the Petitioner and the Petitioner to file its rejoinder, if any, on an affidavit by 22.12.2023 with an advance copy to the Respondents.

6. The petition will be listed for final hearing on 27.12.2023.

**By order of the Commission**

sd/-  
(V. Sreenivas)  
Joint Chief (Law)

