

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 685/TT/2020

- Subject** : Petition for approval under Regulation 86 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 for determination of transmission tariff from anticipated COD to 31.3.2024 for \pm 800 kV 6000 MW Raigarh (HVDC Station)-Pugalur (HVDC Station) HVDC Link along with \pm 800 kV 1500 MW (Pole-I) HVDC terminals each at Raigarh (HVDC Station) & Pugalur (HVDC Station) under “HVDC Bipole link between Western Region (Raigarh, Chattisgarh) and Southern Region (Pugalur, Tamil Nadu)-North Trichur (Kerala)-Scheme 1: Raigarh-Pugalur 6000 MW HVDC System” in Southern Regional Grid.
- Date of Hearing** : 27.9.2023
- Coram** : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
Shri P.K. Singh, Member
- Petitioners** : Powergrid Corporation of India Limited
- Respondents** : Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited & Ors.
- Parties Present** : Ms. Swapna Seshadri, Advocate, PGCIL
Ms. Surbhi Gupta, Advocate, PGCIL
Shri Utkarsh Singh, Advocate, PGCIL
Ms. Suparna Srivastava, Advocate, CTUIL
Shri Tushar Mathur, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Divya Sharma, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Tejasvita Dhawan, Advocate, CTUIL
Shri S. Vallinayagam, Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri Apoorv Malhotra, Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri Aishwarya Mishra, Advocate, TANGEDCO
Shri Prabhas Bajaj, Advocate, KSEB
Shri Priyanshu Tyagi, Advocate, KSEB
Shri Vishrov Mukherjee, Advocate, Sembcorp Energy
Shri Yashaswi Kant, Advocate, Sembcorp Energy
Ms. Priyanka Vyas, Advocate, Sembcorp Energy
Shri Anup Jain, Advocate, MSEDCL



Shri Shubhranshu Padhi, Advocate, R. No. 12 to 15
Shri Joy Nirupam, Advocate, R. No. 12 to 15
Shri D. Abhinav Rao, Advocate, R. Nos. 9, 10 and 16
Shri Rahul Jajoo, Advocate, R. Nos. 9, 10 and 16
Shri Sidhant Kumar, Advocate, R. Nos. 7 & 8
Ms. Manyaa Chandok, Advocate, R. Nos. 7 & 8
Ms. Muskaan Gopal, Advocate, R. Nos. 7 & 8
Shri A. Naresh Kumar, PGCIL
Shri Mukesh Khanna, PGCIL
Shri Mohd. Mohsin, PGCIL
Shri Arjun Malhotra, PGCIL
Shri Zafrul Hasan, PGCIL
Shri Anil Kumar Meena, CTUIL
Shri Siddharth Sharma, CTUIL
Ms. Priyansi Jadiya, CTUIL
Dr. R. Kathiravan, TANGEDCO
Shri Gajendra Singh, NLDC
Shri Rahul Shukla, NLDC
Shri Debajyoti, NLDC

Record of Proceedings

The learned counsel for the Petitioner and the Respondents, CTUIL and SEMBCORP, and the representative of Grid Controller of India Limited (GCIL) made detailed submissions.

2. The learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the issues before the Commission on remand are (a) whether the transmission charges approved for the Raigarh-Pugalur-Trissur Transmission Line (RPTL) by the Commission vide order dated 29.9.2022 in Petition No.685/TT/2020 has to be reconsidered in view of the APTEL's judgement or is it final and (b) Whether RPTL has to be considered in the National Component under the Sharing Regulations. On the first issue, she submitted that no observations were made by APTEL in its judgement dated 18.7.2023 in respect of the tariff that has been determined by the Commission and therefore the tariff that was approved by the Commission is final and it is not required to be reopened. On the second issue, she submitted that the RPTL may be considered an asset of national and strategic importance and its transmission charges have to be shared by the beneficiaries of all the regions by including it in the "national component" under the Sharing Regulations.

3. In response to a query of the Commission, the representative of the Petitioner submitted that the RPTL is an inter-regional bi-directional bi-pole HVDC System and it is the only one of its kind in the country. She also submitted that at present it provides for the import of 6000 MW from WR to SR and the export of 3000 MW from SR to WR. Taking into consideration the increase in the RE generation in the SR, the Petitioner has already approached the OEM for increasing the capacity to export from SR to WR and it



can be increased from the present capacity of 3000 MW to 6000 MW with minimum changes and investment.

4. In this context, the learned counsel for TANGEDCO submitted that as per the OEM SIEMENS, with a minor change, the RPTL can be used for the export and import of 6000 MW from SR and he would submit the OEM's note in this regard.

5. In response to a query of the Commission, the learned counsel for the CTUIL submitted that taking into consideration the APTEL's judgement dated 18.7.2023 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court upholding the same, the RPTL may be considered as a National Component under the 2020 Sharing Regulations. In response to another query, she submitted that she would file a compilation of the judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the scope of remand.

6. The Commission directed the CTUIL to submit the following information on an affidavit by 4.10.2023 with an advance copy to the Respondents:

- a. In which timeframe did CTUIL decide to use the RPTL for the export of power from SR to WR? Did CTUIL consult the system studies for such reverse flow with beneficiaries of other regions?
- b. While CTU has recommended RPTL HVDC to be included in the National Component, which is a commercial issue, whether CTUIL has taken consent from other beneficiaries on all India basis? Does the nature of a transmission elements (NC/RC/TC/AC) also influence the planning process of Inter-State transmission Schemes?
- c. With the 50% reverse capacity of RPTL, is CTUIL recommending a full 100% under the National component or would it be limited to 50%?
- d. Reply to the following questions raised by MPPMCL in its reply:
 - i. At which stage of their development, how, why and by whom some of the other HVDC assets were included in the National Component? Was there any proposal at the time of inception of the RPTL line that its charges would be borne by all the regions, i.e. will be in the National Component?
- e. Details of other inter-regional bi-pole HVDC transmission systems in India and their capacity in forward and reverse direction.
- f. What will be the cost implication on other beneficiaries of India if all inter-regional bipole HVDC transmission systems are considered under the National component? In other words, what would be an additional burden to various regions other beneficiaries of India) in absolute terms, should a full 100% under the National Component be granted to this HVDC transmission system (RPTL)?



7. The Commission also directed NLDC to submit the following information on an affidavit by 4.10.2023, with an advance copy to the Respondents:

- a. How much energy (not power) was transmitted through the RPTL in the forward direction (WR to SR) and how much energy has flown in the backward direction (SR to WR) over the last two financial years?
- b. Month wise data of maximum quantum of power exported (in MW) viz a viz maximum quantum of power imported in any time block in a day from RPTL, for the period March 2023 to August 2023.

8. The Commission also directed CEA to file its reply/recommendations and/or to make its submissions in person on 4.10.2023 in view of observations of APTEL while remanding the matter.

9. The Commission directed the other Respondents to make their submission on 4.10.2023 and observed that no further opportunity will be given, as the matter has to be disposed of by 31.10.2023 as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

By order of the Commission

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

