

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**NEW DELHI**

**Petition No. 94/MP/2021**

- Subject** : Petition under Section 79(1)(f) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 111 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 seeking directions for installation of optical ground wire on the 400 kV Kurukshetra-Malerkotla Transmission Line established under the Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme XXXI(b).
- Date of Hearing** : 15.5.2023
- Coram** : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson  
Shri I. S. Jha, Member  
Shri A.K Goyal, Member  
Shri P.K Singh, Member
- Petitioner** : Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)
- Respondents** : Sekura NRSS XXXI(B) Transmission Limited (NTL) & Ors.
- Parties present** : Shri M. G. Ramachandran, Senior Advocate, STL  
Ms. Suparana Srivastava, Advocate, CTUIL  
Shri Tushar Mathur, Advocate, CTUIL  
Ms. Astha Jain, Advocate, CTUIL  
Shri Shubham Arya, Advocate, STL  
Ms. Shikha Sood Advocate, STL  
Ms. Reeha Singh, Advocate, STL  
Ms. Pallavi Maitra, Advocate R-7 to 12  
Shri Venkatesh, Advocate, NRSS XXXVI  
Shri Anand Singh Ubeja, Advocate, NRSS XXXVI  
Shri Mohit Mansharamani, Advocate, NRXX XXXVI  
Shri Hemant Singh, Advocate, WTPL  
Shri Chetan Garg, Advocate, WTPL  
Shri Swapnil Verma, CTUIL  
Shri Ranjeet S. Rajput, CTUIL  
Shri Priyansi Jadiya, CTUIL

**Record of Proceedings**

The present petition has been filed for directions to Respondent No.1, Sekura NRSS XXXI (B) Transmission Limited (Sekura), for installation of optical ground wire (OPGW) in place of the existing earth wire on the 400 kV Kurukshetra-Malerkotla Transmission Line established under the Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme XXXI(b) (NRSSS). The matter was earlier heard in detail on 25.6.2021 and 10.3.2022.



2. During the hearing on 25.6.2021, the Commission observed that the issues raised by CTUIL in the instant matter may arise in case of other TBCB projects and therefore, directed CTUIL to implead all the transmission licensees implementing transmission projects under the TBCB route and PGCIL in the matter so that all the Respondents could be heard and suitable directions could be issued in one order. Accordingly, CTUIL impleaded all the transmission licenses and PGCIL as Respondents in the matter.

3. Learned counsel for CTUIL informed that pursuant to the direction of the Commission given in the instant petition vide Record of Proceedings dated 10.3.2022, a meeting was held between CTUIL and ISTS transmission licensees on 8.5.2023, wherein it was recorded that in the earlier meeting held on 13.8.2021, between CTUIL and the transmission licensees, it was agreed by general consensus that unless otherwise requested, the work regarding installation of OPGW shall be awarded to the asset owner. She further informed that a meeting was also held on 13.3.2023, amongst CTUIL, Powergrid and Sekura pursuant to the directions of the Commission vide RoP dated 10.3.2022 to discuss OPGW installation on 400 kV D/C Malerkotla-Kurukshetra line owned and operated by Sekura wherein Sekura suggested that OPGW work should be awarded to them as additional work being change in the original transmission line scope and cost of the same shall be recovered by revision in their existing TBCB tariff. Learned counsel for the CTUIL submitted that the work shall be awarded in RTM mode and tariff of the same shall be determined by the Commission as per the applicable regulations.

4. Learned counsel for Respondent No.18/WTPL submitted that while passing order in present petition, the Commission may bear in mind that the matter in issue is of Communication System and to what extent the powers under the Electricity Act, 2003 can be used in allowing revenue or in approving or determining tariff of Communication System which is not part of the transmission. In response, learned counsel for the CTUIL submitted that the Communication System is part of the transmission system.

5. Learned counsel for Respondent Nos.7 to 12, sought two weeks' time to file Written Submissions. Learned counsel for CTUIL sought one week time to place on record the Minutes of Meeting dated 8.5.2023.

6. After hearing the parties, the Commission directed CTUIL to file the Minutes of Meeting on affidavit by 26.5.2023. The Commission further directed the parties to file their respective Written Submissions, if any, by 5.6.2023. The Commission also directed the parties to comply with the above directions within the timeline specified and observed that no extension of time shall be granted. It was agreed by the learned counsels that any further oral hearing is not required.

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

**By order of the Commission**

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

