

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 50/MP/2023

**Coram:
Shri I.S. Jha, Member
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
Shri P.K. Singh, Member**

Date of Order: 13th February, 2023

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-2 (800 MW) of Telangana Ph-I (2X800 MW) from the grid beyond the period of fifteen months (16.2.2023).

**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 beyond 16.2.2023 and up to 16.8.2023 or the date of its first synchronization, whichever is earlier, for Unit-2 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. Southern Regional Load Despatch Centre (SRLDC) has allowed drawal of start-up power for Unit-2 w.e.f. 16.11.2021 up to 16.2.2023.

3. The Petitioner has submitted that Unit-2 was planned to be synchronized with the grid during February 2022 for initial testing. However, due to the following reasons, Unit-2 could not be synchronized:

(a) Second wave of Covid-19 pandemic: Due to second wave of covid-19 pandemic, the commissioning activities were severely affected. Work area in the plant was often isolated due to huge number of covid-19 positive cases. Sanitization work was carried out as per the Guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from time to time which affected all ongoing activities in Project area.

(b) During covid-19 pandemic, the workers left the site and there was complete demobilization of workers bringing the erection activities to the standstill for eight months. 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 and fear of getting affected and associated difficulties.

(c) Work of the plant remain stopped from 27.5.2022 till 20.7.2022 due to non-availability of environmental clearance and NGT order.

(d) Unprecedented heavy rainfall and prolonged monsoon in the year 2022, severely affected project progress.

4. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking extension of time for drawal of start-up power for Unit-2 of Telangana STPS for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of the balance works and not to derive any undue advantage out of it.

5. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

6. 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:

“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.”

7. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of balance works. The Petitioner has submitted that due to Covid-19 pandemic, it could not synchronize the Unit-2 of Phase-I of the Telangana STPS. Considering these facts, the Petitioner has requested for permission for drawal of start-up power beyond the period of fifteen months from the date of start of drawal

i.e. beyond 16.2.2023 and up to 16.8.2023 or the date of first synchronization, whichever is earlier.

8. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in Paragraph 3 above and in terms of the provisos to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in paragraph 6 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-2 of the Telangana STPS up to 16.8.2023 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.

9. With the above, the Petition No. 50/MP/2023 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**