

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No.497/MP/2024 along with IA No.104/2024

- Subject : Petition under Section 79 (1)(c) and (f) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with applicable provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022 and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-Term Access and Medium-term Open Access in Inter-State Transmission and Related Matters) Regulations, 2009.
- Petitioner : THDC India Limited (THDCIL)
- Respondents : Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corp. Ltd. (UPPTCL) and Ors.
- Date of Hearing : **13.12.2024**
- Coram : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson
Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member
Shri Harish Dudani, Member
- Parties Present : Ms. Swapna Seshadri, Advocate, THDCIL
Shri Utkarsh Singh, Advocate, THDCIL
Ms. Sneha, Advocate, THDCIL
Shri Sunil Kanaujiya, NRLDC
Shri Gaurav Malviya, NRLDC
Shri Prashant Garg, NRLDC
Shri Gajendra Sinh, NLDC & NRLDC
Shri Alok Mishra, NLDC & NRLDC

Record of Proceedings

Learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the present Petition had been filed *inter alia* to find a solution to the issues being faced by the Petitioner in conducting the trial run and declaration of Commercial operation of 660 MW of its Khurja STPP (Unit 1), which is ready for evacuation of Power. Learned counsel mainly submitted as under:

- (a) The Petitioner is establishing a 1320 MW comprised of two units, each of 660 MW, Supercritical Thermal Power Station at Khurja in Bulandshahar District, Uttar Pradesh ("Khurja STPP"). UPPCL is allocated a 64.7% share of power from Petitioner's project.
- (b) As per the agreed arrangement between the Petitioner and Respondent No.5, UPPCL, the Petitioner will apply for the connectivity and LTA to other States except for the State of UP and construct the 400 kV Khurja STPP - Aligarh line. Whereas, Respondent No.1, UPPTCL was responsible for constructing the LILO of Aligarh-Shamli 400 kV D/c line ("the LILO") to evacuate the UP's share of power.
- (c) While the Petitioner's 400 kV Khurja STPP – Aligarh line has been ready and operational since June 2023, the LILO, which was to be constructed by UPPTCL, has been delayed and is expected to be ready only by 15.1.2025. This has completely jeopardized the trial run and commissioning activities of Unit 1 of Khurja STPP. The

trial operation of Unit 1 of Khurja STPP was expected to begin on 12.12.2024 with anticipated COD on 15.12.2024.

(d) The quantum of connectivity obtained by the Petitioner for Khurja STPP is 465.6 MW, being the quantum of power that would ultimately get evacuated through the ISTS network to other States except for the State of UP. However, due to the non-readiness of the UPPTCL's LILO, the Petitioner is not being permitted to conduct the trial run and the commissioning activities of Unit 1 of 660 MW capacity. NRLDC saying to restrict the trial run operation to 465.6 MW in view of the non-availability of the LILO.

(e) The delay in readiness of the LILO lies with UPPTCL and the Petitioner should not be made to suffer additional financial burden or operational setbacks for the factors beyond its control. Any financial implication/adjustment as a result of permitting the Petitioner to evacuate the UPPCL share of power through the Khurja STPP – Aligarh line till the availability of LILO can be considered in the tariff Petition to be filed by the Petitioner.

(f) In the above circumstances, the Petitioner is also pressing for interim direction to permit an interim arrangement for evacuation of the entire power to be generated from Unit 1 of Khurja STPP through Khurja STPP- Aligarh line and existing ISTS along with the consequential direction(s) to NRLDC/GCIL, as prayed for by the Petitioner.

2. The representative of the Respondent, NRLDC, submitted as per the extant GNA Regulations, Petitioner is not permitted to inject any additional power into the inter-State transmission system beyond its connectivity quantum of 465.6 MW. Also, the grant of T-GNA does not arise in this case beyond the connectivity quantum of 465.6 MW as per the extant regulations, and RLDCs are not empowered to give relaxation by allowing the Petitioner to permit the injection of quantum beyond its connectivity quantum, i.e., 465.6 MW.

3. In response to the specific query of the Commission regarding the availability of the capacity in the system for carrying out the trial run for the 660 MW, the representative of NRLDC fairly stated that there are constraints in the network. The Petitioner's plant is connected with the Aligarh S/s. Further, Aligarh S/s is also connected with various substations, including Sikar II S/s, and upon commissioning of the Bhadla II-Sikar II line, the RE generation from the Rajasthan is expected to flow towards Aligarh S/s and then the Aligarh-Greater Noida lines will get overloaded. The representative also added that since the Bhadla II-Sikar II line is expected to be ready within a week or so, the available margin needs to be reviewed, and the Petitioner can be allowed only on a weekly basis.

4. Further, in response to the specific query of the Commission that capacity for the 465.6 MW is already available in ISTS and only the additional margin of approximately 194.4 MW is required, the representative of the NRLDC submitted that till the commissioning of the Bhadla II-Sikar II line, there may not be any issue.

5. The learned counsel for the Petitioner stated that the Petitioner may be allowed to conduct the trial run and COD, and thereafter the Petitioner shall file an affidavit regarding how the power flow is happening thereafter.

6. After hearing the learned counsel for the Petitioner and the representative of the NRLDC and having regard to the facts & circumstances involved in the present Petition, the Commission ordered as under:

- (a) Admit and issue notice to the Respondents, subject to just exceptions;
- (b) The Respondents are to file their respective replies, if any, within two weeks with a copy to the Petitioner, who may file its rejoinder, if any, within two weeks thereafter.
- (c) The NRLDC shall allow the Petitioner to conduct the trial run in respect of the full capacity of Unit 1 of Khurja STPP considering capacity beyond 465.6 MW under T-GNA after verifying the available margin.
- (d) After achieving the successful trial run and declaration of COD as per the Grid Code, scheduling of power for the 465.5 MW may be allowed under the GNA (considering GNA is effective for 465.6 MW) and quantum upto 194.4 MW may be allowed to be scheduled under the T-GNA (depending on available margins to be assessed and allowed by NRLDC). For the T-GNA of quantum up to 194.4 MW, the Petitioner shall be required to obtain approval from the NRLDC in advance, which shall be considered and allowed by NRLDC based on the availability of margins. In case of congestion, the power scheduled under T-GNA shall be curtailed first prior to curtailing power under GNA, in terms of the provisions of the Grid Code. Since the entire issue has arisen due to the non-availability of the transmission system to be arranged by UPPCL, it is clarified that it shall be part of UP's share of power, which shall be scheduled under the T-GNA beyond 456.6 MW.
- (e) The above temporary arrangement for trial run and scheduling of power of the Petitioner under T-GNA shall be allowed only up to 31.1.2025. The Petitioner and UPPCL to coordinate with UPPTCL to expedite the commissioning of the LILO of the Aligarh-Shamli line at Khurja STPP to ensure that there are no constraints in the evacuation of power from the Khurja STPP.

5. UPPTCL is directed to provide on an affidavit within a week the current status of LILO of Aligarh-Shamli line at Khurja STPP and the expected date of commissioning.
6. CTUIL is directed to submit on an affidavit within a week the status of effectiveness of the GNA of the Petitioner for 465.6 MW.
7. The Petition will be listed for hearing on **13.1.2025**.

By order of the Commission
SD/-
(T.D. Pant)
Joint Chief (Law)