

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 360/MP/2024

- Subject : Petition under Section 79(1)(c) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulations 64 and 65 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 seeking amendment/modification in the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Communication System for Inter-State Transmission of Electricity) Regulations, 2017 and the Procedure on Centralized Supervision for Quick Fault Detection and Restoration of Communication System, Maintenance and Testing of ISTS Communication System” and Guidelines on Availability of Communication System” approved by the Commission vide orders dated 19.1.2024 in Petition No. L-1/210/216/CERC.
- Petitioner : Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)
- Respondents : National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) and Ors.
- Date of Hearing : **25.2.2025**
- Coram : Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson
Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member
Shri Harish Dudani, Member
Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member
- Parties Present : Ms. Suparna Srivastava, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Divya Sharma, Advocate, CTUIL
Shri Shaswat Dubey, Advocate, CTUIL
Ms. Nutan Mishra, CTUIL
Shri Rahul Shakya, CTUIL
Shri Sidharth Sharma, CTUIL
Shri Swapnil Verma, CTUIL
Shri Lashit Sharma, CTUIL
Shri Ankur Gulati, NLDC
Shri Alok Mishra, NLDC
Shri V C Shekar, PGCIL
Shri Ankur Gulati, PGCIL

Record of Proceedings

Learned counsel for the Petitioner, CTUIL, submitted the present Petition had been filed for issuing directions to amend, modify or issue the practice directions with respect to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Communication System for

inter-State transmission of electricity) Regulations, 2017 ('Communication System Regulations') and Procedures on "Centralized Supervision for Quick Fault Detection and Restoration of Communication System" and "Maintenance and Testing of ISTS Communication System" and also guidelines for "Availability of Communication System." Learned counsel further made detailed submissions in the matter, and by referring to the relevant provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Grid Code, and the Communication System Regulations, she submitted that under the extant regulatory framework, CTUIL is responsible for network planning and development of communication system, etc. and being the system planner, day to day operation and real-time supervision and monitoring or any such function does not fall under its purview. Learned counsel further pointed out that it is the NLDC and RLDCs, who are the repository of relevant data of real time operation of the grid, and therefore, the responsibility of collecting and submitting the availability of ISTS communication systems to RPC must vest with RLDCs and NLDC, who ought to discharge the said responsibility in coordination with Network Monitoring Team (NMT) in line with the Communication System Regulations.

2. The representative of the Respondent, NLDC, submitted that NLDC has already filed its reply in the matter, which may be considered. He further submitted that NLDC/RLDCs are only users of communication system set up by CTUIL/Powergrid and STUs and that communication network management is a specialized subject that requires a different domain expertise.

3. Considering the submissions made by the learned counsel for the Petitioner and the representative of the Respondent, NLDC, the Commission directed the Petitioner and Respondent/POWERGRID to confirm, along with supporting documents, on an affidavit within two weeks, to the effect that the manpower deployed for UNMS in respect of AMC contractor is already covered under the existing contract/AMC of the UNMS/CSMS project and no additional O&M charge shall be claimed against the same.

4. Subject to the above, the Commission reserved the matter for order.

By order of the Commission

Sd/-

(T.D. Pant)

Joint Chief (Law)