

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 456/TD/2025

Coram:

Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 14th August, 2025

In the matter of

Application under Section 15 (1) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Regulation 6 (1) of the CERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Trading Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2020 for grant of Category V licence for inter-State trading of electricity in all States and Union Territories of India.

And

In the matter of

Aayuda Energy Ventures LLP,
A-1/74 Ground Floor,
Panchsheel Enclave, South Delhi,
New Delhi -110017

....Petitioner

The following were present:

Ms. Shikha Ohri, Advocate, AEVLLP

Shri Kartik Sharma, Advocate, AEVLLP

ORDER

The Petitioner, Aayuda Energy Ventures LLP (a Limited Liability Partnership 'LLP') (hereinafter referred to as 'the Petitioner'), incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 read with Regulation 6(1) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for the grant of Trading Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "the Trading Licence Regulations") amended from time to time, for the grant of a Category 'V' trading licence

for inter-State trading in electricity in whole of India.

2. In accordance with sub-Section (2) of Section 15 of the Act read with Clause (4) of Regulation 6 of the Trading Licence Regulations, notices were published by the Petitioner on 17.4.2025 in the 'Business Standard' (Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Lucknow, Pune and Mumbai editions) and in "The Financial Express (Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune and Delhi editions). It has been submitted by the Petitioner that no objection has been received in response to the public notices.

3. In accordance with Regulation 3(3) of the Trading Licence Regulations, a person applying for a Category 'V' trading licence should have a net worth of Rs. Two crores and should have maintained a minimum current ratio and liquidity ratio of 1:1 as on the date of the Audited Special Balance Sheet accompanying the application. As per the Audited Balance Sheet submitted by the Petitioner as on 18.3.2025, the Petitioner possesses the required net worth, current ratio, and liquidity ratio for the grant of a Category 'V' trading licence. Accordingly, the Commission, vide order dated 19.7.2025, came to the conclusion that the Petitioner is *prima facie* qualified for the grant of a Category "V" licence for inter-State trading in electricity.

4. Based on the above consideration, the Commission, vide its order dated 19.7.2025, had proposed to grant a Category 'V' inter-State trading licence to the Petitioner. The relevant portions of the said order dated 19.7.2025 are extracted as under:

“13. In accordance with Clause (2) of Regulation 3 of the Trading Licence Regulations, the Petitioner should have at least one full-time professional with qualifications and experience in power system operation and commercial aspects of power transfer, finance, commerce, and accounts. With regard to full-time professionals, the Petitioner vide its affidavit dated 19.6.2025 has submitted that Mr. Rachit Kumar Agarwal, B. Tech in Electronics and Communication and MBA (Finance) is a CTO/Designated Partner of the Petitioner company and has 15 years of experience, including 12 years in Power Sector and experience of AI/tech driven energy portfolio management solutions, power trading, price forecasting, policies and regulations, Mr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal, B. Com, LLB, FCA, ACS, CA, and CS, is the Chairman of the Petitioner company and has 40 years of work experience in legal and regulatory risk assessment for trading transactions, policy advisory, distribution reforms, renewable integration, ARR filing, tariff orders, inter-state trading, and PXs operation, and Ms. Ishani Agarwal, BBA & MBA (HR), Chief Human Resources Officer/Partner of the Petitioner company has more than 15 years of work experience of organizational development, training, compliance for regulatory reporting, and performance initiatives in trading. Accordingly, as per the information submitted by the Petitioner, it fulfils the requirements of Clause (2) of Regulation 3 of the Trading Licence Regulations.

14. The Memorandum of Association authorizes the Petitioner company to engage in the transmission of electricity. The Petitioner, vide its affidavit dated 15.6.2025, has submitted that it will not carry out the transmission business without surrendering the trading licence, if granted by the Commission.

15. On consideration of the above facts, after a preliminary examination, we find that the Petitioner meets the requirements as specified in the Trading Licence Regulations for the grant of a Category 'V' trading licence. In view thereof, the Commission proposes to grant a Category 'V' trading licence to the Petitioner. We direct that a notice under Clause (a) of Sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be issued inviting further suggestions or objections to the proposal of the Commission.”

5. In line with the above-mentioned order dated 19.7.2025, notice under Clause (a) of sub-Section (5) of Section 15 of the Act was published in all editions of the Indian Express (English) and Dainik Bhaskar (Hindi) on 25.7.2025. No suggestions or objections have been received in response to the notice issued by the Commission.

6. The case was called out for the hearing on 7.8.2025. The learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that no objection had been received in response to the public notice

published by the Commission under sub-Section (5) of Section 15 of the Act. He further submitted that the Petitioner's company would comply with the requirements specified in the Trading Licence Regulations during the subsistence of the trading licence, i.e., till 25 years, if granted.

7. Clause (9) of Regulation 6 of the Trading Licence Regulations provides as under:

“(9) On consideration of further objections or suggestions received and the reply of the applicant thereto, if any, the Commission may grant the licence or reject the application, for reasons to be recorded in writing if the application does not confirm to the provisions of the Act, the rules or regulations or provisions of any other law for the time being in force:

Provided that no application shall be rejected, unless the applicant has been given an opportunity of being heard.”.

8. On consideration of the materials on record, we are satisfied that the Petitioner company meets the requirements of the Act and the Trading Licence Regulations for the grant of an inter-State trading licence for a Category 'V'. Accordingly, we direct that the Petitioner, Aayuda Energy Ventures LLP, be issued a Category 'V' licence for inter-State trading in electricity in the whole of India.

9. The grant of the trading licence to the Petitioner (hereinafter referred to as “the licensee”) is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions throughout the period of subsistence of the licence:

(a) The licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Act, the Rules, and the Regulations, particularly Trading Licence Regulations, orders, and directions issued by the Commission, from time to time, and any other law in force;

(b) The licensee shall comply with orders and directions issued by the Commission from time to time;

(c) The licensee shall not engage in the business of transmission of electricity during the period of subsistence of the trading licence, i.e., till 25 years;

(d) The licensee shall charge trading margin strictly in accordance with the Trading Licence Regulations, as amended from time to time;

(e) The licensee shall maintain the net worth, and current & liquidity ratio as prescribed in the Trading Licence Regulations at all times.

(f) The licensee shall continue to be governed by the qualifications and disqualifications specified in Chapter 2 of the Trading Licence Regulations during the subsistence of the licence;

(g) The licensee shall continue to abide by the terms and conditions of the licence specified in Chapter V of the Trading Licence Regulations, as amended from time to time;

(h) The licensee shall regularly pay the annual licence fee in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012, as amended from time to time or any subsequent enactment thereof;

(i) Non-compliance with the provisions of the Act, Rules, Regulations, and the provisions of the Trading Licence Regulations shall make the licence of the

Petitioner liable for revocation;

(j) If the licensee fails to undertake trading in electricity within a year from the date of the licence, the licence shall be liable for revocation in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Trading Licence Regulations; and

(k) The licensee shall submit all such reports or information as may be required under Trading Licence Regulations or any other regulations of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission as may be issued from time to time.

10. An extract of a copy of this order be sent to the Central Government (the Ministry of Power) and the Central Electricity Authority in terms of sub-Section (7) of Section 15 of the Act for their information and record.

11. Petition No. 456/TD/2025 is allowed in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Harish Dudani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson