

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 99/TL/2021

Coram:

Shri P.K. Pujari, Chairperson

Shri I. S. Jha, Member

Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Shri P. K. Singh, Member

Date of Order: 15th July, 2021

In the matter of

Application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2009 with respect to Transmission Licence to Bikaner-II Bhiwadi Transco Limited.

And

In the matter of

Bikaner-II Bhiwadi Transco Limited,
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 01.

.....**Petitioner**

Vs

1. Tata Power Green Energy Limited,
34, Sant Tukaram Road,
Carnac Bunder, Masjid Bunder (E),
Mumbai -400009.
2. Chief Executive Officer,
PFC Consulting Limited,
9th Floor, A-Wing, Statesman House,
Connaught Place,
New Delhi – 110001.
3. Chief Operating Officer, CTU Planning,
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.
Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector -29,
Gurugram-122001.

.....**Respondents**

Parties present:

1. Ms. Suparna Srivastava, Advocate, CTU
2. Shri B. Vamsi Rama Mohan, BBTL
3. Shri V. C. Sekhar, BBTL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Bikaner-II Bhiwadi Transco Limited, has filed the present Petition for grant of transmission licence under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as “the Transmission Licence Regulations”) to establish “Transmission System Strengthening Scheme for Evacuation of Power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II-Part F”, on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) consisting of the following elements:

Sr. No.	Name of the Transmission Element	Scheduled COD
1	Establishment of 400 kV switching station at Bikaner –II PS with 420kV (2x125 MVAR) bus reactor. 400 kV line bays – 4 numbers. 125 MVAR, 420 kV bus reactor - 2 numbers. 400 kV bus reactor bay – 2 numbers. 400 kV, 80MVAR line reactor on each circuit at Bikaner –II end of Bikaner –II – Khetri 400 kV 2xD/c Line – 4 numbers. Switching equipment for 400 kV switchable line reactor – 4 numbers. Future provisions: Space for 400/220 kV ICTs along with bays – 10 numbers. 400 kV line bays – 6 numbers. 220 kV line bays – 16 numbers. 420 kV reactors along with bays – 2 numbers. Suitable bus sectionaliser arrangement at 400 kV and 220 kV	18 Months from the effective date or June 2022, whichever is later
2	Bikaner-II PS – Khetri 400 kV 2xD/c line (Twin HTLS* on M/c Tower)	
3	1x80 MVAR Fixed Line reactor on each circuit at Khetri end of end of Bikaner –II – Khetri 400 kV 2xD/c Line - 4 numbers.	
4	4 number of 400 kV line bays at Khetri for Bikaner – II PS – Khetri 400kV 2xD/c line	

5	Khetri- Bhiwadi 400 kV D/c line (Twin HTLS)*	
6	2 number of 400 kV line bays at Khetri for Khetri - Bhiwadi 400kV D/c line	
7	2 number of 400 kV(GIS) line bays at Bhiwadi for Khetri- Bhiwadi 400 kV D/c line	
8	STATCOM at Bikaner-II S/s ± 300 MVAR, 2x125 MVAR MSC, 1x125 MVAR MSR	

*With minimum capacity of 2100 MVA on each circuit at nominal voltage.

Note:

- i. POWERGRID to provide space for 2 number of 400 kV bays at Bhiwadi substation.
 - ii. Developer of Khetri Substation to provide space for 4 number of 400 kV line bays without any charges & to provide space for 2 number of 400 kV line bays and 4 number of fixed line reactors (for Bikaner-II – Khetri 400 kV 2xD/c line at Khetri end) on chargeable basis.
2. Based on the competitive bidding carried out by PFC Consulting Limited (PFCCL) in its capacity as the Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) in accordance with the Guidelines issued by Ministry of Power, Government of India under Section 63 of the Act, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) emerged as the successful bidder with the lowest levelized transmission charges of Rs. 1404.86 million per annum. The Petitioner is a SPV formed by PGCIL for the purpose of execution of the Project.
3. The Commission after considering the application of the Petitioner in the light of the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, in its order dated 5.6.2021, *prima facie* proposed to grant transmission licence to the Petitioner. Relevant extract of order dated 5.6.2021 is extracted as under:

"17. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner, BPC and CTU. The proviso to Clause 2.4 of the RfP provides that "if for any reason attributable to the BPC, the said activities are not completed by the Selected Bidder within the above period of ten (10) days as mentioned in this clause, such period of 10 days shall be extended, on a day to day basis till the end of the Bid validity period". Though Lol was issued on 16.2.2021, BPC, vide its letter dated 25.3.2021, in terms of Clauses 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 of RfP extended the date up to 5.4.2021 for completion of all activities by the successful bidder. The selected bidder furnished the Contract Performance Guarantee to the Long-Term Transmission Customers of the Project for an amount of Rs. 891 million (Rs. 89.1 crore) on 26.3.2021 and has acquired hundred percent equity holding in the applicant company on 25.3.2021 after execution of the Share Purchase

Agreement. The TSP on behalf of the selected bidder filed the application for grant of transmission licence through e-portal on 5.4.2021. Considering the material on record, we are prima-facie of the view that the Petitioner satisfies the conditions for grant of inter-State transmission licence under Section 15 of the Act read with Transmission Licence Regulations for construction, operation and maintenance of the Transmission System as described in paragraph 1 of this order. We, therefore, direct that a public notice under clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be published to invite suggestions or objections to grant of transmission licence aforesaid. The objections or suggestions, if any, be filed by any person before the Commission, by 20.6.2021."

4. A public notice under Sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act was published on 12.6.2021 in all editions of the Hindustan Times (English) and Hindustan (Hindi). No suggestions/ objections have been received from the members of the public in response to the public notice.

5. The Petitioner, vide order dated 5.6.2021, was directed to file an affidavit to the effect that the execution of the transmission project shall not be delayed due to time taken in obtaining statutory clearances required under RfP and the Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) or adjudication of any claim of the Petitioner arising under the TSA. In response, the Petitioner vide its submission dated 6.7.2021 has submitted that the transmission project is being governed by the pre-signed TSA dated 16.10.2020 and all the terms of the TSA including Article 16 of the TSA are integral part of the TSA and are binding on the signatories of the agreement. The Petitioner has submitted that in terms of the TSA, it would implement the Project as per the provisions of the Article 16.4 of the TSA which is extracted as under:

"16.4. Parties to Perform Obligation: Notwithstanding the existence of any Dispute and difference referred to the Appropriate Commission or the Arbitration Tribunal as provided in Article 16.3 and save as the Appropriate Commission or the Arbitration Tribunal may otherwise direct by a final or interim order, the Parties hereto shall continue to perform their respective obligations (which are not in dispute) under this Agreement."

6. The Petitioner has submitted that any time over-run or cost over-run shall be claimed by the Petitioner in accordance with the applicable provisions of the TSA

read with the provisions of the Act, bidding documents and the Regulations of the Commission.

7. In the order dated 5.6.2021, the following provisions of the TSA with regard to quality control and workmanship were taken note of:

(a) As per Article 5.1.1 of the TSA, the TSP at its own cost and expense, shall be responsible for designing, constructing, erecting, completing and commissioning each element of the Project by Scheduled COD in accordance with the various regulations of the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) Article 5.4 of the TSA provides that the TSP shall ensure that the Project is designed, built and completed in a good workmanlike manner using sound engineering and construction practices and using only materials and equipment that are new and of international utility grade quality such that the useful life of the Project will be till the expiry date.

(c) The design, construction and testing of all equipment, facilities, components and systems of the project shall be in accordance with Indian Standards and Codes issued by Bureau of India Standards.

8. Accordingly, the Petitioner was directed to submit information with regard to quality control mechanism available or to be put in place to ensure compliance of the requirements stipulated in Article 5.1.1 and Article 5.4 of the TSA.

9. The Petitioner, vide its submission dated 6.7.2021, has submitted that in terms of the TSA, it would implement the Project as per the provisions of the Article 5 of the TSA dealing with construction of the Project. The Petitioner has submitted that the provisions of the TSA including those related to quality control during construction of the Project are binding on the parties. The Petitioner has pointed out

that it is a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and follows the same quality standards and practices as are being followed by PGCIL.

10. Case was called out for virtual hearing on 13.7.2021 through video conferencing. It was submitted by the representative of the Petitioner that as per order dated 5.6.2021, the Petitioner has submitted the information called for. Learned counsel for CTU submitted that CTU vide its letter dated 3.5.2021 has recommended for grant of transmission licence to the Petitioner which has been taken on record by the Commission vide its order dated 5.6.2021.

11. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner and CTU. In the TSA, there is provision for the lead LTTC to designate up to three employees for inspection of the progress of the Project. Further, the Petitioner is required to give a monthly progress report to the lead LTTC and the CEA about the Project and its execution. The TSA also vests responsibility in the CEA to carry out random inspection of the Project as and when deemed necessary. We consider it necessary that CEA devises a mechanism for random inspection of the Project every three months to ensure that the Project is not only being executed as per the schedule, but the quality of equipment and workmanship of the Project conform to the Technical Standards and Grid Standards notified by CEA and IS Specifications. In case of slippage in execution of the Project within the timeline specified in the TSA or any non-conformance to the Grid Standards/ Technical Standards/ IS Specifications, CEA should promptly bring the same to the notice of the Commission so that appropriate direction can be issued to the licensee for compliance.

12. CTU through its recommendation for grant of transmission licence to the Petitioner has placed documents on record regarding compliance of Regulations 9.1 and 9.2 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Planning, Coordination and Development of Economic and Efficient Inter-State Transmission System by Central Transmission Utility and other related matters) Regulations, 2018.

13. As regards grant of transmission licence, Clauses (15) and (16) of Regulation 7 of Transmission Licence Regulations provide as under:

“(15) The Commission may after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice as aforesaid, grant licence as nearly as practicable in Form-III attached to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application if such application is not in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the rules or regulations made thereunder or any other law for the time being in force or for any other valid reason.

(16) The Commission may, before granting licence or rejecting the application, provide an opportunity of hearing to the applicant, the Central Transmission Utility, the long-term customers, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other person:

Provided further that the applicant shall always be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before rejecting the application.”

14. In our order dated 5.6.2021, we had proposed to grant transmission licence to the Petitioner company and directed for issue of public notice. In response to the public notice, no suggestions/ objections have been received. CTU in its letter dated 3.5.2021 has recommended for grant of transmission licence to the Petitioner. We are satisfied that the Petitioner company meets the requirements of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations for grant of transmission licence for the subject Transmission System mentioned at paragraph 1 of this order. Accordingly, we direct that transmission licence be granted to the Petitioner, Bikaner-II Bhiwadi Transco

Limited, to establish “Transmission System Strengthening Scheme for Evacuation of Power from Solar Energy Zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase II-Part F”, on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain basis as per the details given in paragraph 1 above.

15. The grant of transmission licence to the Petitioner (hereinafter referred to as ‘the licensee’) is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions throughout the period of licence:

(a) The transmission licence shall, unless revoked earlier, remain in force for a period of 25 years from the date of issue;

(b) The transmission licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Transmission Licence Regulations or any subsequent enactment thereof and the terms and condition of the TSA during the period of subsistence of the licence.

(c) Since the expiry date as per the TSA is 35 years from the scheduled COD of the Project, the licensee may make an application, two years before the expiry of initial licence period, for grant of licence for another term in accordance with Regulation 13(2) of the Transmission Licence Regulations which shall be considered by the Commission in accordance with law;

(d) The licensee shall not enter into any contract for or otherwise engage in the business of trading in electricity during the period of subsistence of the transmission licence;

(e) The licensee shall have the liability to pay the license 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. Delay in payment or non-payment of licence fee or a part thereof for a period exceeding sixty days shall be construed as breach of the terms and conditions of the licence;

(f) The licensee shall comply with the directions of the National Load Despatch Centre under Section 26 of the Act, or the Regional Load Despatch Centre under sub-section (3) of Section 28 or sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Act, as may be issued from time to time for maintaining the availability of the transmission system;

(g) The licensee shall remain bound by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of inter-State transmission licensees) Regulations, 2012 or subsequent enactment thereof;

(h) The licensee shall provide non-discriminatory open access to its Transmission System for use by any other licensee, including a distribution licensee or an electricity trader, or generating company or any other person in accordance with the Act; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008; 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; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2010, as amended from time to time or any subsequent re-enactments thereof;

(i) The licensee shall not undertake any other business for optimum utilization of the Transmission System without prior intimation to the Commission and shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Revenue Derived from Utilization of Transmission Assets for other business) Regulations, 2020;

(j) The licensee shall remain bound by provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020 as amended from time to time;

(k) The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Act, the rules and regulations framed thereunder, in particular the Transmission Licence

Regulations, the Grid Code, the Standards specified by the Central Electricity Authority, orders and directions of the Commission issued from time to time;

(l) The licensee shall ensure execution of the Project within timeline specified in the Schedule 3 of the TSA and as per the Technical Standards and Grid Standards of CEA prescribed in Article 5.1.1 and Article 5.4 of the TSA;

(m) The licensee shall as far as practicable coordinate with the licensee (including deemed licensee) executing the upstream or downstream transmission projects and the Central Electricity Authority for ensuring execution of the Project in a matching timeline; and

(n) The licensee shall submit all such report or information as may be required under Transmission Licence Regulations, Standard of Performance Regulations, Transmission Service Agreement or any other regulation of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission as may be issued from time to time.

16. Central Electricity Authority shall monitor the execution of the Project and bring to the notice of the Commission any lapse on the part of the licensee to meet the schedule for further appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations.

17. Let an extract copy of this order be sent to CEA for information and necessary action.

18. Petition No. 99/TL/2021 is allowed in terms of the above.

Sd/-
(P.K. Singh)
Member

sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member

sd/-
(I.S. Jha)
Member

sd-
(P.K. Pujari)
Chairperson