

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 28/MP/2024

Coram:

**Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson
Shri Arun Goyal, Member
Shri P.K. Singh, Member**

Date of Order: 5th February, 2024

In the matter of

Petition under Regulation 19 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023 for seeking permission to allow drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power to the grid for Unit-2 (800 MW) of Telangana Ph-I (2X800 MW) from the grid beyond the period of 16.8.2023 till 22.8.2024.

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,
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 Limited seeking permission of the Commission for drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power beyond 16.2.2024 and up to 22.8.2024 or the date of its first synchronization, whichever is

earlier, for Unit-2 of a 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 Regulation 19 of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Grid Code') as amended from time to time. The Petitioner has made the following prayers:

“(a) Allow the drawl of startup power and injection of infirm power to grid for Unit-2(800 MW) of Telangana STPS Ph-I (2X800MW) for one year from the date of first synchronization till 22.8.2024 as per the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023 Chapter-5, commissioning and commercial operation code Regulation 19.

(b) Pass any other order as it may deem fit in the circumstances mentioned in the Petition.”

2. The Petitioner has submitted that the Telangana STPS consists of two units of 800 MW each. The Commission, vide its order dated 12.8.2023, in Petition No. 231/MP/2023, had allowed the Petitioner to draw start-up power from the grid till 16.2.2024, or the date of its first synchronization, whichever is earlier. The Petitioner has submitted that Unit-2 was first synchronized with the grid on 23.8.2023 and was planned to be declared commercial operation by 31.1.2024. However, during the course of the commissioning, the Unit encountered several difficulties, despite the best efforts to achieve the commercial operation of Unit-2 within the allowed time. The Petitioner has submitted that there is a possibility of delay due to the following reasons:

(a) Due to the second wave of covid-19 pandemic, the commissioning activities were severely affected. There were huge numbers of positive cases reported in the State of Telangana from April, 2021 onwards. Work area in the plant was often isolated due to the huge number of covid-19 positive cases. Sanitization work was carried out as per the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, from time to time, which affected all ongoing activities in the Project area.

(b) During the covid-19 pandemic, the workers left the site, and there was a complete demobilization of workers, bringing the erection activities to the standstill for eight months. Various experts who were required for the commissioning activities could not visit the site due to the travel restrictions imposed by the Government and fear of getting affected and also associated difficulties. The erection activities of Unit-2 were at a standstill for the eight months.

(c) Disruption in the supply chain lead to delay in erection activities. Supply of items related to the erection activities got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and sequential activities had to be on hold. Several manufacturing firms had delayed their products.

(d) Manpower demobilization and delay in re-mobilization and the retention of manpower in following the quarantine requirements and pandemic control measures have led to the subsequent delayed in erection and commissioning activities. Due to the above reasons, the work progress was affected during the period beyond 16.8.2023.

(e) Heavy rainfall and prolonged monsoon delayed the Ferro-cement works. Heavy rainfall from the months of May to September, in the preceding years of 2020-21 and 2021-22 led to partial stoppage of the work on various occasions.

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

4. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

5. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner. Regulation 13 of the GNA Regulations provides as under:

“13. Injection of infirm power and drawal of start- up power: Connectivity grantee shall be eligible to inject infirm power and draw start up power in accordance with the provisions of the Grid Code.”.

6. Regulation 19 (2) and 19 (3) of the Grid Code provides as under:

“19. Drawal of start-up power and injection of infirm power (1) A unit of a generating station including unit of a captive generating plant that has been granted connectivity to the inter-State Transmission System in accordance with GNA Regulations shall be allowed to inter-change power with the grid during the commissioning period, including testing and full load testing before the COD, after obtaining prior permission of the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre:

Provided that the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre while granting such permission shall keep grid security in view.

(2) The period for which such inter-change shall be allowed shall be as follows:
(a) Drawal of start-up power shall not exceed 15 months prior to the expected date of first synchronization and one year after the date of first synchronization; and

(b) Injection of infirm power shall not exceed one year from the date of first synchronization.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (2) of this Regulation, the Commission may allow extension of the period for inter-change of power beyond the stipulated period on an application made by the generating station at least two months in advance of the completion of the stipulated period.”

7. The Petitioner has submitted that it has made all efforts to ensure the completion of activities of the units of the generating station within the stipulated time but could not succeed for reasons beyond its control. The Petitioner has submitted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and heavy rainfall during the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, it could not synchronize Unit-2 of the Telangana STPS within the time.

Considering these facts, the Petitioner has requested permission for drawal of start-

up power and injection of infirm power to the grid for the Unit-2 beyond 16.2.2024 and up to 22.8.2024.

8. We have considered the submissions and the difficulties stated by the Petitioner as quoted in paragraph 2 above. In the given facts and circumstances, we are inclined to invoke our power under the provision of Regulation 19 (3) of the Grid Code. In the exercise of the power, we hereby allow the drawl of start-up power and injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests, including full load testing of the unit-2 of the generating station up to 22.8.2024. The Petitioner is hereby directed to make all possible efforts to commission the Unit-2 by August 2024 as submitted. It is, however, clarified that the extension of time granted as above shall not automatically entitle the Petitioner for IEDC/IDC for the delay in declaration of COD from the scheduled COD, which shall be decided separately in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tariff Regulations. Let an extract copy of the order be provided to the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre, which will, while granting such permission keep the grid security in view.

9. With these observations, the Petition No. 28/MP/2024 is disposed of.

**Sd/-
(P.K. Singh)
Member**

**sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member**

**sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson**