

**Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
New Delhi**

Petition No. 76/MP/2013

Coram:

Shri V.S.Verma, Member

Shri M. Deena Dayalan, Member

Date of Hearing: 9.7.2013

Date of Order: 15.10.2013

In the matter of

Application for extension of period for testing including full load testing, and subsequent injection of infirm power by Gas Turbine No.3 and its associated waste heat recovery unit of Pragati-III Combined Cycle Gas Based Power Station (1371 MW) beyond six months from its first synchronization.

And in the matter of

Pragati Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi

.....**Petitioner**

Parties present:

Shri Rajesh Chattarwal, PPCL
Shri K.K.Yadav, PPCL

ORDER

The petitioner, Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) has filed this petition praying for the following relief(s):

- (a) To inject infirm power into the grid from Gas Turbine # 3 of Block-2 beyond a period of six months for testing of STG and associated auxiliaries as per requirement;*
- (b) To allow additions/alterations/changes/modification to the application at a future date;*
- (c) To allow any other relief and /or pass any other order as Hon'ble Commission may deem fit and appropriate under the circumstances of the case; and*
- (d) Condone any inadvertent omissions/errors/differences/shortcomings.*
- (e) Pass any other order as it may deem fit in the circumstances mentioned above.*

2. PPCL is an undertaking of the Government of Delhi and is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. PPCL is setting up a 1371 MW Combined Cycle Gas Based Power



Station, named as Pragati-III (hereinafter referred to as 'the Project') at Bawana. The project comprises of 2 power blocks of 685.6 MW each (referred to as Block 1,2) with a combined capacity of 1371.2 MW. Each power block comprises two advance class Gas Turbines (GT), one Steam Turbine and Generators connected in multi shaft configuration. The Gas Turbines are Advance Class 9FA+e of GE make, having better operating efficiency and lower NOx emissions. The petitioner has also filed petition (Petition No. 257/2010) for determination of tariff of the project for the period from the date of commercial operation (COD) of unit/block to 31.3.2014 and the Commission vide its order dated 25.5.2012 had granted provisional tariff for GT-1 with Associated Waste Heat Recovery Unit and ST-1 in combined cycle mode for a capacity of 342.80 MW.

3. The details of the first synchronization and commercial operation of Block-1 of the project as submitted by the petitioner is as under:

Description	Date of first synchronisation	Date of commercial operation
Gas Turbine No.1	11.10.2010	27.12.2011
Gas Turbine No.1 with Associated Waste Heat Recovery Unit	3.10.2011	1.4.2012
Gas Turbine No.2	9.2.2011	16.7.2012
Gas Turbine No.2 with Associated Waste Heat Recovery Unit	3.10.2011	14.12.2012

4. The petitioner has submitted that GT#3 of Block-2 of the project has been test synchronized on 26.6.2012 in open cycle mode. It has also submitted that the unit could not be put under commercial operation because of delay in commissioning activities of its associated units and availability of gas. The petitioner has further submitted that GT#3 will be required to run on various modes viz FSNL and at various loads to conduct various activities related to commissioning of HRSG #3 and STG #2 and these activities include alkali boil out, steam blowing and running of Steam Turbine as well. It has submitted that the tentative programme of the commissioning activities of HRSG #3 will start from second fortnight of April, 2013 and the testing of GT#3 along with its auxiliaries will further require the commissioning of other activities for full load operation. The petitioner has pointed out that

the commissioning activities of GT and its Auxiliaries are interlinked and cannot be done in isolation and it is the normal industry practice to test synchronize the GT independently and other activities work of Waste Heat Recovery Unit, Steam Turbine Generator (STG) and Auxiliaries go parallel before synchronizing STG. The petitioner has further submitted that once the machine is put under commercial operation after demonstrating the maximum continuous rating (MCR) or the installed capacity then it is not possible commercially to operate the machine including starts/ stops/ part load as per the commissioning schedule of the Auxiliaries. The petitioner has also submitted that tariff of the project is determined by the Hon'ble Commission in accordance with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2009 wherein any revenue earned by the generating company from sale of infirm power after accounting for the fuel expenses shall be applied for reduction in capital cost. Accordingly, it has been submitted that there is no gain to the company in willful delaying the declaration of commercial operation of above project. It is further submitted that GT#3 has not injected any power in the grid after initial commissioning of unit in the month of June, 2012. Hence, the present petition has been filed by the petitioner in terms of 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, (Connectivity Regulations) as amended on 21.3.2012, with the prayers as mentioned in para 1 above.

5. The matter was heard on 9.7.2013. During the hearing, the representative of the petitioner reiterated the submissions made in the petition and prayed that the relief sought for may be granted. However, the Commission directed the petitioner to file the PERT chart indicating the completion schedule of the remaining activities required to be completed before the declaration of commercial operation of GT module. Accordingly, order in the petition was reserved.

6. In compliance with the above directions, the petitioner vide its affidavit dated 23.8.2013

has filed the PERT chart of the remaining activities required to be completed before the declaration of commercial operation of GT#3 of Block-2 of the project. In addition to the submissions made earlier, the petitioner has submitted that the circumstances mentioned are exceptional and are beyond the control of the petitioner.

7. Heard the petitioner and examined the documents available on record. Clause (7) of Regulation 8 of the Connectivity Regulations, amended on 21.3.2012 provides as under:

“(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause(6) of this regulation and any provision with regard to sale of infirm power in the PPA, a unit of a generating station, including a captive generating plant which has been granted connectivity to the grid shall be allowed to inject infirm power into the grid during testing including full load testing before its COD for a period not exceeding six months from the date of first synchronization after obtaining prior permission of the concerned Regional Load Despatch Centre:

Provided that the Commission may allow extension of the period of testing including full load testing, and consequent injection of infirm power by the unit, beyond six months, in exceptional circumstances on an application made by the generating company at least two months in advance of completion of six month period:

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

Provided also that the onus of proving that the injection of infirm power from the unit(s) of the generating station is for the purpose of testing and commissioning shall lie with the generating company and the respective RLDC shall seek such information on each occasion of injection of power before COD. For this, the generator shall provide RLDC sufficient details of the specific testing and commissioning activity, its duration and intended injection etc.

Provided also that the infirm power so injected shall be treated as Unscheduled Interchange of the unit(s) of the generating station and the generator shall be paid for such injection of infirm power in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Unscheduled Regulations, 2009 as amended from time to time.”

8. In terms of the above, the six month period from the date of first synchronization (26.6.2012) of GT#3 of Block-2 of the Project had expired on 26.12.2012. The petitioner during the hearing had submitted that complete Block-2 would be declared under commercial operation by October, 2013 and accordingly prayed that extension of time for injection of infirm power up to 30.10.2013 may be granted by the Commission.

9. Taking into consideration the submissions of the petitioner and the documents available on record, we notice that there has been delay in the declaration of commercial operation of GT #3 of Block-II of the project beyond six months from the date of first synchronization due to the delay in commissioning activities of its associated units i.e GT Auxiliaries, which in our view, cannot be done in isolation of GT and availability of gas. In view of this, we allow the extension of time for injection of infirm power into the grid for the purpose of commissioning tests including full load test up to the COD or 30.10.2013, whichever is earlier. However, the extension of time granted for injection of infirm power into the grid by the petitioner shall not entitle the petitioner for any increase in IDC and IEDC, due to delay in declaration of COD from the schedule COD or any other benefits/relaxation of availability or efficiency norms.

10. Petition No. 76/MP/2013 is accordingly disposed of at the admission stage.

Sd/-
[M. Deena Dayalan]
Member

Sd/-
[V.S. Verma]
Member