

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 615/MP/2020

Coram:

Shri P.K.Pujari, Chairperson

Shri I.S.Jha, Member

Shri Arun Goyal, Member

Date of Order: 28th August, 2020

In the matter of

Petition under Regulation 8 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 for seeking permission to allow inter-change of infirm power for balance activities and declaration of commercial operation of unit-II of Meja TPS Stage-I (2X660 MW) from the grid beyond the extension period of six months from the date of its first synchronization, i.e. beyond 17.9.2020.

And

In the matter of

Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited
NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, Scope Complex,
7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. Chairman and Managing Director
Power System Operation Corporation Limited
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area,
Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi -110016
2. Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre
18-A, Shaheed Jeet Singh Sansanwal Marg,
Katwaria Sarai,
New Delhi-110 016
3. Uttar Pradesh State Load Despatch Centre
Phase-II, Vibhuti Khand,
Lucknow-226 001, Uttar Pradesh
4. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.
Shakti Bhawan, 14, Ashok Marg,
Lucknow-226 001. U.P.
5. Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited
(On behalf of Rajasthan Distribution Companies)
Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath,

Jaipur-302 005, Rajasthan

6. Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
The Mall, PSEB Head Office,
Patiala-147 001, Punjab

7. Power Development Department
Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir,
Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

8. Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd.
Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road,
Dehradun-248 001.

9. Electricity Department, Chandigarh
Union Territory of Chandigarh,
Addl. Office Building,
Sector-9 D, Chandigarh.

...Respondents

ORDER

This Petition has been filed by the Petitioner, Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited, a joint venture company of NTPC Ltd. and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Utpadan Nigam Limited seeking permission of the Commission for interchange of infirm power including drawl of start-up power into the grid upto 17.3.2021 or till declaration of commercial operation of unit-II Stage-I of 1320 MW (2x660 MW) Meja Super Thermal Power Project (hereinafter referred to as 'the generating station') in Allahabad District in the State of Uttar Pradesh in terms of clause (7) of Regulation 8 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 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Connectivity Regulations').

2. The Petitioner has submitted that Meja STPP consists of two units of 660 MW each. Unit-I of the generating station has already been declared under commercial operation w.e.f. 30.4.2019. Unit-II was first synchronized with the grid on 18.3.2020.

However, it could not be declared under commercial operation due to the following reasons:

(a) Delay due to Covid-19 pandemic: As a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic in the country, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India put the entire country under lock-down from 25.3.2020 to 31.5.2020 which affected all balance work of erection, commissioning and supplies of the generating station. During the said period, the workers/ labours left the site and there was complete demobilization of workers/ labours bringing the erection activities to the standstill.

(b) To implement lock-down, various measures were required to be taken across the country such as suspension of public transport services and hospitality services, closure of manufacturing units, working with minimum number of employees and work from home measures, etc.

(c) Commissioning activities in various areas including boiler, cooling tower, coal handling plant ash handling plant, electrical works, C&I works and civil construction, etc. have been affected on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. The Petitioner has submitted that due to reasons beyond its control, it could not declare commercial operation of the generating station. The Petitioner has requested to grant permission for injection of infirm power into the grid for testing including full load testing and trial run operation of unit-II of Stage-I of the generating station beyond 17.9.2020 upto 17.3.2021 or the date of its commercial operation, whichever is earlier.

4. The Petition is admitted by circulation.

5. We have considered the submissions of the Petitioner. The fourth and fifth provisos to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations provides as under:

“Provided that the Commission may in exceptional circumstances, allow extension of the period for inter-change of power beyond the period as prescribed in this clause, on an application made by the generating station at least two months in advance of completion of the prescribed period:

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

6. The Petitioner has submitted that it is seeking extension of time for *bona-fide* reasons for completion of balance works and not for the purpose of trading in infirm power or otherwise derive any undue advantage. The Petitioner has submitted that due

to Covid-19 pandemic, it was not able to complete testing including full load testing within the prescribed period from the date of first synchronization of unit-II of the generating station. The Petitioner has submitted that time is required beyond 17.9.2020 to complete the balance work and to carry out the operation of testing and commissioning including injection of infirm power into the grid. Considering these facts, the Petitioner has requested for permission to inject infirm power till 17.3.2021 or actual date of commercial operation of unit-II of Stage-I of the generating station, whichever is earlier.

7. Taking into consideration the difficulties expressed by the Petitioner as mentioned in Paragraph 2 above and in terms of the proviso to Regulation 8(7) of the Connectivity Regulations as quoted in paragraph 5 above, we allow injection of infirm power into the grid for commissioning tests including full load test of unit-II Stage-I upto 17.3.2021 or actual date of commercial operation, whichever is earlier. We expect the Petitioner to make all efforts to ensure the commercial operation of the unit by this date. It is, however, clarified that 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 will be decided in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Tariff Regulations.

8. With the above, the Petition No. 615/MP/2020 is disposed of.

Sd/-
(Arun Goyal)
Member

sd/-
(I.S.Jha)
Member

sd/-
(P.K. Pujari)
Chairperson