

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition (Diary) No.458/2023

Subject : Petition under Section 79 read with Section 2(36) of Electricity Act, 2003, seeking, amongst others (i) appropriate directions for transition of ISTS connectivity of the Petitioner as Bulk Consumer under the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022, and (ii) for modification of the connectivity so that the same is through the existing 400kV Vedanta- Sundargarh D/C line owned and maintained by the Petitioner, instead of the proposed new 400 Kv Vedanta- Sundargarh D/C transmission line.

Date of Hearing : **18.10.2023**

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

Petitioner : Vedanta Limited

Respondents : Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. & 3 Ors.

Parties Present : Shri Sanjay Sen, Sr. Advocate, Vedanta

Record of Proceedings

Citing the urgency involved, the matter was mentioned by the learned senior counsel for the Petitioner and submitted that the present Petition has been filed seeking directions upon the CTUIL for allowing transition of the connectivity granted vide Minutes of Meeting dated 30.5.2023 to the Petitioner as a Bulk Consumer through the new 400 kV transmission line (to be built by the inter-State transmission licensee at the cost of the Petitioner) under Connectivity Regulations, 2009 to GNA Regulations, 2022, through the existing 400 kV Vedanta-Sundargarh dedicated transmission line owned and operated by the Petitioner. The learned counsel mainly submitted as under:

(a) CTUIL, vide minutes of meeting dated 30.5.2023 (19th Consultation Meeting for Evolving Transmission Scheme in Eastern Region), granted connectivity to the Petitioner as a Bulk Consumer under the Connectivity Regulations 2009. However, for such connectivity, a new 400 kV Vedanta-Sundargarh D/C line was proposed. Since the Petitioner already has a 400 kV Vedanta- Sundargarh D/C dedicated transmission line connecting to the ISTS network at the Sundargarh sub-station, there is no requirement to construct another line of the same configuration for the grant of connectivity.

(b) The Petitioner is already paying the maintenance cost to the PGCIL for the maintenance of 2 nos. of 400 kV bays at the Sundargarh sub-station. Moreover, in a joint meeting conducted by the Eastern Regional Power

Committee ('ERPC') on 14.10.2016, it was *inter-alia* decided that with the change of control area jurisdiction from the ERLDC to SLDC, Odisha, the status of 400 kV Sundargarh D/C line will no longer be a dedicated line of the Petitioner. Therefore, the Petitioner, who built the 400 kV Vedanta- Sundargarh D/C line, was directed to handover the said line to OPTCL which could be treated as an ISTS tie line of OPTCL.

(c) However, the minutes of the ERPC meeting dated 14.10.2016 was never implemented and consequently, the aforesaid 400 kV line was never taken over by the OPTCL and is continued to be maintained and utilized by the Petitioner for procuring the inter-State power. In such case, the said line, which is connected with the Sundargarh sub-station of PGCIL, is a dedicated transmission line under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

(d) Keeping in view that the above line remains a dedicated line, the Petitioner applied for a grant of connectivity as a Bulk Consumer, with CTUIL vide an application dated 12.11.2022 as per the then prevailing Connectivity Regulations, 2009. However, while the CTUIL granted the connectivity to the Petitioner, as communicated in the MoM dated 30.5.2023, the same was granted through a new line to be constructed by the inter-State licensee at the cost of the Petitioner, instead of granting the same through the existing dedicated transmission line of the Petitioner.

(e) In view of the grant of connectivity and GNA through a new transmission line, the Petitioner by the present Petition is seeking appropriate directions upon CTUIL to modify the aforementioned grant of connectivity through the existing 400 kV Vedanta-Sundargarh dedicated line constructed and being operated by the Petitioner so that the existing transmission asset will not remain stranded.

(f) In terms of the CTUIL's letter dated 18.9.2023, the Petitioner is required to furnish the BG [Conn BG 1 (Rs. 50 lakh), Conn BG 3 (Rs. 2 lakh/MW i.e. Rs. 3.6 crore)] within one month of intimation of the grant of the GNA failing which its application for GNA will be closed. Since the aforesaid timeline expires today itself, the Commission may extend the date of submissions of BGs till the next date of the hearing.

3. After hearing the learned senior counsel for the Petitioner, the Commission directed the CTUIL to maintain the *status-quo* with regard to the grant of 180 MW GNA to the Petitioner as communicated by letter dated 18.9.2023 till the next date of hearing.

4. The Petition will be listed for hearing on **9.11.2023**.

By order of the Commission

(T.D. Pant)
Joint Chief (Law)