



भारत सरकार
Government of India
विद्युत मंत्रालय
Ministry of Power
केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण
Central Electricity Authority
ग्रिड प्रबंधन प्रभाग
Grid Management Division

सं.: 12/एक्स/एस.टी.डी.(सी.ओ.एन.एन)/जी.एम./2023/

दिनांक: 19.01.2023

विषय: दिनांक 05.01.2023 (गुरुवार) को अपराह्न 03:30 बजे अध्यक्ष, सीईए की अध्यक्षता में पहली बार चार्जिंग (एफ.टी.सी) से संबंधित मुद्दों और ग्रिड कनेक्टिविटी से संबंधित मुद्दों के संबंध में आयोजित बैठक का कार्यवृत्त ।

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संलग्नक: यथोपरि।

(अंजुम परवेज)
निदेशक (ग्रि.प्र.)

बैठक के सभी प्रतिभागियों को ई-मेल द्वारा प्रेषित

Minutes of the Meeting held on 05.01.2023 (Thursday) at 03:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Chairperson, CEA regarding issues related to First Time Charging (FTC) & clarification in procedure while issuing grid connectivity for renewable energy projects

A meeting on the subject was held under the Chairmanship of Chairperson, CEA on 05.01.2023 at 03:30 P.M. with participants from CEA, RPCs, RLDCs, CTUIL, Grid-India, SECI, Suzlon, Continuum Green Energy (India) Pvt. Ltd, GPCL, GSECL and BHEL. List of the participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Chairperson, CEA welcomed the participants, and he expressed concern about renewable generation outages in Rajasthan, stating that such incidents pose a threat to grid operation, and therefore require immediate corrective measures. He then requested Chief Engineer (Grid Management), CEA, to take up the agenda for discussion.

Item No. 1: Issue of granting FTC to GSECL (100 MW) - Solar Plant Developers (SPDs) in 700 MW Radhanesda Solar Park developed by Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) - Solar Power Park Developer (SPPD).

- a) Representative of BHEL on behalf of GSECL explained that the FTC for their 100 MW solar power plant has been pending for a long time due to non-compliance with the capacitor bank requirement. He further stated that other plants in the same park have been granted FTC based on undertakings that included a commitment to install capacitor bank, but their 100 MW plant has been denied FTC due to non-compliance in respect of capacitor installation. It is the responsibility of SPDD (GPCL) to install the capacitor bank, as it is common for all developers in the solar park.
- b) Chairperson, CEA enquired GPCL, when the first time the requirement of capacitor bank was assessed and communicated to GPCL/GSECL. Representative of CTU stated that the requirement for capacitor bank was communicated to developers at the time of the grant of connectivity. However, in this case, as it is connected to STU network, the capacitor requirement has been calculated by WRLDC and forwarded to all SPDs for compliance of the same.
- c) Chairperson, CEA asked ED, WRLDC as to why the FTC was issued to other plants despite non-compliance. He also enquired about the penalty mechanism if there is non-compliance even after commitments are not fulfilled by RE SPDs. He then questioned ED, WRLDC about why the plants were not disconnected in spite of non-compliance with provisions in the regulations.
- d) ED, WRLDC informed that before the issuance of the working group report of CEA, all were on learning stage. He also stated that they had previously issued FTCs based on commitments given by SPDs, but that most of the SPDs failed to comply with the requirements. Due to the strictness of FTC clearance because of various types of non-compliance, the matter was referred to CEA for seeking relaxation to allow FTC by RLDCs, particularly in the case of capacitor bank installation.
- e) Representative of GSECL stated that they were initially unwilling to install capacitor bank, but after a series of meetings held in 2022, they finally agreed. Representative of GPCL stated that GPCL have sent a letter to WRLDC on 21.12.2022 wherein it has

been stated that they will install capacitor bank, but it will require at least 20-24 months to complete the work.

- f) Chairperson, CEA opined that WRLDC did not fully comply with the provisions in the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity to the Grid) Regulations, 2007 and amendments thereof for granting FTC. WRLDC's use of discretion in granting FTC is not correct, and as a result, cases are coming up for relaxation. It is the responsibility of the concerned RLDC to allow FTC only after complete compliance. In the event of a grid failure caused by such grant of FTC based on undertaking, the onus of disturbance/tripping remains on the respective RLDC.
- g) Chairperson, CEA queried GPCL as to why they have not initiated the process for implementation of capacitor well in advance. Representative from GPCL stated that they did not know the exact capacity of the capacitor bank for the 700 MW solar plant and that the capacitor requirement could only be calculated once the entire plant was connected to the grid.
- h) Representative of GSECL stated that previously, WRLDC asked the installation of capacitors from each SPD, and that after a series of meetings between BHEL, GSECL, WRLDC and GPCL, GPCL finally agreed to implement the overall capacitor requirement after a significant delay. ED, WRLDC informed that 20-24 months is a very long period for capacitor installation and that they had not agreed to GPCL's commitment-based FTC.
- i) Chairperson, CEA also stated that SPDs can install capacitor bank at their own cost as soon as possible to avoid further delay. Following such compliance, the respective SPD would be given FTC. GPCL confirmed that if the respective SPDs wanted to install capacitors, GPCL would provide the necessary space. It was also suggested that SPD look into the possibility of installing a capacitor at the respective 33 KV system.
- j) After detailed discussion, following decisions have been taken:
 - 1. Many solar park developers are not installing capacitor banks in the pooling stations in time. This has led to many incidents of tripping in Rajasthan and other places. It is understood that solar park developers have been entrusted with the responsibility of completing the pooling station in all respect before any solar park is connected to the grid. MNRE was requested to look into this as SPD are also given funding from MNRE.
(Action point: MNRE, Solar Park developers)
 - 2. To write to Energy Secretary, Gujarat regarding the non-compliance by GSECL and GPCL and the ongoing dispute between SPD and SPPD.
 - 3. Grid-India to ensure the compliance of the regulations of CEA in this regard. The FTC should be issued only after 100% compliance.
 - 4. RLDCs/Grid-India will communicate to all developers who have already been given FTC based on undertaking, the timeline for installing capacitor banks/ other compliances as mentioned in CEA standards. Furthermore, if they do not comply with the timeline, they are disconnected from the grid.

Item No. 2: Issues by Continuum

- a) Continuum has 126 MW Wind power Project under SECI bidding of tranche IV. As on date, 88 MW capacity has been commissioned. Out of remaining 38 MW capacity,

18 MW has been completed and ready for commissioning and remaining 20 MW will get completed by 15th February 2023 & 28th February 2023 respectively (in two phases of 10 MW each). M/s Continuum informed that the test for LVRT & HVRT will be conducted in high wind season which is expected by 1st week of February 2023. M/s Continuum informed that order for 30 MVAR capacitor bank has been placed and capacitor bank is expected to be installed within 3-4 months and they are ready give undertaking in this regard. M/s Continuum requested to issue FTC for 18 MW capacity so that the assets may not be stranded idle in view of force majeure event (one tower of 220 kV line collapsed due to heavy rain fall & flood on 12th July 2022).

- b) Based on the deliberations, it was decided that no relaxation would be provided in the instant case and commissioning will be permitted only after complete compliance.

Item No. 3: Issues by SUZLON

- a) Suzlon representative suggested some changes in the in procedure while issuing grid connectivity for renewable energy projects. He further stated that new certificates are required to be submitted for any version change.
- b) Chairperson, CEA directed CTU/RLDCs to consider the earlier certificates submitted by manufacturers/ developers if there is no version change in type/model of turbine type. However, in case of any change in version of turbine, new certificate will have to be submitted.
- c) Regarding duplication of certificates/ test reports required by CTU/ Grid-India, CTU representative informed that the requirement of certificates/documents by CTU and Grid-India has been resolved after the enforcement of the working group report. CTU representative stated that the new process has been successfully implemented since November 2022, and the projects are now being offered connectivity/FTC through a single application.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-1

List of participants in the meeting on 05/01/2023 at 03:30 PM

Central Electricity Authority (CEA)

1. Sh. Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson
2. Sh. M. M. Dhakate, Chief Engineer (Grid Management)
3. Sh. Anzum Parwej, Director (Grid Management)
4. Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Director (RT&I)
5. Sh. Jitendra Kumar Meena, Deputy Director (Grid Management)
6. Sh. Himalaya Shubham, AD (Grid Management)
7. Sh. Shubhender Singh, AD (Grid Management)
8. Sh. Deepak Choudhary, AD (RT&I)
9. Sh. Sakil Ahmad, AD (Grid Management)

WRPC Secretariat

1. Sh. Satyanarayan. S, Member Secretary

SRPC Secretariat

1. Sh. Asit. Singh, Member Secretary

Grid-India/NLDC/NRLDC/WRLDC/SRLDC

1. Sh. Sujeet Banarjee, CGM, SO, NLDC
2. Sh. Vivek Pandey, GM (SO), NLDC
3. Sh. Priyam Jain, Chief Manager (SO), NLDC
4. Sh. Rahul Shukla, Chief Manager, NLDC
5. Sh. Rajiv Porwal, CGM, NRLDC
6. Sh. Alok Kumar, Sr. GM (SO), NRLDC
7. Smt. Suruchi Jain, DGM (SO), NRLDC
8. SP Kumar, ED, SRLDC
9. Yekambaram Kasani, Manager, SRLDC
10. Ms. S. Usha, Sr. GM, WRLDC
11. Ms. Pushpa S., Sr. GM, WRLDC
12. Sh. Vivek Pandey, GM, WRLDC
13. Sh. Manoj Thakur, DGM, WRLDC
14. Sh. Vishal Puppalla, Manager, WRLDC
15. Sh. Venky Minnakuri, Manager, WRLDC

Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL)

1. Sh. P.C. Garg, COO

Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited

1. Sh. S. K. Mishra, Director (PS)
2. Sh. Ajay Kumar, AM

INOX

1. Manoj Dixit

2. Frensis
3. Rajeev Acharya
4. Praveen Gupta

GSECL

1. Dinkar Jethwal, Project & Planning Manager

GPCL

1. Rajendra Mistri, Chief Project officer

BHEL

1. Subrato Dey, GM
2. Nand Kishore
3. Ravi Kishore
4. Akhilesh

Continum

1. Neeraj Chandrakar
2. Santosh

Suzlon

1. Pukhraj Singh