

**BEFORE THE HIMACHAL PRADESH ELECTRICITY
REGULATORY COMMISSION SHIMLA**

Petition No. 122 of 2024
Date of Institution: 23.09.2024
Arguments Heard on: 25.09.2024
Decided on: 08.10.2024

The HP State Electricity Board Ltd. through
Chief Engineer (System Operation),
Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla, HP-171004.

....Joint Petitioner No. 1.

AND

M/s MTN Solar Power Project,
Village Manjhol, Post Office Brahmpukhar,
Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Bilaspur, H.P.-174001,
through its Authorized Signatory Sh. Mohit Sharma.

....Joint Petitioner No. 2.

**Joint Petition under the provisions of Section 86(1)(b) of the
Electricity Act 2003 read with Regulations 50 and 50-A of the HPERC
(Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005, for approval of the Power
Purchase Agreement (Solar) in respect of M/s MTN Solar Power
Project, (500 kW).**

CORAM

DEVENDRA KUMAR SHARMA
CHAIRMAN

YASHWANT SINGH CHOGAL
MEMBER (Law)

SHASHI KANT JOSHI
MEMBER

Present:-

Sh. Kamlesh Saklani, Authorised Representative for Joint
Petitioner No. 1.

Sh. Mohit Sharma, Authorised Representative for the
Joint Petitioner No. 2.

ORDER

This Joint Petition has been filed by the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. (the Joint Petitioner No.1 or the HPSEBL for short) and M/s MTN Solar Power Project (the Joint Petitioner No. 2 for short) for the approval of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA for short) under Section 86 (1) (b) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (Act for short) read with Regulations 50 & 50-A of the HPERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2005, as amended from time to time, (CBR, 2005 for short) in respect of M/s MTN Solar Power Project (500 kW).

2. The case of the Petitioners is that a Solar PV Project (500 kW) known as M/s MTN Solar Power Project, situated at Village Sanglehri, Post Office Brahmukhar, Tehsil Sadar Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur, H.P (Project for short) is being setup pursuant to the approval accorded by the HIMURJA (HP Govt. Energy Development Agency) vide letter No. HIMURJA (F-7)/SPV Projects/2024-1670 dated 15.06.2024 (Annexure-IV). As per the Joint Petition, the date of Completion/ Commissioning Schedule of the Project is 14.06.2025, as evident from Schedule-I, annexed to the Draft PPA.

3. As per Joint Petition, the Commission vide Order dated 29.02.2016 passed in Suo Moto Petition No. 104 of 2015 has finalized the Model Power Purchase Agreement for Solar PV Project

and the HIMURJA has also approved the Project inventory vide letter No. HIMURJA (F-7)/SPV Projects/ 2024- 2321 dated 23.07.2024 (Annexure-VIII).

4. It is averred that parties have signed the connection agreement on 31.07.2024 providing that the interconnection point has been proposed at existing 11 kV Namhol-Brahmpukhar feeder emanating from 2x3.15 MVA, 33/11 kV Sub-Station, Namhol through solid tap with appropriate Protection arrangement. It is also averred that the joint Petitioner No. 2 shall apply for the admissible subsidy and shall intimate the Joint Petitioner No. 1 to that effect.

5. It is also averred that the Commission vide Order dated 14.03.2024 has determined the generic levellised tariff in respect of Solar PV Projects for FY 2024-25 (01.04.2024-31.03.2025) under the HPERC (Promotion of Generation from Renewable Energy Sources and Terms and Conditions for Tariff Determination) Regulations, 2017 (RE Regulations, 2017 for short). The Joint Petitioner No. 2 has submitted an affidavit (Annexure-VI) that the project is situated in a rural area and that the tariff for the Projects to be set up in areas other than Industrial and Urban areas upto 1 MW is Rs. 3.50 per kWh as determined by the Commission vide Order dated 14.03.2024, which shall be applicable to the Project which has been incorporated in Clause 6.2 of the draft PPA.

6. We have heard Sh. Kamlesh Saklani, Authorised Representative for the Joint Petitioner No. 1 and Sh. Mohit Sharma, Authorised Representative for the Joint Petitioner No. 2 and have perused the entire record carefully.

7. It is evident from the record that the connection agreement in respect of the Project has been signed by the Joint Petitioners on 31.07.2024, a copy whereof has been placed on record. As per the connection agreement, the Interconnection Point of the project has been provided at existing 11 kV Namhol-Brahmpukhar feeder emanating from 2x3.15 MVA, 33/11 kV Sub-Station, Namhol through solid tap with appropriate Protection arrangement.

8. As per clause (ii) of sub-clause (a) of Para 4.3.5 of the Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy- 2021, notified on 20.01.2022, Solar Power Projects ranging from 250 kW to 1 MW capacity shall be allotted to Bonafide Himachalies only and the energy generated from these Solar Power Projects shall mandatorily be purchased by the HPSEBL, if commissioned on or before 31.03.2030 at HPERC approved tariff applicable on the date of allotment of the Project.

9. It is also evident from the letter of the HIMURJA dated 15.06.2024 that the tariff in respect of the Project shall be as per the rates determined by the HPERC and that the Project has been

provisionally registered. As per Schedule-I attached to the draft PPA, the SCOD of the project is 14.06.2025.

10. The Commission vide Order dated 14.03.2024 in Suo Moto Petition No. 01 of 2024 has determined the generic levelised tariff for Solar PV Power Projects for FY 2023-24 (for a period w.e.f. 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025) as under :-

| Sr. No. | Capacity | Generic levelised tariff (Rs. Per kWh) |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1. | Projects to be set up in other than industrial areas and urban areas. | |
| (a) | Upto 1.00 MW | 3.50 |
| (b) | Above 1.00 MW & upto 5.00 MW | 3.47 |
| 2. | Projects to be set up in industrial areas and urban areas | |
| (a) | Upto 1.00 MW | 3.55 |
| (b) | Above 1.00 MW & upto 5.00 MW | 3.52 |

11. This Project is situated in the rural area as per affidavit (Annexure-VI). The capacity of the Project is 500 kW. Thus, the Project is entitled to the tariff of Rs. 3.50 per kWh, which is subject to adjustment of capital subsidy, if any. However, in case commissioning of the Project is delayed beyond SCOD i.e. 14.06.2025, and the tariff in the said control period is less, the Joint Petitioner No. 2 shall have to provide power to the Joint Petitioner No. 1 on said tariff only.

12. The Petition is supported by the affidavits of the respective parties.

13. Therefore, in view of the powers vested in the Commission under Section 86 (1) (b) of the Act, read with Regulations 50 and 50-A of the CBR, 2005, as amended from time to time, the Joint Petitioners have made out a case for the approval of the Power

Purchase Agreement (Solar) in respect of the Project. Hence, the Petition succeeds and allowed. The PPA is ordered to be approved subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The tariff of Rs. 3.50 per kWh will be applicable to the Project of the Joint Petitioner No. 2 which will be subject to further adjustment of subsidy, if any, and is provisional.
- (ii) The affidavit of the Joint Petitioner No. 2 that the Project is at rural area shall form the part of the PPA. Similarly, the Connection Agreement dated 31.07.2024 shall also form part of the PPA.
- (iii) The Joint Petitioner No.2 shall apply to the State/Central Government or its designated department(s)/agency(ies), for grant of applicable subsidy/financial assistance to the Solar Power Project immediately on receipt of this Order, if not already applied, and shall intimate the Joint Petitioner No.1 i.e. HPSEBL of the receipt of financial assistance/subsidy released to the Project by the State/ Central Government or its designated Department(s)/ agency(ies), within 15 days of receipt of the same and an undertaking to this effect shall be furnished by the Joint Petitioner No. 2 which shall form part of the PPA.
- (iv) The Joint Petitioner No. 2 shall make an endeavour to avail the admissible subsidy/financial assistance (if any). In case the subsidy/financial assistance is not availed or the Joint Petitioner No. 2 fails to approach the State/Central Government or its designated Department(s)/agency(ies), the same shall be deemed to have been availed by the Joint Petitioner No. 2 and the Joint Petitioner No. 1 shall carry out

the adjustment of such benefit, if any, admissible to the project after a period of 2 years from the date of the Order, as per order dated 14.03.2024 passed by the Commission in Suo-Moto Petition No. 01/2024. The Joint Petitioner No. 1 shall also intimate the Commission in this regard on making adjustment.

(v) The Scheduled Date of Synchronisation of the Project is 30.05.2025 and Scheduled Commercial Operation Date (SCOD) of the project is 14.06.2025 which has been specified in Schedule-I which shall form a part of the PPA. In case commissioning of the Project is delayed beyond SCOD i.e. 14.06.2025, and the tariff in the said control period is less, the Joint Petitioner No. 2 shall have to provide power to the Joint Petitioner No. 1 on said tariff only.

(vi) The Clause 7.1A of the draft PPA shall be deleted.

14. Other terms and conditions of the PPA shall be subject to provisions of the RE Regulations, 2017 and the Order of Commission dated 14.03.2024 in Suo-Motu Petition No. 01 of 2024 issued under the aforesaid Regulations.

15. The Joint Petitioners are directed to execute PPA as per the above order after carrying out the necessary additions and alterations within 30 days from the date of this order. Three copies of the executed Power Purchase Agreement be submitted to the Commission for record.

Let a copy of this order be supplied to the Joint Petitioners forthwith.

The file after needful be consigned to records.

Announced

08.10.2024

-Sd/-
(Shashi Kant Joshi)
Member

-sd/-
(Yashwant Singh Chogal)
Member (Law)

-sd/-
(Devendra Kumar Sharma)
Chairman

HPDPERC