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NO. ERPC/MS/OPERATION/2016/

DATE: 19.08.2016

FAX MESSAGE NO. 557

TO,


1. Director (Project), BSPTCL, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800021.
2. Director (operation), WBSETCL, Vidyut Bhawan, 7th Floor, Block DJ, Sector – II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata – 700091.
3. Chief General Manager, (O&M), OPTCL, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022.
4. Chief General Manager, (PP), GRIDCO, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751022.
5. Chief Electrical distribution Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kolkata.
6. COO (CTU - Planning), PGCIL, Saudamini, Plot No. – 2, Sector – 29, Gurgaon – 122001.
7. General Manager, ERLDC, Kolkata, (Fax No. 033- 24235809)
8. Chief Electrical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Kolkata (Fax No. – 033 – 22300446)
9. Chief Engineer (Trans. O&M), BSPTCL, PATNA, (Fax No. 0612-2504557/2504937)
10. Chief Engineer, CLD, WBSETCL, Howrah, (Fax No. – 033-26886232)
11. Chief Engineer, Cental Planning wing, WBSETCL, Salt Lake (Fax No. – 033-23591955)
12. Chief Engineer, (PTR), WBSEDCL, Salt Lake, Kolkata (Fax No. – 033-23345862)
13. Sr. General Manager (PS), OPTCL, Bhubaneswar (Fax No. – 0674 – 2748509)

Sub: Minutes of Special meeting for Scheduling of power from BRBCL, Nabinagar held on 12.08.2016 at ERPC, Kolkata.

Sir,

With reference to the above, the minutes of the meeting for Scheduling of power from BRBCL, Nabinagar held on 12.08.2016 at ERPC, Kolkata is enclosed for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(A.K. Bandyopadhyaya)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

1. Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, Sewa Bhawan, R.K.Puram, New Delhi – 110066.
2. Managing Director, BSPTCL, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800021.
3. Managing Director, WBSETCL, Vidyut Bhawan, , 7th Floor, Block DJ, Sector – II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata – 700091.

Minutes of meeting held on 12.08.2016 for facilitating RAILWAYS POWER DRAWAL FROM BRBCL AT WEST BENGAL, BIHAR AND ODISHA THROUGH OPEN ACCESS

1. Railways informed that they had already received LTA from CTU. ERLDC clarified that the LTA is for power transfer upto CTU periphery only. For availing power within the state system, the concurrence of SLDC may be required.
2. GM, ERLDC further informed that as per information furnished by Railways to ERLDC, BRBCL is due for COD in September, 2016 but as per petition filed by Railways before CERC, Coal Handling Plant is not ready and extension has been requested upto March'17.
3. ERLDC informed that they have received a request from Railways side for extension of startup power after September 2016.
4. Railway representatives informed that LTA was granted by CTU on 24/07/2009. Based on the grant of LTA, they had assumed that all formalities with respect to concurrence of states had been taken care of. In case any further action is required on their part the same may be informed in the meeting so that appropriate action may be taken on their part.
5. Member Secretary, ERPC informed that during implementation of scheduling of power to railways in Jharkhand through open access from RGPPL all the issues were already discussed threadbare.
6. Odisha representative requested details about the LTA granted by CTU for Odisha portion. Member Secretary clarified that out of total 205 MW LTA from first unit of BRBCL, LTA for 60 MW is granted by CTU for drawal in Odisha by railways. It was further clarified that the LTA has been granted by CTU to Indian Railways, BRBCL and erstwhile BSEB.
7. It was informed from ERLDC side that NOC from the SLDC of the concerned state is sufficient to commence scheduling.
8. WBSETCL representative informed that the 132 kV service line feeding power to railways in west Bengal belongs to WBSEDCL and concurrence of WBSEDCL would also be required.
9. OPTCL opined that as the terms of reference for distribution companies is approved by the state regulator, railways must apply to OERC for approval of their terms of reference. Railways informed that they had approached the OERC also and no separate order was issued by the hon'ble commission.
10. MS informed that open access in distribution has been mandated by the Electricity Act, 2003 section 42, and many state regulators have already come up with relevant guidelines. During the meeting it was clarified by Member Secretary that railways have been declared as a deemed distribution licensee by the central government and the case may be treated as a change of distribution licensee by a consumer. In this case, Indian railways as a consumer shifting from the state discom to new discom of Indian Railway distribution licensee. It was also pointed out that under section 173 of Electricity Act, 2003, railways are saved from any inconsistency w.r.t Railways Act, 1989.

11. It was emphasized by GM, ERLDC that the railways were a central organization and are serving the population of the states. Therefore, all attempts should be made for facilitating open access to them. He also informed that Jharkhand had already given approval to open access for railway drawal from RGPPL.
Railways informed that they have communicated with states since 2010 on this issue but no concrete roadmap had been indicated. It was once again requested by Railways to intimate the procedure for approval of states.
ERPC also emphasized that Railway should be treated as a distribution licensee rather being treated as consumer.
12. GRIDCO, WBSEDCL and BSPTCL raised the issue of commercial settlement of accounts due to imbalance caused by the railway system. They informed that as railways were a high paying customer of the discoms, they were given priority power in case of any load shedding or system disturbance. But as they were shifting from the state discom to the railway discom the reliability may not be ensured.
13. GM, ERLDC pointed out that railways is an essential service and therefore the same priority would have to be maintained inspite of shifting of licensee. Further, it was pointed out that the states may come out with appropriate commercial mechanism for imbalance handling (if not already available) and railways would abide by the same. Railways agreed to abide by all the regulations and commercial settlement mechanisms as may be required for availing open access. MS informed that subsequent to grant of open access, they may have mutual interactions and solve incidental commercial issues bilaterally.
14. MS, ERPC informed that instead of writing letters Railways must apply in proper formats to the concerned authorities in states. He requested OPTCL, West Bengal and Bihar representatives to share the procedure with railways so that they may apply immediately.
15. OPTCL representative informed that railways should apply to MD, OPOTCL, in OERC approved proforma with a copy to GRIDCO, for getting connectivity, LTA & requisite No Objection.
16. WBSETCL informed that railways had not applied in proper WBSERC format for availing connectivity, LTA for their 95 MW share in West Bengal. WBSETCL however maintained that concurrence of WBSEDCL may be required for open access.
17. BSPHCL representative informed that railways have around 19 drawal points in Bihar and the application for connectivity and open access should be made to BSPTCL. It was also informed that BSPTCL system is already overloaded and quality power may not be available to railways. MS, ERPC informed that the railways were already drawing power from BSPTCL at present and only the commercial settlement of power transfer would change. ERLDC agreed that the technical details would not change and only the commercial mechanism would be different.

18 Member Secretary opined that instead of railways applying to transmission, distribution, regulator and sldc separately from case to case it would be better to have a single window and requested that the transmission licensee should act as single window for facilitating open access. In turn, as required, the transmission licensee would coordinate with sldc, distribution licensee and regulator and get the NoC needed by ERLDC. WBSETCL, WBSSEDCL, OPTCL, GRIDCO and BSPHCL/BSPTCL representative agreed.

19 Therefore Railways were advised to apply for

- i) For getting connectivity, LTA & requisite No Objection to MD , OPTCL with a copy to GRIDCO in OERC format for 60 MW allocation to Odisha for railway from BRBCL 1st unit;
- ii) For getting connectivity, LTA & requisite No Objection to MD , WBSETCL with a copy to WBERC format for 95 MW allocation to West Bengal for railway from BRBCL 1st unit;
- iii) For getting connectivity, LTA & requisite No Objection to MD , BSPTCL for 50MW allocation to Bihar for railway from BRBCL 1st unit;

20 Member Secretary requested OPTCL, WBSETCL and BSPTCL to offer single window facilities in offering NOC to ERLDC so that scheduling from first unit of BRBCL could be started in time without any further hindrance.

Before COD of second unit of BRBCL other issues, if any, could be highlighted to CEA and MoP by Railways