

Before

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited's Proposal, seeking approval of the Commission on scheduled load shedding with immediate effect in the State of Uttarakhand for the period up to 15th January, 2008.

Coram

Shri V.J. Talwar Chairman

Shri V.K. Khanna Member

Date of Order: 26th December, 2007

ORDER

These proceedings relate to the proposal received from Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd.(UPCL) vide their letter No. 1777/MD/UPCL dated 24.12.2007, seeking approval of the Commission for imposing scheduled load shedding in the State with immediate effect. The load shedding program has been proposed for imposing 4 hours power cut in rural areas, 2 hours 30 minutes power cut in town areas and 4 hours 30 minutes power cut on industrial loads resulting in total load restriction up to about 200 MW during the period of restriction. UPCL in their proposal have mentioned that average daily energy demand in the State in the month of December, 07 has increased considerably and gone up to 19.50 MU/day which was about 13.85 MU/day in the same month during last year. As against this requirement, the present energy availability from firm sources is 14.50 MU/day resulting in a gap of around 5 MU/day. According to UPCL, there is a likelihood of this gap further going up in the month of January, 2008 when the present demand might further increase due to snowfall in hill areas and cold winds in the plains. Considering the

above, UPCL proposed the load shedding in the State beginning immediately upto 15-01-2008 as follows :-

- a) All Hill areas are exempted from the scheduled load shedding, owing to severe winter conditions in hills and power cut is proposed only in Plain areas (consisting of rural areas and towns).
- b) All 132, 33 KV and 11 KV industrial feeders emanating from primary and secondary substations shall be covered under scheduled rostering.
- c) Exemptions from scheduled rostering shall be granted to those industrial consumers who opt for uninterrupted power supply during restricted hours at higher tariff as per Commission's Tariff Order dated 12.07.2006.

The proposed load shedding plan of UPCL and possible relief from this schedule are being reproduced below:-

“SCHEDULE OF LOAD SHEDDING WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT UPTO 15.01.2008”

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Areas of Load Shedding</i>	<i>Time period</i>	<i>Approximately relief in MW</i>
1.	<i>Rural area of Jwalapur, Sultanpur Bhattipur, Roorkee, Mangalore, Landhora, Bhagwanpur, Laksar, Khanpur and Narsan.</i>	<i>07.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.</i>	<i>61 MW</i>
2.	<i>Rural area of Khatima, Kichha, Jaspur, Bazpur, Kela Khera, Pipalia, ND Nagar, Ghari Nagi and Sarwarkhera.</i>	<i>07.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.</i>	<i>39 MW</i>
3.	<i>Laksar town, Landaura town, Mangalore town, Ramnagar (Roorkee) town, Jaspur town, Rudrapur town, Kashipur town, Khatima town, Gadarpur town, Bazpur town, Kichha town, Sitarganj town, Ramnagar town</i>	<i>06.30 A.M. to 09.00 A.M.</i>	<i>88 MW</i>
4.	<i>Haldwani town, Rishikesh town, areas fed by 33 KV Doiwala Feeder, complete area of Dhakrani, Vikasnagar and Selaqui.</i>	<i>09.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.</i>	<i>95MW</i>
5.	<i>Hardwar & Jwalapur Town</i>	<i>11.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon</i>	<i>20 MW</i>
6.	<i>All 132, 33 KV and 11 KV Industrial feeders emanating from Primary & Secondary Sub-stations including SIDCUL Hardwar, SIDCUL Pantnagar except the industrial consumers who have opted for supply during restricted hours at higher tariff.</i>	<i>05.30 P.M. to 10.00 P.M.</i>	<i>100 MW</i>
7.	<i>Rural area of Jwalapur, Sultanpur Bhattipur, Roorkee, Mangalore, Landhora, Bhagwanpur, Laksar, Khanpur and Narsan.</i>	<i>08.00 P.M. to 09.00 P.M.</i>	<i>61 MW</i>
8.	<i>Rural area of Khatima, Kichha, Jaspur, Bazpur, Kela Khera, Pipalia, ND Nagar, Ghari Nagi and Sarwarkhera.</i>	<i>09.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M.</i>	<i>39 MW</i>

SN	Time Period	Approximate Relief in MW"
1	6.30 to 7.00 AM	88
2	7.00 to 9.00 AM	188
3	9.00 to 11.00 AM	195
4	11.00 to 12.00 Noon	20
5	5.30 to 8.00 PM	100
6	8.00 to 9.00 PM	161
7	9.00 to 10.00 PM	139

Under normal circumstances, with such a kind of proposal, a hearing should be held for deliberation on the proposal. However, in the present circumstances, where northern grid is facing acute shortage of electricity, the licensee is over drawing from the grid and paying UI rates of the order of Rs 4-7 per unit and is even resorting to unscheduled power cuts in the State giving rise to gross inconvenience and dissatisfaction amongst the consumers of the State, emergency like situation has cropped up. The Commission has therefore felt that this petition needs immediate attention and needs to be treated accordingly.

Notwithstanding the fact that the current situation could have been avoided to a large extent with proper planning, demand side management, improved efficiency and reduction in distribution losses, the fact remains that in the recent period the demand supply gap has increased exceptionally. This is substantiated with the data available at the NRLDC website on the schedule versus actual drawl for Uttarakhand, showing overdrawl by the State particularly during 6 to 11.30 hours and 16 to 22 hours, with a gap going upto 200 MW.

The Commission has agreed in principle that this gap has to be distributed among all consumers uniformly, equitably and in a transparent manner. There is no denying that when the situation of power in the State has reached such a situation, all consumers including industrial category would have to share the load shedding impact uniformly. However, the Commission is concerned with the prevailing situation in the hill areas of the State where severe winter is causing great inconvenience to the people living in difficult terrain where even the normal breakdown takes long hours to rectify the supply. The Commission has therefore agreed with the licensee's proposal not to impose restriction in the hills of

Uttarakhand and the restriction in supply be restricted to only plain areas in the State.

After considering UPCL's proposal, the Commission in exercise of its power under Section 23 of Electricity Act, 2003, has approved load shedding in the State as per the load shedding program submitted by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited with minor modifications (attached as Annexure to this Order) with the following terms:

- a) No power cuts shall be undertaken by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited in hill areas.
- b) Power cuts shall be applied from the period 28.12.2007 and up to 15.1.2008. Thereafter UPCL shall submit fresh proposal for load shedding in the State if required so.
- c) All possibilities of availability of the power in the State to be explored and UPCL should not under draw from the northern grid under normal circumstances and will have to undertake load shedding in its area as per the approved load shedding plan, in case of any shortfall in availability.
- d) Load shedding shall not be made for consumers not included in the scheduled program. The approved load shedding program gives the ceiling of power cut and licensee should not impose restriction over and above these ceilings.
- e) In case UPCL while preparing day-ahead schedule notes that there is a possibility of surplus in power during next day, relief shall be given to consumers of such period having longest period of power cut.
- f) UPCL shall implement provisions given in Section 6 (restrictions in usage) of rate schedule RTS 7 of tariff order for 2006-07 for applying higher tariff on those industrial consumers, having continuous process and opts for continuous supply during restricted period. Relevant portion of Section 6 of RTS 7 is reproduced below:-

"Restriction in usage"

In case, imposition of restriction towards the usage of electricity by the industry during certain hours in the day is effected by the Commission at any point of time, then the following rates and charges shall start to be applicable.

- i) *For consumers opting for supply during restricted hours (Continuous)-20% increase in the Energy charge as given in Rate of charge.....*

- ii) *For consumers not opting for supply during restricted hours (Non continuous) – Energy charge, Demand charge and other charges as per rate of charge given above.*
- iii) *Peak Hour Violation Penalty shall get attracted. Consumers who do not opt for supply during Peak hours/Restricted hours (Non Continuous supply) shall not be allowed to use power in excess of 15% of their contracted demand. Any violation detected shall attract a penalty of Rs. 50 per KVA per day of the contracted demand, for the number of days of such violation. For the month of default, the consumer shall be billed at the rates specified at (i) above (for consumers opting for supply during restricted hours (Continuous)).*
- g) Increased tariff shall be charged from consumers who have opted for continuous supply from the date of their option till such times these rates are further modified by the Commission.
- h) Restriction will be closely monitored and field staff shall implement load shedding program without any deviation. At the time of meter reading of all industrial consumers, UPCL shall take out full MRI dump with load survey and submit to the Commission by 10th February, 2008.
- i) UPCL vigilance team shall monitor and report instances of deviation from load shedding schedule directly to the Commission.
- j) Scheduled load shedding in areas which remained without power during the day of restriction due to breakdown in EHV system, shall be reduced suitably.
- k) UPCL may synchronise their maintenance shutdowns within the period of cut as far as possible.
- l) UPCL shall submit a weekly report of load shedding, availability, withdrawal schedules and load actually drawn, to the Commission. Soft copy of MRI dump shall be submitted to the Commission by 10th February, 2008.

(V.K. Khanna)
Member

(V.J. Talwar)
Chairman

**SCHEDULE OF LOAD SHEDDING FROM THE PERIOD
28.12.2007 UPTO 15.01.2008**

Sl. No.	Areas of Load Shedding	Time period
1.	Rural area of Jwalapur, Sultanpur Bhattipur, Roorkee, Mangalore, Landhora, Bhagwanpur, Laksar, Khanpur and Narsan.	07.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.
2.	Rural area of Khatima, Kichha, Jaspur, Bazpur, Kela Khera, Pipalia, ND Nagar, Ghari Nagi and Sarwarkhera.	07.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.
3.	Laksar town, Landaura town, Mangalore town, Ramnagar (Roorkee) town, Jaspur town, Rudrapur town, Kashipur town, Khatima town, Gadarpur town, Bazpur town, Kichha town, Sitarganj town, Ramnagar town	06.30 A.M to 09.00 A.M.
4.	Haldwani town, Rishikesh town, areas fed by 33 KV Doiwala Feeder, complete area of Dhakrani , Vikasnagar and Selaqui.	09.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M.
5.	Haridwar & Jwalapur Town	11.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon
6.	All 132, 33 KV and 11 KV Industrial feeders emanating from Primary & Secondary Sub-stations including SIDCUL Hardwar, SIDCUL Pantnagar except those industrial consumers, having continuous process and have opted for continuous supply during restricted hours at a higher tariff under Section 6 of RTS-7 and also those industrial consumers, having continuous process who may give this option up to 31.12.07. All other industrial consumers shall be allowed to use power upto 15% of their contracted load to meet their lighting requirement. Any violation by such consumers in this regard shall attract penalty of Rs. 50 per KVA of contracted load of each day of default alongwith 20% higher tariff for the month of default as per Section 6 (iii) of RTS 7 of tariff order for 2006-07.	05.30 P.M. to 10.00 P.M.
7.	Rural area of Jwalapur, Sultanpur Bhattipur, Roorkee, Mangalore, Landhora, Bhagwanpur, Laksar, Khanpur and Narsan.	08.00 P.M. to 09.00 P.M.
8.	Rural area of Khatima, Kichha, Jaspur, Bazpur, Kela Khera, Pipalia, ND Nagar, Ghari Nagi and Sarwarkhera.	09.00 P.M. to 10.00 P.M.