

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.

Coram

V.J. Talwar Chairman

Anand Kumar Member

Date of Order: 18th April 2010

ORDER

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 23 of the Electricity Act 2003, the Commission had passed an Order dated 18.1.2010 for regulating supply, distribution and consumption of electricity, on a proposal filed by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL). Through above order the Commission made effective a Load Shedding Schedule which was applicable w.e.f. 21.1.2010 till 31.3.2010. Meanwhile, when there was some improvement in the frequency of Northern Grid, UPCL vide its letter dated 17.2.2010, requested the Commission to modify the above Load Shedding Schedule. The Commission asked UPCL to file a revised schedule in the form of a fresh Petition. However, after a lapse of only one month, UPCL filed another application before the Commission on 26.03.2010 submitting that the situation of shortage is expected to continue in the month of April 2010 as well and, accordingly, proposed a revised load

shedding schedule to be applicable till 30.4.2010. The Commission vide its letter no. 2298/UERC/10 dated 29.3.2010, extended the applicability of its earlier order dated 18th January 2010 up-to 30th April 2010. After merely 9 days, UPCL again approached the Commission requesting for further revision in the load shedding schedule in view of worsening demand supply mismatch. As the Commission was in the process of issuing its Tariff Order for 2010-11, wherein, taking cognizance of grim power situation, the Commission had disallowed usage of upto 15% load by non-continuous industries during periods of restriction, UPCL was advised to re-work its load shedding protocol taking into account the above said provision of the Tariff Order. In line with above direction of the Commission, UPCL, vide its letter No. 624/MD/UPCL/C-4 dated 15.04.2010, submitted a revised proposal for Scheduled Load Shedding in the State, for the approval of the Commission. In its above proposal UPCL has indicated that it is having a daily short fall of around 8 MUs and to efficiently manage this shortage it needs to resort to planned load shedding.

Taking note of the fact that demand of electricity in the State has increased many folds in the past few years and that there has been no significant additions in the Generation Capacity of the State to meet this growing demand, the Commission is of the view that this power shortage situation is going to continue for the entire FY 2010-11 and even further unless some long term measures such as Case 1 and Case 2 bidding are taken by the licensee. The Commission further observes that there is acute shortage of power in the entire northern grid, and, therefore, it is difficult to procure power on short term basis at reasonable prices. This observation is further corroborated by the fact that there has been large number of instances of operation of Under Frequency Relays installed in the Northern Grid indicating that system frequency has gone down as low as 48.8 Hz. Under the circumstances, the only option left with UPCL is to resort to load shedding in a planned manner so as to equitably distribute the electricity available with it to all consumers in the State.

Though, the Commission is totally against any kind of unscheduled roastering, however, considering the grim power situation prevailing in the northern grid, wherein, frequency is hovering around critical level of 49.2 Hz during most parts of the day, the

Commission feels that it is only inevitable for the licensee to cut the loads as per the requirement of grid so as to ensure its safe, secure and stable operation. This uncertain grid situation may, however, require frequent changes in load shedding protocol. So as to provide the licensee this flexibility to manage its load on short term basis, the Commission for the time being, in exercise of its powers conferred under Section 23 of Electricity Act 2003, instead of approving any particular load shedding schedule, approves the following broad guidelines to be adopted by the licensee for managing its load and ensuring equitable distribution of electricity-

1. While preparing a load shedding schedule the licensee needs to ensure that electricity is made available to all parts of the State and all category of consumers in an equitable manner.
2. To the extent possible, UPCL shall not resort to load shedding in residential areas after dusk. UPCL may further stagger the total load shedding hours for such consumers on daily basis so as to provide them some respite in between.
3. Limited hours of supply may be sufficient to meet the irrigation requirements of PTW consumers. However, as the same is essential for preserving the agricultural produce, UPCL may ensure a minimum 10 hrs supply to these consumers each day.
4. All non-essential consumption needs to be discouraged during peak hours. Accordingly, licensee is required to put a ban on use of electricity for the purpose of glow-signs/neon lights/signboards/flood lights etc. during evening peak hours. Consumers violating above provision for the first time may be served with a notice that their supply would be cut with immediate effect for three consecutive days in case they commit another violation. UPCL may further appeal to the consumers to reduce all non-essential consumption such Air-conditioners, Geysers, hot plates, decorative lights etc and do the demand side management as for possible, at least during peak hours by publishing Public Notices in the News Papers.
5. In accordance with the provision of the Tariff Order for the FY 2010-11, supply to continuous process industries (running for 24x7 Hrs per week) on independent

feeders, who opt for continuous supply during restricted hours at higher tariff, shall not be cut.

6. Licensee may enforce weekly off for industries in the industrial areas. For the other remaining days licensee may chalk out a plan for scheduled cut not exceeding 8 hours/day to the extent possible.
7. For non continuous industries on industrial feeders, licensee also needs to ensure that power cut is imposed for such a duration that the consumer is able to run atleast one shift/day without power cut.
8. To the extent possible, supply to other consumers, may not be restricted for more than 10 hours/day.
9. The licensee may further resort to rotational load shedding in different parts of the State for meeting its demand supply gap.
10. In case UPCL, upon getting direction from SLDC, is required to carry out unscheduled load shedding, it shall be at liberty to carryout unscheduled load shedding of consumers, except for those industries who have opted for continuous supply, in whole of Uttarakhand or selective areas, as required under the prevailing conditions.
11. In case of improvement in availability of power during scheduled/unscheduled power cuts, UPCL shall grant corresponding relief to consumers and gradually reduce load shedding for them. While doing so, UPCL shall ensure that imposition and reduction of load shedding is carried out in equitable manner across all consumers in all areas. UPCL shall also ensure that it does not under-draw from the grid for more than two consecutive time slots of 15 minutes during the period of load shedding. Record of Load Shedding shall be maintained at concerned Grid Sub-station. However, the schedule of restriction on industrial consumers shall remain unaffected.
12. Restriction shall be closely monitored and field staff shall implement load shedding programme without any deviation except as provided in this order. 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.
13. UPCL's vigilance team shall monitor and report instances of deviation from load shedding schedule directly to the Commission.

14. UPCL may synchronise their maintenance shutdowns within the period of cut as far as possible.
15. UPCL shall submit a report of load shedding, availability, drawl schedules and load actually drawn, to the Commission during the period of scheduled load shedding.
16. UPCL shall maintain separate account of revenue billed on account of continuous supply and data on additional power purchase incurred during the period of restriction and submit the same to the Commission by the end of succeeding month.
17. Based on above, for the awareness of public at large, UPCL shall prepare and publish a notice regarding Load Shedding Schedule in at-least one English and two Hindi daily newspapers having wide circulation in the State. The notice must contain the terms and conditions apart from area-wise power roasting schedule. The notified scheduled cut/restriction period shall be considered to be applicable only on or after the date of publication of such notice. UPCL shall also intimate the Load Shedding Schedule to the Industrial Associations.
18. This order supersedes the earlier order dated 18.1.2010 of the Commission in the matter of Scheduled Load Shedding in the State and shall remain in force up-to 15th May 2010. UPCL is further directed to submit a detailed report to the Commission by 7th May 2010, on the supply position and steps taken by it to bridge the demand-supply gap.
19. The Commission may further amend the provisions of this order as and when required.

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(Anand Kumar)
Member

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(V.J. Talwar)
Chairman