

BEFORE

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Petition No.: 20 of 2013

In the matter of:

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited's proposal seeking approval of the Commission for scheduled load shedding in the State of Uttarakhand u/s 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Coram

Shri Jag Mohan Lal	Chairman
Shri C.S. Sharma	Member
Shri K.P. Singh	Member

Date of Order: 14th June 2013

ORDER

These proceedings relate to the proposal received from Managing Director, Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), requesting for approval of the Commission for Scheduled Load Shedding in the State, u/s 23 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The hearing in the matter was held on 10.06.2013.

2. UPCL in their proposal has projected demand and availability of electricity for the first quarter of FY 2013-14 in the State as follows:

Particulars	Projected demand			
	April 2013	May 2013	June 2013	Total
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
A- Demand	948	1137	1139	3224
B- Availability	736	925	992	2653
1. UJVNL	316	446	493	1255
2. CGS, Vishnuprayag &IIPs	350	479	499	1328
3. Inward returned Banking	70	-	-	70
C- Deficit(A-B)	212	212	147	571
D- Purchase from Market/Overdrawl	192	191	107	490
E- Deficit after procuring power from market etc.(C-D)	20	21	40	81

3. UPCL has estimated a shortage of about 6.27 MU per day in the first quarter of FY 2013-14. The Petitioner in the petition has stated that to avoid unscheduled power

cuts, it is proposing scheduled rostering plan to be implemented in the State for the period upto 31.07.2013. The Petitioner has enclosed rostering plan along with the Petition. The Petitioner has also submitted the area-wise impact in terms of MW of load shedding in each of the affected areas i.e. Rural areas of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar District, small towns of Garhwal and Kumaon and Hilly areas excluding Yatra Route. Accordingly the Petitioner is seeking approval of the Commission for carrying out load shedding to the tune of 1.291 MUs/day till 31.07.2013.

4. It came to the notice of the Commission, through newspaper reports dated 10.05.2013, that UPCL is carrying out daily load shedding as Scheduled load shedding in the State.

5. The Commission vide its letter dated 23.05.2013 to UPCL stated:

"Further, from the newspaper cuttings (copy enclosed), it appears that scheduled load shedding has already commenced. You are also required to confirm this or otherwise. If the scheduled load shedding has already commenced, reasons for not mentioning this fact in the petition and whether this petition seeks ex-post facto approval of action taken, need to be informed."

6. The Commission in the same letter further asked UPCL to submit the basis of estimation of the demand for the period April, 2013 to June 2013 as the same neither coincided with the demand projections submitted by the Petitioner in the MYT petition for the first control period nor with the Commission's approval in the Tariff Order dated 06.05.2013. Further, the Commission also asked the Petitioner to submit clarifications as to why the demand projected for the month of May, 2013 far exceeded the pro-rated monthly demand based on the actual daily demand for the period 01.05.2013 to 13.05.2013 submitted by it along with the Petition.

7. The Commission directed the Petitioner to submit the clarifications by 31.05.2013 and fixed the date of hearing on 03.06.2013 at 11.30 AM in the Commission's office, directing MD, UPCL to be present in the said hearing.

8. The Petitioner submitted the following reply vide its letter dated 30.05.2013:

“1- Actual demand for the month of April, 2013 has been considered in the petition. The demand for the months of May, 2013 and June 2013 was estimated on the basis of annual growth in May, 2012 and June 2012 over the demand in these months in 2011. The details of demand may be shown as follows:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
2011	903.91 MU	884.35 MU
2012	1022.73 MU	1025.05 MU
<i>Annual Growth</i>	13.15%	15.91%

As against the above growth trend, UPCL considered 11% growth in these months

2- As regards the demand of May, 2013 exceeding the prorated monthly demand based on daily demand for the period from 01-05-2013 to 13-05-2013, it is submitted that temperature (heating) is increased every day in the month of May every year and average demand for the period from 14 May to 31 May is always higher than the average demand during 1 May to 13 May. The average demand for the period from 14-05-2013 to 27-05-2013 has been recorded as of 36.56 MU per day as against the average demand of 33.96 MU per day for the period from 01-05-2013 to 31-05-2013.

3- The Tariff Order for FY 2013-14 was declared in May, 2013 and therefore the demand projections for the second quarter, third quarter and fourth quarter of FY 2013-14 were made mainly on the basis of approved estimation in the Tariff Order.

4- As regards load shedding before submission of the above petition, it is submitted that load shedding/outages is done by UPCL only in emergency conditions and to control the gap between demand and availability of electricity. On issuance of the Tariff Order for FY 2013-14, UPCL estimated its deficit of power and prepared a plan to handle this deficit situation by imposing power cuts in various areas. Keeping in view the direction issued by Hon'ble Commission in its Tariff Order for FY 2013-14 (to obtain the prior approval of load shedding to be carried out continuously for certain number of hours in a day for 15 or more days) UPCL filed a petition in the matter before the Commission seeking approval of scheduled load shedding of electricity in the State of Uttarakhand. Thus, no unscheduled load shedding has been done by UPCL.”

9. The Petitioner vide its letter dated 01.06.2013 requested the Commission to postpone the dated of hearing to any other date. The Commission rescheduled the date of hearing to 10.06.2013.

10. MD, UPCL, during the hearing, informed the Commission that in the month of April and May 2013 there was shortfall in the availability of power as UPCL was not able to receive power from Sasan project due to various operational

constraints. Moreover, power from UJVN Ltd was also not available to the extent as envisaged. However, MD, UPCL informed the Commission that there is increase in generation in State power houses, so the power situation in the state has improved appreciably and consequently need for load shedding in the State has reduced considerably and there is no need of daily load shedding. The Commission during the course of hearing pointed out that in the rostering plan submitted by the Petitioner, load shedding of furnaces from 18:00 hours to 23:00 hours has been shown; however, other non-continuous industries have been left out from the load shedding schedule. The Commission directed the Petitioner that since these non-continuous industries are not paying any extra energy charges, as continuous industries are paying, they should not be exempted from load shedding and their load shedding hours should be separately shown in future load shedding programmes. The load shedding schedule, as and when drawn, should be equitable and should not be excessive for any category of consumers. The Commission also observed that short term procurement of power appears to be higher than allowed by the Commission in the Tariff Order. The Commission directed the Petitioner that in case higher short term procurement of power than that allowed by the Commission in Tariff Order becomes necessary, Petitioner should seek prior approval of the Commission giving due justification. MD, UPCL assured the Commission of the compliance of the said directions in future. MD, UPCL informed the Commission that in the changed scenario, when power availability in the State has improved considerably, at present there is no need of scheduled load shedding in the State, therefore UPCL is withdrawing the Petition and requested the Commission to allow the same. The Commission allowed the Petitioner to withdraw the Petition.

(K.P. Singh)
Member

(C.S. Sharma)
Member

(Jag Mohan Lal)
Chairman