

Before

UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Suo-Moto

In the matter of:

Installation of 18 kWp capacity Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plant at Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) building, Dehradun sanctioned by M/s PFC Ltd. under IPDS Programme.

In the matter of:

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL)

...Respondent

Coram

Shri Subhash Kumar Chairman

Date of Order: March 23, 2017

ORDER

1. The Commission while considering the importance of green energy and to contribute in the global initiative towards reducing carbon footprint had contemplated implementation of a Solar PV Power Plant for the purpose of its own consumption and also for supply of excess energy generated to the Respondent. In this regard, the Commission had vide its letter dated 28.07.2014 submitted a DPR to UREDA, State Agency for implementation of 18 kWp Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Power Plant at its office building under net metering arrangement in accordance with the RE Regulations. The said DPR was also submitted to MNRE through UREDA for consideration of the project under Off-Grid and Decentralized Solar Application Scheme of Govt. of India.
2. UREDA had vide its letter dated 12.08.2014 forwarded the above mentioned DPR to MNRE with the request for according approval of 90% project cost as a Central Financial Assistance (CFA) from MNRE and balance 10% would be contributed by the

Commission. However, UREDA vide its letter dated 16.01.2015 informed the Commission that due to financial constraint MNRE is not releasing CFA to any project during that financial year.

3. Thereafter, UREDA, had vide its letter dated 30.05.2015 based on the Ministry of Power (MoP) guidelines on Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) apprised UPCL that under the IPDS Scheme MoP is providing 85% financial support to DISCOM in installation of solar power plant on Govt. building on net metering. UREDA had vide its above referred letter also requested Respondent for insertion of total 18 Solar Rooftop Projects (including the above mentioned 18 kWp Solar Power Plant of UERC's building) in the proposal which was then being submitted by UPCL to MoP under IPDS Scheme.
4. In the meantime, during a hearing held on 04.12.2015 at the Commission's office, Director (F), UPCL had apprised the Commission that the Ministry of Power, Govt. India had sanctioned the CFA under Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in respect of 18 kWp capacity Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Power Plant to be implemented at the UERC's building.
5. Accordingly, the Commission had vide its letter 04.12.2015 desired & directed UREDA, the State Agency, to install the Rooftop Solar PV Power Plant at the UERC's building, Dehradun . UPCL did not ask UREDA to stop the said installation.
6. UREDA had vide its letter dated 15.12.2015 asked M/s Visa Power Pvt. Ltd., one of the empanelled contractor, for implementation of 18 kWp Rooftop Solar PV Power Plant at the UERC's building. UREDA had also intimated the same to UPCL vide its letter dated 15.12.2015 and requested UPCL for release of fund sanctioned by MNRE in this regard.
7. Based on the above developments favoring approval of CFA and also investment approval accorded by the Commission on the IPDS scheme submitted by the Respondent (UPCL), UREDA had carried out implementation of the proposed Solar Power Plant at the UERC's building through the empanelled firm and the project got commissioned on 10.02.2016.
8. Apparently, the aforesaid project had been conceived and implemented keeping in view of the release of CFA from PFC to the extent of 90% under the IPDS scheme. The same has also been affirmed by letter dated 20.03.2017 of Principal Secretary, Energy, Govt. of

Uttarakhand addressed to Executive Director, PFC, New Delhi. In this regard, relevant extract of the GoU's letter is reproduced as follows:

"...

Hence the installation of plant has been immediately started & could be commissioned on 10.02.2016. The installation of this plant has been carried out through the firm selected and empanelled by UREDA through competitive bidding at national level.

Hence, it is requested that as the installation of the plant has been completed against the in-principal approval of PFC, the 90% financial support should be admissible under IPDS Programme and direct UPCL for release the admissible 90% financial support. The payment to the installation firm is already delayed for more than one year."

9. In light of the above facts including GoU's letter to PFC, it is apparent that funding of 90% of the Solar Power Plant installed at the UERC's building would be made through CFA and balance 10% is to be arranged as per MoP's guidelines in this regard by UPCL. Accordingly, the Respondent is required to release all the payment of bills in respect of the above mentioned solar power plant implemented at UERC's building.
10. Further, in the event requisite CFA is not released to Respondent by PFC, the Respondent shall approach the Commission claiming due entitlement and recovery of the cost through its Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) in subsequent Tariff Filings.
11. Ordered accordingly.

(Subhash Kumar)
Chairman