

Sub: In the matter of connectivity for Solar Power Project (1MW) at 33/11 kV sub-station at village Berchhadatar, Distt. Shajapur, M.P. under open access policy.

ORDER

**(Date of hearing: 12th March,2015)
(Date of order: 18th March,2015)**

- M/s Harihar Energy Enterprises, - Petitioner
Village Berchhadatar, Tehsil Kalapipal,
Distt. Shajapur, M.P.
- M.P. Power Transmission Co. Ltd., - Respondent No.1
Shakti Bhawan, Rampur,
Jabalpur, M.P.
- M.P. Pashchim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. Ltd., - Respondent No.2
G.P.H. Compound, Pologround,
Indore, M.P.
- The Dy. Commissioner, - Respondent No.3
New & Renewable Energy Department,
Government of M.P., Urja Bhawan,
Main Road No. 2, Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal

Shri S.P. Sharma, Technical Consultant appeared on behalf of the petitioner.
Shri P. K. Jain, Addl. SE appeared on behalf of the respondent no. 2.
None appeared on behalf of the respondent nos. 1 & 3.

2. The petitioner, M/s Harihar Energy Enterprises, Shajapur has filed this petition seeking permission for connectivity of its proposed solar power project to the nearest 33/11 kV sub-station at village Berchhadatar, District Shajapur.

3. The petitioner has stated that:

- (i) M/s Harihar Energy Enterprises, Shajapur is a partnership firm created to put up a solar power project at village Berchhadatar, Tehsil Kalapipal, District Shajapur. The petitioner is aspiring to harness renewable energy available and to sell the generated power in the energy market. The project was registered under the M.P. Solar Power Policy.
- (ii) The petitioner had applied the respondent no. 2 for connectivity to 33/11 kV sub-station at Berchhadatar, which is within 2 Kms. from the proposed project site. By letter dated 10.06.2014 and 12.06.2014 the respondent no. 2 indicated that they can provide connectivity at 132/33 kV sub-station at Aranyakala, which is around 10 Kms. Away from the proposed project site. With the above proposal, it will require an additional investment of Rs. 1.0 Cr. for transmission line and its maintenance along with increased line losses and thus it will become unviable. The petitioner is finding uncertainty about the proposed project. Hence, this petition.

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4. In its petition, the petitioner sought permission of the Commission for connectivity of its proposed solar power project to the nearest 33/11 kV sub-station at village Berchhadatar, District Shajapur.

5. The matter was heard on 12.03.2015. The petitioner and the respondent no. 2 made written submissions. During the hearing, the petitioner reiterated the contents of the petition and submitted that as per clause 5.4 of the guidelines issued by the MNRE for Rooftop and other small solar power plants connected to distribution network, the interconnection should be at the nearest distribution transformer/sub-station for 1 MW project at HT level (below 33 kV). He also submitted that proper protection equipments shall be installed for isolation of the project in case of faults.

6. In its written submissions and during the hearing, Respondent no. 2 stated that:

(a) Regulation 7.1 of the MPERC (Cogeneration and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy) (Revision-I) Regulations, 2010 provides:

“7.1 The Generation and Co-generation from Renewable Sources, except Roof-top Solar PV and Bio-gas Sources, shall be connected to the State Grid at a Voltage level of 132/33/11 kV based on technical suitability determined by the Licensee. For Roof-top Solar PV sources and bio-gas Plants, connectivity may be allowed at Low Voltage or 11/33 kV as considered technically suitable by the Distribution Licensee.”

(b) As per Section 2(32) of the Electricity Act, 2003, “Grid” means the high voltage backbone system of inter-connected transmission lines, sub-station and generating plants. It appears that the “Grid” concerns with the transmission system and in Madhya Pradesh, the transmission system consists of lines and network of 132 kV and above including the sub-station of 132/33 kV. Hence, it may be inferred that the generation and co-generation from Grid connected Solar PV may be connected to 132 kV sub-station.

(c) To determine the technical feasibility, Respondent no.2 had fixed the norms for grid connectivity of renewable energy based power plant according to which, the petitioner may not be allowed connectivity at 33/11 kV sub-station.

(d) Due to various technical reasons viz. higher earth resistance at 33/11 kV sub-station which leads to spreading of fault current at 33/11 kV sub-station and can cause damage to various electronic devices etc., this solar power project cannot be provided connectivity at nearby 33/11 kV sub-station.

(e) The contention of the petitioner that the project will not be viable in case connectivity at 33/11 kV sub-station is not provided is not tenable because the location of the plant was under the control of the petitioner.

(f) In view of the above, the petitioner’s request may not be considered.

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7. Having heard the petitioner and the respondent no.2 and on considering their written submissions, the Commission has noted that:

- (a) As per Regulation 7.1 of the MPERC (Cogeneration and generation of electricity from renewable sources of energy) (Revision-I) Regulations, 2010, the technical feasibility is to be decided by the licensee.
- (b) As per clause 5.4 of the guidelines issued by the MNRE for Rooftop and other small solar power plants connected to distribution network under Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, the interconnection should be at the nearest distribution transformer/sub-station for project up to 2 MW at HT level (below 33 kV). It is also mentioned that the Project Proponent shall submit a letter from the concerned Distribution Utility confirming technical feasibility of connecting the plant to the distribution transformer/sub-station. Therefore, the licensee has to decide the technical feasibility.
- (c) In order to promote solar power projects, the MNRE has issued guidelines for small solar plants up to 2 MW capacity which provides connectivity at below 33 kV level. Hence, for aforesaid 1 MW solar power plant connectivity may be allowed at 11 kV.
- (d) In its written submission dated 19.02.2015, the petitioner has mentioned that he is ready to wait for the time the nearest 33/11 kV sub-station is made technically suitable.

8. In view of the above, the Commission directs the respondent no.2 to determine the technical feasibility for connectivity of aforesaid solar power plant to the nearest sub-station at 11 kV and in case it is not found technically feasible, the licensee may explore other possibilities. The petitioner may also be intimated accordingly.

9. With the above directions, the petition no. 23/2014 stands disposed of.

(Alok Gupta)
Member

(A.B.Bajpai)
Member

(Dr. Dev Raj Birdi)
Chairman