

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

Petition No. 824/TL/2025

Coram:

Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson

Shri Ramesh Babu V., Member

Shri Harish Dudani, Member

Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Member

Date of Order: 7th April, 2026

In the matter of

Application under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for Grant of Transmission License and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 and its subsequent clarification and replacement, if any, with respect to the grant of transmission licence to Angul Sundargarh Transmission Limited.

And

In the matter of

Angul Sundargarh Transmission Limited,

Urjanidhi, 1st Floor, 1, Barakhamba Lane,

Connaught Place,

Central Delhi, New Delhi – 110001.

...Petitioner

Versus

1. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited,
Plot No. 2, Sector 29, Gurugram,
Gurgaon – 122001, Haryana.

2. PFC Consulting Limited,
Urjandhi, 1, Barakhamba Lane,
Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001.

3. H.G. Infra Engineering Limited,
14, Panchwati Colony, Ratanada,
Jodhpur— 342001, Rajasthan.

4. North Bihar Power Distribution Co. Limited,
Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800021, Bihar.

5. South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Limited,

Second Floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800021, Bihar.

6. Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited,
Engineering Building, H.E.C.,
Dhurwa – 834004, Ranchi.

7. Damodar Valley Corporation,
NBCC Towers, Hall No. 03,
Bhikaji Cama Place,
New Delhi-110066.

8. Tata Steel Limited,
P.O. Bistupur Jamshedpur – 831001,
Jharkhand.

9. GRIDCO Limited,
Regd. Office, Janpath,
Bhubaneswar – 751022.

10. Energy and Power Department Sikkim,
Top Floor, Secretariat Annexe-I,
Sonam Tshering Marg – 737101,
Gangtok.

11. Sasaram HVDC POWERGRID,
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area Rd, NRPC Colony,
Block B, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi – 110019.

12. NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited,
NTPC Bhawan, Core 7, SCOPE Complex,
7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

13. Dans Energy Pvt. Limited,
10th Floor, DLF Building No-8,
Tower –C, DLF Cyber City, Phase-II,
Gurugram - 122002, Haryana.

14. South Eastern Railway, HQ,
11, Garden Reach Road, BNR,
South Eastern Railway, Kolkata – 700043.

15. HVDC Alipurduar,
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,
B-9, Qutab Institutional Area Rd,
NRPC Colony, Block B, Katwaria Sarai,
New Delhi -110019.

16. Shiga Energy Private Limited,
B-1/E-24, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area
Mathura Road, New Delhi – 110044.

17. Sembcorp Energy India Limited,
Building 7A, Level 5, DLF Cyber City,
Gurugram – 122002, Haryana.

18. NLC India Limited,
No-135, EVR Periyar High Road,
Kilpauk, Chennai - 600010, Tamil Nadu.

19. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited,
144, Annasalai, Chennai - 600002,
Tamil Nadu.

20. Kerala State Electricity Board Limited,
Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695004, Kerala.

21. Electricity Department, Government of Puducherry,
137, NSC Bose Salai,
Puducherry – 605001.

22. West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited,
D Vidyut Bhavan,
Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar,
Kolkata – 700091, West Bengal.

....Respondents

Parties present:

Ms. Yashodhara B Roy, Advocate, ASTL
Shri Ankit Konwar, Advocate, ASTL
Shri Prateek Singh, Advocate, ASTL

ORDER

The Petitioner, Angul Sundargarh Transmission Limited (hereinafter referred to as “ASTL”), has filed the present Petition for the grant of a transmission licence under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) read with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms, and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations, 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “the Transmission Licence Regulations”) to establish

the Inter-State transmission system for the “Eastern Region Generation Scheme-I (ERGS-I)” on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer Basis (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) consisting of the following elements:

Sr. No.	Name of Transmission Element	SCOD in months from the Effective Date
1.	LILO of both circuits of Angul – Sundargarh (Jharsuguda) 765 kV 2xS/c lines at NLC-Talabira generation switchyard	28.3.2028

Note:

NLC India Ltd. shall provide the following at its 765 kV Talabira generation switchyard:

a. 2 no. 765 kV GIS line bays with PIR in different diameters for termination of Talabira - Sundargarh (Jharsuguda) 765 kV D/c line.

b. 2 no. of 765 kV GIS line bays with PIR in different diameters for termination of Talabira – Angul 765 kV D/c line, each with 765 kV, 1x240 MVar (3x80 MVar single phase units) switchable line reactor along with 400-ohm NGR (with NGR bypass arrangement). There shall be total 7x80 MVar single phase units against 2x240 MVar line reactors and the 7th 1-phase unit shall be spare as hot stand by. The spare 1-phase shunt reactor unit shall be placed and connected in such a way that the spare unit can be utilised without its physical movement. Further, the connection arrangement of switchable line reactors shall be such that it can be used as line reactor as well as bus reactor with suitable NGR bypass arrangement.

c. The line lengths mentioned above are approximate as the exact length shall be known after the detailed survey.”

2. Based on the competitive bidding carried out by the PFC Consulting Limited (hereinafter referred to as “PFCCL”), in its capacity as the Bid Process Coordinator (hereinafter referred to as “BPC”), in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India under Section 63 of the Act, H G Infra Engineering Limited was declared a successful bidder with the lowest quoted annual transmission charges of Rs. 431.11 million per annum.

3. The Commission, after considering the application of the Petitioner in light of the provisions of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, in its order dated 13.2.2026, *prima facie* proposed to grant a transmission licence to the Petitioner. The relevant extracts of the order dated 13.2.2026 are extracted as under:

*“33. It is pertinent to mention that the instant transmission scheme has been approved by the NCT on the premise that the present transmission scheme is an ISTS Scheme to be implemented through the TBCB route. In the case of a dedicated transmission line, such approval would not have been required. However, the applicant has approached the Commission for the grant of a transmission licence after being a successful bidder under transparent TBCB guidelines. The transmission charges for the instant transmission line are discovered through competitive bidding. The instant transmission system is required for evacuating power from the NLC Talabira Generation Station, and timely execution is important to ensure power evacuation and prevent it from getting stranded. Since the bidding process under Section 63 of the Act has already been completed, and the TSA has been signed, the transmission system is required to be constructed for evacuation of power from the generating station. Considering the material on record, we are constrained to propose the grant of the transmission licence to the Petitioner company. However, the transmission charges shall be recovered from the generating station. **The parties are directed to submit their comments on the proposal for the grant of a transmission licence along with the recovery of transmission charges as proposed above, within two weeks.** Accordingly, we, therefore, direct that a public notice in two daily digital newspapers and on the Commission`s website under clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act be published to invite suggestions or objections to the grant of a transmission licence aforesaid. The objections or suggestions, if any, shall be filed by any person before the Commission by **24.2.2026.**”*

4. In compliance with the above Order dated 13.2.2026, the Petitioner vide affidavit dated 23.2.2026, has submitted as under:

- a) The PFCCL, in its capacity as the BPC, initiated the first bid process on 29.3.2024 and the same was concluded on 28.7.2025 in accordance with the relevant guidelines. Pursuant to the completion of the bidding process, H.G. Infra Engineering Limited was selected as the successful bidder, having quoted the lowest transmission charges of Rs. 431.11

million per annum to provide the transmission services to the beneficiaries of the transmission system.

- b) As per clauses 2.5.7.3, 2.5.7.4, and 2.5.7.5 of the RFP, the Petitioner has carried out its own due diligence upon survey report provided by BPC and considered all possible techno-commercial factors before submission of Bid. In addition, the Petitioner had also visited the route of the Transmission Lines and the surrounding areas associated with the Project and carried out required surveys and field investigations for preparation and submission of the Bid. The aforesaid survey was duly carried out by the Petitioner from 7.3.2025 to 11.3.2025.
- c) In terms of Clause 5.1.1 of the Transmission Service Agreement dated 28.7.2025, the financial break-up of the quoted bid amount was duly provided in the financial bid, mentioning the details of the cost of each element as provided in the aforesaid clause, and the same has been duly accepted.
- d) As per the relevant provisions under clause 2.15.2 of the RFP, H G Infra Engineering Limited was obligated to complete certain tasks within 10 days from the date of letter of intent i.e. 19.6.2025 *inter alia*, submission of the Performance Bank Guarantee("PBG"), acquisition of 100% equity share of Angul Sundargarh Transmission Limited ("ASTL") (Petitioner SPV) from PFCCCL along with all its related assets and liabilities and execution of the TSA and Share purchase agreement ("SPA"). However, the date of completion of the aforesaid tasks was extended till 28.7.2025. Accordingly, all the requirements as per clause 2.15.2 of

the RFP were duly completed by the successful bidder/ Petitioner herein within the timeline.

- e) As per clause 2.15.4 of the RFP, Transmission Service Provider (“TSP”) was required to apply to the Commission for the grant of a transmission licence within five working days of the issuance of the acquisition of the SPV to the successful bidder. The successful bidder, i.e., H G Infra Engineering Limited, acquired the SPV on 28.7.2025. Accordingly, the Petitioner herein duly filed the said Petition for the grant of a transmission licence through e-filing within five working days for the grant of a transmission licence on 4.8.2025.
- f) The Petitioner will comply with the provisions of the bidding documents and the TSA for the commissioning of the Project within the SCOD.

5. A public notice under Sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act was published in all editions of the Times of India (English) and Dainik Jagran (Hindi) on 19.2.2026. No suggestions/ objections have been received from members of the public in response to the public notice.

Hearing dated 26.2.2026

6. The matter was called out for hearing on 26.2.2026. During the hearing, the learned counsel for the Petitioner, ASTL, submitted that the Petitioner had filed an additional affidavit dated 23.2.2026 in compliance with the Commission’s *Interim Order* dated 13.2.2026. The learned counsel for the Petitioner further submitted that no objections or suggestions have been received from any stakeholders pursuant to the issuance of public notice by the Commission in terms of Section 15(5)(a) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

7. Further, vide Record of Proceedings (hereinafter referred to as "RoP") dated 26.02.2026, it was deemed appropriate to grant another opportunity to the Respondents, particularly CTUIL and NLCIL, to file their comments, if any, on the Commission's proposal to grant the transmission licence with recovery of transmission charges from the generator (NLCIL), as contemplated under paragraph 33 of the order dated 13.02.2026, within two weeks.

Hearing dated 18.3.2026

8. During the hearing, the learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that pursuant to the direction issued vide RoP dated 13.11.2025, CTUIL has filed the requisite affidavit, and also no objections had been received in response to the public notice published by the Commission under sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act.

9. In addition, it is noted that vide interim order dated 13.02.2026, comments/ objections, if any, were sought from the Respondents on the proposal to grant transmission licence with recovery of transmission charges from the generator (NLCIL). Further, vide RoP dated 26.2.2026, another opportunity was granted to the Respondents, particularly CTUIL and NLCIL, to file their comments, if any, within two weeks. However, no comments/ objections/ suggestions have been received from any of the Respondents.

10. Vide interim Order dated 13.02.2026, we have observed that the instant transmission scheme for evacuating power from the NLC Talabira Generation Station, being a Dedicated Transmission Line, ought to be established by NLC Talabira TPP. In such a case, there was no requirement to grant a transmission licence. However, considering that the bidding process under Section 63 of the Act has already been
Order in Petition No. 824/TL/2025

completed and the TSA has been signed, the Commission had proposed granting the transmission licence to the Petitioner, to ensure the timely availability of the transmission system for the evacuation of power from the generating station. The transmission licence was proposed, and it was also indicated that transmission charges for the instant scheme shall be recovered from the generating station, i.e., NLC Talabira, to which no objections/ suggestions have been filed by any party.

11. As regards the grant of a transmission licence, Clauses (13) and (14) of Regulation 5 and Regulation 21 of the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations provide as under:

“(13) The Commission may, after consideration of the further suggestions and objections, if any, received in response to the public notice in terms of Clause (12) of this Regulation, grant licence to the applicant in Form-III appended to these regulations or for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application.

(14) The Commission shall before granting licence or rejecting the application under the provisions of this Regulation provide an opportunity of hearing to the applicant, CTUIL, the concerned DICs, or the person who has filed suggestions and objections, or any other interested person.

...

*21. **Power to Relax** The Commission, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may relax any of the provisions of these regulations on its own motion or on an application made before it by an affected person to remove the hardship arising out of the operation of any of these regulations, applicable to a class of persons.”*

12. Considering the facts of the case, we have decided to exercise the Powers to Relax under Regulation 21 of the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations and hereby grant the transmission licence to the Petitioner company as a special case. The entire transmission charges for the instant transmission system shall be borne and paid solely by the generating station. CTUIL shall raise the monthly bills on the generating station post-COD of the instant transmission line and reimburse the transmission charges to the Petitioner. In the event of non-payment of transmission charges by the

generating station, it shall be liable to regulatory action under Regulation 21 of the 2022 Sharing Regulations.

13. In our order dated 13.2.2026, we had proposed to grant a transmission licence to the Petitioner company and directed the issue of public notice. In response to the public notice, no suggestions/ objections have been received. CTUIL, in its letter dated 27.8.2025, has recommended the grant of a transmission licence to the Petitioner. We find that the Petitioner company meets the requirements of the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations, 2024, for the grant of a transmission licence for the subject Transmission System mentioned in paragraph 1 of this order. Considering the submissions of the Petitioner and CTUIL, we direct that a transmission licence be granted to the Petitioner, Angul Sundargarh Transmission Limited, to establish the Inter-State transmission system for the “Eastern Region Generation Scheme-I (ERGS-I)” on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer basis as per the details given in paragraph 1 above, subject to the condition stipulated in para 12 above.

14. The grant of the transmission licence to the Petitioner (hereinafter referred to as “the licensee”) is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions throughout the period of the licence:

- (a) The transmission licence shall, unless revoked earlier, remain in force for a period of 25 years from the date of issue;
- (b) The transmission licensee shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms, and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related matters) Regulations,

2024 or any subsequent enactment thereof during the period of subsistence of the licence;

- (c) The licensee may make an application, two years before the expiry of the initial licence period, for the grant of the transmission licence for another term in accordance with Regulation 9 (2) of the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, which shall be considered by the Commission in accordance with law;
- (d) The licensee shall not enter into any contract for or otherwise engage in the business of trading in electricity during the period of subsistence of the transmission licence;
- (e) The licensee shall have the liability to pay the license fee in accordance with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) Regulations, 2012, as amended from time to time or any subsequent enactment thereof. Delay in payment or non-payment of the licence fee or a part thereof for a period exceeding sixty days shall be construed as a breach of the terms and conditions of the licence;
- (f) The licensee shall comply with the directions of the National Load Despatch Centre under Section 26 of the Act, or the Regional Load Despatch Centre under sub-section (3) of Section 28 or sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Act, as may be issued from time to time for maintaining the availability of the transmission system;

- (g) The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard of Performance of inter-State transmission licensees) Regulations, 2012 or subsequent enactment thereof;
- (h) The licensee shall provide the non-discriminatory open access to its Transmission System for use by any other licensee, including a distribution licensee or an electricity trader, or generating company or any other person in accordance with the Act; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) Regulations, 2008; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2023; the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) Regulations, 2023, as amended from time to time or any subsequent re-enactments thereof;
- (i) The licensee shall not undertake any other business for optimum utilisation of the Transmission System without prior intimation to the Commission and shall comply with the provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of Revenue Derived from Utilisation of Transmission Assets for other business) Regulations, 2020;
- (j) The licensee shall remain bound by provisions of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Sharing of inter-State Transmission Charges and Losses) Regulations, 2020, as amended from time to time read with para 12 of this order ;

- (k) The licensee shall remain bound by the provisions of the Act, the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, in particular the 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, the Grid Code, the Standards specified by the Central Electricity Authority, orders and directions of the Commission issued from time to time;
- (l) The licensee shall ensure the execution of the Project as per the Technical Standards and Grid Standards of CEA;
- (m) The licensee shall submit all such reports or information as may be required under 2024 Transmission Licence Regulations, Standard of Performance Regulations or any other regulation of the Commission or as per the directions of the Commission as may be issued from time to time;
- (n) The licensee shall ensure that the EPC contract for the execution of work under the scope of the project is awarded through a competitive bidding process.

15. CTUIL and the Central Electricity Authority shall monitor the execution of the Project and bring to the Commission's notice any lapse on the part of the licensee in meeting the schedule for further appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Transmission Service Agreement executed between the licensee and the Nodal Agency, the Act and the Transmission Licence Regulations.

16. It is expected that while carrying out the survey, the Petitioner has complied with the provisions of clauses 2.5.7.3, 2.5.7.4, and 2.5.7.5 of the RfP. The Petitioner

will comply with the provisions of the bidding documents and the TSA for the commissioning of the Project within the SCOD in letter and spirit.

17. An extract copy of this order is to be sent to CTUIL, CEA, NLC India Ltd. and BPC (PFCCCL) for information and necessary action.

18. Petition No. 824/TL/2025 is allowed in terms of the above.

sd/-
(Ravinder Singh Dhillon)
Member

sd/-
(Harish Dudani)
Member

sd/-
(Ramesh Babu V.)
Member

sd/-
(Jishnu Barua)
Chairperson