

**PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH**

**Petition No. 11 of 2024
Date of Hearing: 21.08.2024
Date of Order: 30.08.2024**

Petition under regulation 8.1 (b) of the Supply Code 2014 by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited for seeking approval of Hon'ble Commission for extension in time period of release of EHT Connection.

In the Case of new connection of 4500KW load/ 5000 kVA Contract Demand applied by Divisional Railway Manager (Elect./TRD), Ambala Cantt. through Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer TRD/NR/UMB under the category Railway Traction in Sub Division Suburban Gidderbaha under DS Division Gidderbaha (RID No. 5903). And In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

.....Petitioner

Versus

Northern Railways, Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical/TRD), DRM office Ambala Cantt.

.....Respondent

**Commission: Sh.Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member**

PSPCL: Ms. Harmohan Kaur, CE/ARR&TR
Sh. Harjeet Singh, ASE/TR-2
Sh. Kamaljit Singh Maan, ASE

Northern Railways Sh. Gurbachan Singh, SSE/EMS/TRD

Order

PSPCL has filed this petition under Regulation 8.1(b) of the Supply Code, 2014 for extension in time to 31.07.2024 for release of

new EHT connection of 4500 kW load/5000 kVA contract demand applied by the Divisional Railway manager (Electrical/TRD), Ambala Cantt. under the category Railway Traction in PSPCL Sub-Division Gidderbaha under DS Division, Gidderbaha. The petitioner had earlier filed a petition bearing no. 71 of 2022 for extension in the time period for release of aforementioned connection. Vide Order dated 01.06.2023, the Commission had allowed extension in time upto 31.03.2024.

The petition was admitted vide Order dated 22.02.2024. The Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical/TRD), Ambala Cantt. was also impleaded as a Respondent and notice was issued to file reply within two weeks. PSPCL was directed to file its rejoinder to the reply filed by the Northern Railway within one week thereafter. Further, PSPCL was also directed to submit activity wise timeline for completion of work for release of electricity connection. PSPCL filed the activity wise timeline for releasing the connection vide memo no. 5504 dated 09.04.2024. Since nobody appeared on behalf of Northern Railway, in the interest of justice, the Northern Railway was granted one more opportunity to appear and to file a consolidated reply within 3 weeks with a copy to PSPCL. Moreover, PSPCL was also asked to file rejoinder thereto, if any, within 2 weeks thereafter with a copy to Northern Railway.

The Northern Railway filed its reply vide memo no. 230 dated 08.05.2024 wherein it was submitted that they have no objection to the petition filed by PSPCL. The Northern Railway submitted that the land allocated for construction of traction sub-station near Balluana The Railway Station had few trees at the time of allocation in June, 2021. The Railway got busy in other works that were in progress under the project of electrification from Bathinda to Sriganganagar. In

the meantime, someone planted more trees in the land allocated for traction sub-station. In November, 2022, the Railway was trying to get the permission to cut down these trees, the Forest Department objected and since then they were trying to get the permission to cut down those trees. On 15.03.2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change permitted the cutting of trees. Since the Northern Railway was hopeful that the construction of traction sub-station would be starting soon, they requested the Commission to extend the time for connection as prayed by PSPCL in the petition.

PSPCL, however, filed its rejoinder vide memo no. 5960 dated 08.07.2024 and requested for extension of time from 31.07.2024 to 31.01.2025. Vide Order dated 11.07.2024, PSPCL was directed to file its reply to explain the repeated extensions in the timeline for releasing the connection which could not be foreseen at the time of filing the petition, within 2 weeks, with a copy to the Northern Railway. The latter was also asked to file its sur-rejoinder to the rejoinder filed by PSPCL within 3 weeks thereafter.

The Northern Railway filed their reply vide memo no.230 dated 19.08.2024. The Northern Railway submitted that the petitioner had filed the petition before the Commission in April 2024, and requested for time extension for release of Railway TSS 132 kV connection upto 31.07.2024. At that time, Railway TSS construction work had not even started, due to some issues with the Forest Department and hence the Railway had no objection with the timeline of 31.07.2024 which was intimated to the Commission vide their reply dated 08.05.2024. In July, 2024, PSPCL submitted the rejoinder to the Commission and requested for further extension upto 31.01.2025 for releasing the connection. The Northern Railway further informed that the construction work of the Railway substation had begun in July

2024 and would be completed before 31st December, 2024. Therefore, the Northern Railway requested the Commission to give directions to PSPCL to expedite the work of the line and to complete it in December.

Vide memo no. 6299 dated 20.08.2024, PSPCL submitted that the erection work of 2.12 km long 132 kV line from 132 kV sub-station Balluana to RTSS Balluana was to be started in May, 2024 after harvesting of wheat crop and the said work was to be completed in July, 2024. Accordingly, the time for release of connection upto 31.07.2024 was sought in the petition submitted before the Commission. However, when the work was going to be started in May, 2024, the farmers of the area protested together and stopped the work and showed a stay order issued by the court of Civil Judge, Junior Division, Bathinda. Thereafter, it was envisaged that the work could be completed by 31.12.2024 and in addition one more month i.e. time upto 31.01.2025 was required to set up other works such as metering equipment. Further, the hearing at the aforementioned Court regarding the stay order was scheduled for argument on 04.07.2024 and after that the next date of hearing was scheduled on 19.07.2024 due to which it was not possible to release the connection within the time limit i.e. upto 31.07.2024 sought in the petition. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, after considering the situation regarding the pending case in the Court, extension in time upto 31.01.2025 for release of connection was later sought. PSPCL further submitted that they were ready to give the connection to the Railway as soon as possible because it would also increase their revenue. Thus, at the time of filling the petition, minimum time was sought, but due to unavoidable circumstances like stay order on the construction of the line by the Court, it was not possible to release the connection

within the time limit previously sought in the petition. PSPCL accordingly, sought extension in time upto 31.01.2025 for releasing RTSS connection to the Northern Railway.

After considering the averments of PSPCL and the intimation received from Northern Railway that the construction work of Railway sub-station began in July, 2024 and would be completed in December, 2024, PSPCL is hereby allowed time extension upto 31.01.2025 for release of EHT connection to Northern Railway. PSPCL is further advised to make all out efforts to ensure that the connection is released by the aforementioned date i.e. by 31.01.2025.

Sd/-

(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Chandigarh
Dated: 30.08.2024

Sd/-

(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson