

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

**Relaxation in the provisions of Regulation 1.3 of the PSERC
(Forecasting, Scheduling, Deviation Settlement and Related Matters of
Solar and Wind Generation Resources) Regulations, 2019**

Date: 24.03.2022

ORDER

The Commission notified the PSERC (Forecasting, Scheduling, Deviation Settlement and Related Matters of Solar and Wind Generation Resources) Regulations, 2019 vide notification no. PSERC/Secy./Regu.135 dated 7th January, 2019 published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) on 7th January, 2019. As per proviso to Regulation 1.3 of these regulations, the forecasting and scheduling was to come in to force six months from the date of notification. Keeping in view the difficulties in giving effect to certain provisions of the Regulations expressed by the SLDC, the Commission, vide order dated 23.09.2019 in exercise of the powers conferred under Regulation 11 and 12 of these Regulations, relaxed the proviso to Regulation 1.3 and other provisions relating to the implementation of forecasting and scheduling to the extent that the forecasting and scheduling in accordance with these regulations shall come in to force w.e.f. 01.01.2020.

Director/Technical, PSTCL, Patiala vide memo No.23/SPS/D(T) dated 15.01.2020 had informed that the implementation of scheduling activities as per the provisions of State Grid Code and PSERC (Forecasting, Scheduling, Deviation Settlement and related matters of Solar & Wind Generation Sources) Regulations, 2019 required various resources i.e. manpower, software, hardware etc., which were to be covered under the SAMAST scheme and that the procurement under SAMAST scheme was at the tendering stage and implementation might take six to eight months from the date of tender opening. Therefore, it was not possible to manually implement the scheduling mechanism in respect of a large number of RE Generators. Accordingly, PSTCL had requested to extend the date of implementation of scheduling activities under these Regulations.

In view of the difficulties being faced by PSTCL/SLDC for giving effect

to the above stated provision of the Regulations, the Commission, vide order dated 11.02.2020 in exercise of the powers conferred under Regulation 11 and 12 of these Regulations, had relaxed the proviso to Regulation 1.3 to the extent that the forecasting and scheduling in accordance with these regulations shall come in to force w.e.f. 01.01.2021.

Thereafter Director/Technical, PSTCL, Patiala, vide memo No.70-71/EA-04 dated 09.02.2021, had intimated that after issuing a number of corrigenda for date extensions/technical amendments on the request of prospective bidders, tenders have been received for implementation of SAMAST scheme. The techno-commercial bids were opened on 11.01.2021. As the tenders were under techno-commercial evaluation stage, the implementation of SAMAST scheme might take another 15 to 18 months, it was not feasible to implement the forecasting & scheduling mechanism especially in respect of a large number of RE generators manually, though scheduling activities of IPPs/State Owned Generating Station/Central sector generating stations have been started by PSLDC since February, 2020. Accordingly, PSTCL had requested to extend the implementation date of forecasting & scheduling activities to 30.06.2022.

Subsequently, a meeting was held with Director/Technical, PSTCL on 19.02.2021 in the office of the Commission wherein PSTCL had brought out that the main reason for delay in processing the tenders was that the qualification criteria was made in a way to bind both the meter manufacturer and the software developer together till the completion of the project to avoid integration issues at the time of execution. This had increased the complexity of the tender leading to a number of corrigenda for date extensions/technical amendments/clarifications. The qualification criteria were suitably amended to increase competition. PSTCL, however, expressed confidence that the time so consumed at the tendering stage would result in saving of time during implementation stage. It was further submitted by PSTCL that manual scheduling of 55 solar generators connected to 33 pooling stations was not feasible due to their large numbers & also due to the huge number of daily revisions in schedule made by them which increased the chances of human error and commercial issues.

The Commission had observed that the indicated time period of two

months between anticipated date of opening of price bid and award of order was on the higher side. Moreover, the issues resolved during tendering stage would also translate into a shorter implementation schedule. PSTCL assured that forecasting and scheduling in accordance with these regulations can be undertaken by January, 2022. Keeping in view the foregoing, the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred under Regulation 11 and 12 of these Regulations had relaxed the proviso to Regulation 1.3 to the extent that the forecasting and scheduling in accordance with these regulations shall come in to force w.e.f. 01.01.2022.

Now, vide Director/Technical office memo dated 19.01.2021, it has been intimated that the tender for implementation of SAMAST has already been processed/ finalized and that as per the decision of WTDs of PSTCL taken in its 86th meeting held on 24.09.2021, Letter of Intent dated 14.10.2021 has also been issued to L-1 firm. However, Work Order will be placed after approval of the Commission for which Petition No. 63 of 2021 is already under consideration. It has further been submitted that ABT scheduling and forecasting modules under SAMAST project will be expedited and all efforts will be made to make these modules operational within first six months from date of placement of work order. However, the settlement system would be functional only after energy meters are installed and meter data acquisition system (MDAS) is operational, which is expected in at least 1 year from the date of placement of work order. PSTCL has accordingly submitted that it is not feasible to implement the forecasting & scheduling mechanism especially in respect of about 100 nos. RE generators manually and has requested to extend the implementation date of Forecasting & Scheduling activities up till 31.03.2023.

The Commission observes that PSTCL has been repeatedly asking for extension in the implementation date of forecasting and scheduling. Even now, definite timelines have not been given by PSTCL. The operationalisation of forecasting and scheduling has been inordinately delayed by PSTCL. It is felt that allowing repeated extensions may only induce complacency in PSTCL. Moreover, the Commission has already decided the Petition No.63 of 2021 vide Order dated 02.03.2022. Thus the Commission decides that the status of preparation of PSTCL for operationalisation of forecasting &

scheduling would be constantly monitored, for which regular updates would be submitted by PSTCL.

While noting with concern the delay in implementing the SAMAST scheme, the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred under Regulation 11 & 12 of these Regulations, relaxes the proviso to Regulation 1.3 to the extent that the forecasting & scheduling in accordance with these regulations is further extended upto 30.09.2022. PSTCL shall endeavour to complete the implementation before the extended date.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Anjuli Chandra)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh

Dated:24.03.2022