

Case No. 80/2021

Interim Order

Date of hearing: 16.11.2021

Date of order: 30.11.2021

The petitioner M/s. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd. has filed the present application seeking direction of the Commission to the State Technical Committee and the concerned licensees, including TPCODL to permit the installation and operation of the 14.6 MW Solar PV Plant under Net Metering/Bi-directional Metering Order of the Commission with respect to Solar PV Project. The petitioner owns a cement manufacturing unit at Biswali near Tangi in Cuttack District and avails power supply from TPCODL with a CD of 22 MVA through LILO of 132 KV ICCL-Salipur circuit. It also consumes power from a captive solar PV power plant having capacity of 2.5 MW. However, based on the net metering order of the Commission, the petitioner has installed a 14.6 MW AC (17.5 MW DC) ground-mounted solar PV captive power plant in the premises of its cement manufacturing unit which will be connected to the 11 KV switchyard of the 132/11 KV substation of the petitioner. During any breakdown or major maintenance, the surplus solar power will be exported to the grid through 132 KV LILO arrangement of OPTCL, where net meter is already installed by OPTCL / TPCODL. The petitioner applied to the GEDCOL, the nodal agency for development of on-grid solar and hybrid power projects of 1 MW and above capacity, for clearance by the State Technical Committee (STC). Considering the said application of the petitioner, the STC in its meeting dated 22.04.2021 observed as follows:

“After detailed deliberation, the STC observed that the document submitted by the developer is not in consonance with the terms and conditions of the net metering connection. Hence the proposal for setting up the proposed solar PV power Plant on net metering connectivity cannot be considered at present.

However the STC further advised the points illustrated below:

- i. GRIDCO, TPCODL and OPTCL shall discuss and accepting whether the installation of 14.6 MW solar PV captive power plant on a net metering basis is permissible under the Regulations made by the OERC.*
 - ii. The Developer may be asked to approach TPCODL and OPTCL for detailed discussion if they want to pursue the matter.”*
2. Accordingly the petitioner approached the licensees. The STC in its next meeting on 26.07.2021, have recommended as follows:

“The Hon’ble OERC vide net metering order dated 19.08.2016 as amended up to 17.01.2018 has allowed solar power projects above 1 MW capacity under net metering scheme but for assessing if the plant is within a certain limits of the Distribution Transformer. However, there is no mention on the applicability of a net metering provision to an EHT consumer.”

3. However, the Petitioner, in its additional submission has submitted that based on letter dated 18.08.2021 of OPTCL, the Petitioner deposited an amount of Rs.59,000/- (Rupees Fifty nine thousand only) to conduct System Study for Synchronization of its 14.6 MW AC, rated Solar Captive Power Plant. The System Study is completed and report has been submitted to the Petitioner by OPTCL vide their letter dated 15.09.2021. The conclusion of the report is as follows:-

“The system is adequate (for synchronization of 14.6 MW Solar plant of M/s. Dalmia Bharat Cement Ltd. at OCL, Tangi and to utilize the full quantum so generated for its own use”.

4. The petitioner further submitted that, its 14.6 MW Solar PV power plant is ready for synchronization with the Grid. The STC concerned is not likely to issue NOC for synchronization of the Solar Power Plant of the Petitioner under Net-metering scheme until the Commission so directs while passing Order in the present case. In view of the above, the petitioner in its additional submission has prayed the Commission to pass an Interim Order directing OPTCL to permit synchronization of its 14.6 MW Solar Power Plant with the Grid but not under Net metering scheme. However, its 14.6 MW Solar PV plant shall be considered under the Net metering scheme, from the date of synchronization, if the Commission approves the Net Metering proposal for the Petitioner subsequently.
5. During the hearing on 16.11.2021 the respondents GEDCOL and TPCODL submitted that there is no provision in the net metering order of the Commission for connecting Solar PV Power Plant with EHT system. The respondent OPTCL submitted that they have no objection for grid synchronization of the captive solar plant of the petitioner if approval of the STC is obtained.
6. Heard the parties on the application of the petitioner for interim relief regarding synchronization of the plant. The Commission observed that as per the system study report of OPTCL, the system is adequate for synchronization of the subject captive solar plant of the petitioner with the State grid and to utilize the full quantum so generated for the own use of the petitioner.

7. The connectivity of any captive generating plant to the State Grid is governed under Regulation 4.4 “**Procedure for connection to and/or use of the transmission system**” and other applicable provisions of Odisha Grid Code, 2015. Therefore, the State transmission utility is the appropriate authority to decide the matter of synchronization of the present solar power plant to the State Grid.
8. Accordingly, OPTCL is directed to take a decision on this matter by 15.12.2021 and intimate the Commission accordingly. The application for net metering of the Petitioner shall be decided after such intimation by OPTCL.
9. Put up on 21.12.2021 for further hearing.

Sd/-

Member (M)

Sd/-

Chairperson