

Minutes of Review Meeting on Performance of OPTCL

Date of review	:	03.05.2007
Period of Review	:	October, 2006 to March, 2007 and 2006-07
Persons present	:	Shri Gagan K. Dhal, MD, OPTCL Shri U K Panda, Director (Fin) Shri A.C. Mallick, Director (Com.), GRIDCO, & other officials of GRIDCO/OPTCL

The performance review of OPTCL was taken up by the Commission on 03.05.2007. During the review, the matters relating to ongoing projects of OPTCL and financial performance of the licensee were discussed.

It was found that compared to the last review taken on 27.12.2006; there has been very little progress in the implementation of the projects.

1. Progress of Projects

- (a) At the outset progress of work in 400 KV Ib-Meramundali DC line was discussed. This line was planned to evacuate power from the proposed 3rd & 4th unit of Ib TPS to Meramundali. The forest clearance of the line was obtained in November, 2003. The line was being constructed and expenditure to the tune of Rs.59 crore was incurred out of the total project cost of Rs.62.08 crore. However, there was rampant theft of conductors and line materials. The contractor terminated the contract in February, 2005. Thereafter, physical survey was done for the line in November'05. It was found that stringing of about 88 Kms was yet to be done. It has been estimated that an additional investment of about Rs.52 crore was required to complete this line. Funding source has not been decided. Hence, the work is held up. Recently the Sterlite IPP has come up with the offer to construct this line and use it on BOOT basis to evacuate its power. OPTCL is also thinking of apportioning this amount of Rs.52 crore from its contingency fund. The Commission observed that the line should be completed by strengthening OPTCL's Project Management Unit. OPTCL should submit an investment proposal to the Commission for this project separately in order to obtain necessary approval.
- (b) The status of Budhipadar-Burla-Bargarh-Bolangir 220 KV line was discussed next. It was found that Budhipadar-Burla line has been charged. Burla-Bargarh stretch has been charged on 132 KV. It is transmitting power from Burla to Bargarh and is, thus, relieving Bolangir grid of certain load. However, Bargarh-Bolangir line is getting inordinately delayed and OPTCL expects that the same shall be completed by July'08 instead of its earlier commitment of July'07. The Commission expressed displeasure for this delay. OPTCL submitted that it was being done by the turn-key contractor RPG. However, the conductors were stolen.

A fresh survey has been done and the Commission directed to assess the time and cost overrun for completion of the project.

2. Project Details and Appraisal

The Commission expressed its displeasure over time and cost overrun in almost all the transmission projects of OPTCL and directed the licensee to make a comprehensive realistic assessment of various projects which shall include financial appraisal of each project inter alia and intimate the Commission within 15 days i.e. on or before 21.05.2007 regarding the dates of completion of these projects and investment required for their completion. The OPTCL should prepare a list of such projects which should be completed during 2007-08. A presentation may be made by OPTCL on the subject on 11 AM on dtd. 28.05.2007.

3. Filling up Vacancies

In course of the discussion with OPTCL, the Commission realized that OPTCL had serious HR problems. This included existence of 1400 vacancies for various technical and non-technical posts in OPTCL including the post of Director (Engg.)/Director (Operation) since last 5 years. The Commission directed OPTCL to fill up all such posts crucial for its operation so that project monitoring could be effectively done.

4. Project Management of OPTCL

Inordinate delay in project execution has a serious impact on the growth and development of EHT transmission of the State which is the backbone for the delivery of power to various agencies. From periodical review it is observed that there has been no improvement in timely execution of many of its projects. The Commission desires that the OPTCL board should have a threadbare discussion and identify the modalities for timely execution. Decision taken in the board may be submitted to the Commission during the next review.
