

Before the
MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Case No. 41 of 2017

Date: 8 June, 2017

CORAM: Shri. Azeez M. Khan, Member
Shri. Deepak Lad, Member

Petition of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. seeking revision in Wind Zone class allotted by MEDA in respect of wind power projects which are getting consistently higher generation on actual basis for last 3 years.

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL)Petitioner

V/s

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) Respondent

Appearance

For MSEDCL : Ms. Deepa Chawan, (Counsel)
For MEDA : Mr. S.P.Bodke (Rep)
For Authorized Consumer Representative : Dr. Ashok Pendse (TBIA)

Daily Order

Heard the Advocate of MSEDCL, Representative of MEDA and Authorized Consumer Representative.

1. MSEDCL stated that:

- (i) Regulation 26 of the RE Tariff Regulations, 2010, provides that the Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) and the annual mean wind power density measured at 50 metre hub-height. The Commission in its first Generic RE Tariff Order dated 14 July, 2010 in Case No. 20 of 2010 had directed MEDA to devise suitable procedures for classification of Wind Power Projects into particular Wind Zone class in consultation with C-WET/Wind Energy developers and Distribution Licensees. Subsequently, from FY 2012-13, MEDA devised a procedure for the same. In FY 2013 it was observed that some Wind Power Projects were getting higher actual CUF than the corresponding Wind Zone classification done by MEDA. MSEDCL also pointed out to MEDA that the hub height of 80 to 110 m is considered by Wind Power Projects in recent past. However, MEDA had continued with the procedure of Wind Zone classification based on historical data of wind power density measurement at 50 m hub height. The RE Tariff Regulations, 2015 have also considered the annual mean wind power density measured at 80 meter height.
- (ii) MSEDCL has analysed the actual generation data of 340 Wind Power Projects for FY 2013-14 to 2015-16. Out of these 340 projects, 328 fall under Wind Zone -1 and 12 under Wind Zone -2. Out of these 328 projects, 42 Projects are getting consistently much higher CUF than 20%. These 42 Wind Projects should have been classified as under:

19 Projects under Wind Zone -2; 22 under Wind Zone -3 and 1 under Wind Zone -4.

- (iii) In the light of the above analysis carried out for 42 Wind Projects, MSEDCL has suggested to MEDA that the Wind Zone classification needs to be reviewed at the end of the financial year based on the actual generation submitted by the Generator and the account should be reconciled. The relevant Wind Zone tariff needs to be made applicable for the next financial year.
2. The Commission asked MSEDCL why generation data of only 42 out of 328 Wind Projects is analysed and sent to MEDA, and whether MSEDCL has analysed the data for the remaining 286 Wind Projects. MSEDCL stated that generation data of 328 projects is analysed, but out of these only 42 projects are getting CUF consistently much higher than 20%. Hence, reclassification of Wind Zones in respect of these 42 Projects is sought from MEDA and generation data has been sent to it. The Commission asked whether all these 42 Projects are located in the same cluster or area and how it has segregated only 42 Projects out of 328. MSEDCL replied that out of 42 Projects, 38 are located in Satara District.
 3. The Commission asked Representative of MEDA about the action taken on the generation data of 42 Projects furnished by MSEDCL. Representative of MEDA stated that it has not received such generation data from MSEDCL. The Commission observed, however, that the written submission from MEDA dated 20 May, 2017 mentioned receipt of generation data of 42 Projects from MSEDCL, and regretted MEDA's unpreparedness at the hearing. At MEDA's request the Commission directed MEDA to file its detailed response within ten days with a copy to MSEDCL.
 4. The Commission observed that there is need for better coordination between MSEDCL and MEDA on such issue. MSEDCL should provide the remaining data of 328 Wind Generators to MEDA so that it could take it up with NIWE.
 5. Dr Ashok Pendse, on behalf of Thane Belapur Industries Association (TBIA), an Authorised Consumer Representative, stated that MSEDCL is seeking revision of Wind Zone classification of 42 out of 328 Wind Generators under Zone-1 because the actual CUF is higher than the allotted CUF. However, in case the remaining 286 Generators are getting lower CUF (less than 20%) would such Generators be compensated by MSEDCL assuming the deemed generation as per the Wind Zone classification.

The next date of hearing will be communicated by the Secretariat of the Commission.

**Sd/-
(Deepak Lad)
Member**

**Sd/-
(Azeez M. Khan)
Member**