

 **POWER PURCHASE****» Coal Ministry conducts E-Auction for mines in Five States:**

- » Ministry of Coal has conducted e-auction of eight coal mines of five states under commercial coal mining auction on 13th September, 2022.
- » Five coal mines have been fully explored and three mines are partially explored.
- » Total geological reserves for these eight coal mines are 2157.48 Million Tonnes (MT).
- » Cumulative Peak Rate Capacity (PRC) for these coal mines is 19.31 million ton per annum.
- » Out of the eight coal mines that have been auctioned two are in Jharkhand – Basantpur and Jitpur; two in Maharashtra – Dahegaon/Makardhokra-IV and Marki Mangli-IV; and two in Odisha – Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia.
- » Sursa mines from Chhattisgarh and Bandha North from Madhya Pradesh were also auctioned.

POWER PURCHASE

- » Coal ministry conducts e-auction for mines in five states.
- » MERC petition in matter of deemed licensees seeking approval for combined power purchase at Power Exchange linked rates from July 2022.

RENEWABLES

- » MERC order in the matter of petition filed by M/s. Enel Wind Project (Amberi) Pvt Ltd. For release of Late Payment Surcharge (LPS):
- » Green Tariff of 10% introduced by Tamil Nadu in MYT order:

POLICY AND REGULATORY

- » West Bengal Issues Open Access Regulations Including Green Energy.

▶ POWER PURCHASE**» MERC petition in matter of deemed licensees seeking approval for combined power purchase at Power Exchange linked rates from July 2022.**

➤ Petitioners Mindspace Business Parks, Gigaplex Estate and KRC Infrastructure and Projects, which are deemed licensees, and jointly referred as KRC discoms had filed petition seeking approval for combined power purchase at exchange linked rates from July 2022.

» Background:

- Due to increase in demand KRC discoms had decided to procure 19MW conventional power from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for which reverse auction conducted on April 13, 2022 and price discovered at Rs. 6.8/kWh.
- As price discovered was higher than avg. purchase cost for discoms for FY 2022-23, tender was cancelled. On re-initiation of bidding process no bids were received.
- KRC DISCOMs subsequently entered into bilateral arrangement with GMR energy trading at exchange linked price.
- Petitioners stated that due to prevailing extraordinary circumstance beyond control, Commission should approve

arrangement of bilateral power purchase at exchange linked rates.

» Commission Rulings:

- Hon'ble Commission allowed exchange-linked contracts until KRC DISCOMs successfully discovered tariffs through the competitive bidding route. However, Commission stated that such arrangement wouldn't have been allowed under normal course as it wasn't a viable option.
- Commission stated that due to unsuccessful bidding process KRC DISCOMs had to resort to power exchanges to meet their demand.
- Commission noted that price discovered on exchanges in recent past was higher than avg. power procurement rate of Rs. 3.92/kWh approved in MYT orders.
- Commission allowed exchange linked contracts only for FY 2022-23.

➡ RENEWABLES**» MERC order in the matter of petition filed by M/s. Enel Wind Project (Amberi) Pvt Ltd. For release of Late Payment Surcharge(LPS):**

➤ EWPPPL had filed petition on March 21, 2022 seeking review and modification of commission's previous order and direct MSEDCL to discharge LPS for billing period from April 2017 to February 2018 and January 2017 without demur or delay.

» Background:

- The Petitioner Enel Wind Project had commissioned wind projects with cumulative installed capacity of 22.2 MW in Sangli and Satara Districts.
- Petitioner had submitted that MSEDCL defaulted in discharging payments regularly.
- The Commission vide order dated 19th October, 2018, allowed the claims made by petitioner and directed MSEDCL to pay additional interest at 1.25% per month on unpaid LPS.
- MSEDCL made payments towards principal outstanding towards invoices for electricity supplied till November 2018.
- MSEDCL failed to release payments towards accrued LPS and principal outstanding since December 2018.

➤ The Developers claims were rejected by Hon'ble Commission towards LPS for April 2012 to March 2018, as developer did not include claim for April 2012 to March 2018 in 2018 petition.

➤ MSEDCL argued that Petitioner had filed second petition on 2021 to force it to pay unnecessary interest over the principal amount which had already cleared by MSEDCL within stipulated timeline.

» Commission's Analysis:

- Commission noted that the LPS claim for the period from April 2017 to February 2018 needed to be allowed as claims were categorically sought in 2018 and were based on facts which had not be considered in earlier order due to error.
- Commission stated that MSEDCL had paid LPS from April 2019 but not for April 2017 to February 2018 and January 2017. Also, in 2018 order commission had allowed interest at 1.25% on delayed payment of LPS.
- Hence, Commission directed MSEDCL to pay LPS for period along with interest at 1.25% on outstanding LPS.

 **RENEWABLES****» Green Tariff of 10% introduced by Tamil Nadu in MYT order:****» 'Green Tariff' for HT:**

TNERC accepts proposal for Green Tariff which will be 10% over HT category's tariff.

- » TANGEDCO proposed charge of 150% green tariff. Commission noted proposal was very high compared to INR 0.66/kWh and 0.50/kWh charged in Telangana and A.P.

» Grid availability charges:

To be levied for outages attributable to generators supplying to open access consumers and startup power by generators or for generators not mentioned as per schedule or in excess of the schedule.

» Additional surcharge:

Commission to determine every six months after filing of petition.

- » Retail supply tariff for HT consumers up by 6% to 18% for FY 2022-23 to 2026-27.

- » For HT manufacturing, industrial establishment, registered factories tariff is INR 6.75 (6% hike).

- » Tariff for Hospitals, Education institutions, railways is INR 7/kWh (increase of INR 10%).

» EV charging station:

INR8/kWh to INR10/kWh, depending on time of day. Charges during solar and non-peak hours incentivized through time of day tariff.

 **POLICY And REGULATORY NEWS****» West Bengal Issues Open Access Regulations Including Green Energy.****» Eligibility:**

Consumers with contracted demand or sanctioned load of 100kW to be eligible to procure green energy through open access in West Bengal, according to Open Access Regulations, 2022.

» Applicability:

Regulations to apply to any form of open access using interstate transmission system or distribution system in conjunction with interstate transmission line.

» Allotment priority:

Long term consumers to have priority over medium and short term consumers. Access on First come first serve basis.

» Collective transactions through power exchange to get priority within short term transactions

» Distribution licenses to get priority among all transactions.

» Non-Fossil fuel sources Priority over fossil fuels for long term open access.

» Nodal Agency: Long And Medium Term Open Access: State Transmission utility; **Short Term Open Access incl. Emergency Requirement within state:** State Load Dispatch Center (SLDC)

STU shall update SLDC on long and medium term users every month along with new applicants for priority allotment, as per open access regulations.

» Charges for Open Access:

Charges in INR/MW/month for long and med-term, in INR/kWh for short term open access. Annual fixed cost of transmission licensee in tariff order and rate of wheeling charges to distribution licensee to be determined by Commission.

» Cross subsidy:

Open access consumers to pay cross subsidy surcharge as determined by Commission, considering licensees projected admitted cost for relevant period