

Before
UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Petition No. 36 of 2026

In the Matter of:

Application seeking approval for the investment on the “Construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima at District-U.S. Nagar”.

And

In the Matter of:

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd.,
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan,
Kanwali Road, Dehradun.

...Petitioner

Coram

Shri M. L. Prasad	Chairman
Shri Anurag Sharma	Member (Law)
Shri Prabhat Kishor Dimri	Member (Technical)

Date of Order: July 23, 2026

ORDER

This Order relates to the Petition filed by Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (hereinafter referred to as “UPCL” or “the Petitioner” or “the licensee”) seeking approval of the Commission for the investment on the “Construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima at District-U.S. Nagar”.

Background

2. The Petitioner vide its letter No. 679/Dir. (Dis. & Pro.)/UPCL dated 21.05.2026 submitted its Petition for investment approval on the “Construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima at District-U.S. Nagar” under the provisions of the Clause 11 of Distribution and Retail Supply License and Regulation 40 of UERC (Conduct of

Business) Regulations, 2014 read with relevant provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

3. The Petitioner in its Petition under the facts of the case has submitted that:

“

1.1 In view of growing load demand PTCUL has proposed 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima which is on verge of completion. Therefore, to connect existing substations namely DPH Tanakpur, Kanjabag, Khatima Town, Haldi and Industrial Consumers, construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) alongwith 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima has been proposed by UPCL. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 8.16 Cr. The project is proposed to be implemented on turnkey basis.

1.3 The tender has been invited and is undergoing internal approval. The tentative scheduled period of completion of the projects shall be 03 months from date of award.

1.4 The details of proposed link lines are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the Project	District	Length of 33 kV Line (Km.)	Total Cost (Rs. in Lakh)
1	Construction of a 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima	U.S. Nagar	5.15	809.74
2	IDC			6.38
Total				816.12

1.5 The project has been approved by BoD of UPCL in its 128th BoD Meeting held on dated: 27-04-2026. The true copy **is enclosed herewith at...**

1.6 The cost shall be met out from Debt Equity ratio 70:30. The 70% Debt portion shall be met out as a loan either from the M/s REC Ltd., or any other financial institution and 30% Equity portion shall be invested by the State Government.”

4. The Petitioner alongwith its Petition has enclosed certified true copy of 128th Board of Directors meeting dated 27.04.2026. The resolution passed by BoD states that:-
“ITEM NO. 128.15B: Construction of 33 kV bay and 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G)

to connect 132/33 kV GIS Sub-station, Khatima (PTCUL) with existing 33 kV feeders.

RESOLVED THAT approval of the Board be and is hereby accorded for construction of 01 no. 33 kV bay at 33/11 kV sub-station, Khatima along with 33 kV lines having an approx.. length of 5.15 km. (2.40 km. U/G and 2.75 km. O/H) to connect with 33 kV bus of 132/33 kV GIS Sub-station, Khatima, U.S. Nagar of PTCUL (likely to commission shortly), with an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 816.12 Lac. as detailed below:

Sl. No	Description	Details
A.	Detail of Work	
i)	33 kV bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima	01 no.
ii)	Construction of new 33 kV Kanjabag Feeder Link line:	2.35 km. (0.80 km. U/G and 1.55 km. O/H)
iii)	Construction of new 33 kV Industrial Feeder Link line:	1.60 km (0.40 km. U/G and 1.20 O/H)
iv)	Construction of new 33 kV Haldi Feeder Link line:	0.40 km. (U/G)
v)	Construction of new 33 kV town feeder Link line:	0.40 km. (U/G)
vi)	Construction of new 33 kV spare feeder	0.40 km. (U/G)
TOTAL		5.15 km. (2.40 km. U/G + 2.75 km. O/H)
B.	Project Cost	
	(Rs. In Lac.)	Rs. 816.12 (Rs. 809.74 + Rs. 6.38 IDC)
	IDC-included/excluded	Included
	Taxes-included/excluded	Inclusive of : 1. GST@18% 2. Labour Cess@1% 3. Contingency Charges @3% 4. Centage Charges@2.5%
	Variation % allowed	10%
C.	Financing Details (Rs. In Lac.)	
	Source	Internal Resources
	Grant	NIL
	Equity	30% of Project Cost i.e Rs. 244.81 Lac. Shall be met by State Government as Equity.
	Debt	70% of Project Cost i.e. Rs. 571.28 Lac. Shall be met from the M/s REC Ltd./M/s PFC or any other Financial institution as debt.
	Rate of Interest %	Approx. 9.00%
D.	Status of tender/order	Tender has been invited and part-I of the tender has been opened on 23.04.2026.

”

5. The Petitioner in its Petition under the Relief Sought has requested the Commission to:
- “
- (ii) *Grant approval to process the tender of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima 132/33 kV S/s Khatima is expected to be energized by the end of May, 2026.*
 - (iii) *Grant suitable opportunity to the applicant within a reasonable time frame to file additional material information that may be subsequently available and as may be required by the Hon'ble Commission;*
 - (iv) *Grant approval for the investment on the project covering the Construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL.*
 - (v) *Pass such other order(s) that may be deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.”*
6. On examination of the proposal made in the Petition & Detailed Project Report (DPR), certain deficiencies/infirmities were identified and accordingly, the Commission vide its letter No. 353 dated 08.06.2026 directed the Petitioner to furnish point-wise reply on the same latest by 30.06.2026. In response to the deficiencies/infirmities raised by the Commission, Petitioner vide its letter No. 738/Dir.(Dis. and Pro.)/UPCL/C-4 dated 30.06.2026 submitted its point-wise reply as follows:
- “
- 1. *UPCL is required to furnish the details of forest, railway, NHAI, State Highway, RoW permissions or any other clearance/statuary approvals required for the construction of proposed 05 nos. new 33 kV link lines (O/H & U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132 / 33 kV Khatima substation.*
- On examination of the estimate, it has been observed that UPCL has estimated the cost of Rs. 2.5 Lakh & Rs. 35 Lakh against 'Road cutting & repairing charges' and 'UG cable lay charges under railway track' respectively. In this regard, UPCL is required to submit the SLD depicting proposed feeder-wise no. of railway crossing and location of such crossing/road cutting.*

Submission of UPCL:

It is to submitted that the 01 no. each road and railway crossings are involved in the construction of lines proposed in the instant petition. The SLD showing the road crossing as well as railway crossing is being enclosed ...

2. *UPCL under 'Facts of the Case' has mentioned fund sources as 70% loan from M/s REC Ltd., or any other financial institution and 30% equity from State Government. In this regard, UPCL is required to furnish confirmation/sanction letter(s) from the Financial Institution w.r.t. financial approval and confirmation from the State Government with regard to infusion of 30% equity portion.*

Submission of UPCL:

UPCL has requested to M/s PFC, M/s REC and HUDCO for sanctioning 70% of the project cost as a loan and same is under process. However, for equity portion State Government has approved Rs. 30.00 Cr. in the state budget of Financial Year 2026-27 for UPCL.

3. *UPCL in its Petition has submitted that Part-1 of the tender has already been opened. In this regard, UPCL is required to clarify why it has not approached the Commission prior to the tendering process and how the instant Petition qualifies for the prior investment approval in the current scenario. Further, UPCL is also required to furnish the current status of tenders for the proposed works.*

Submission of UPCL:

The tender for the work was opened on 08/05/2026 and is yet to be awarded.

4. *UPCL is required to submit Cost Benefit Analysis of the proposed works clearly mentioning the quantitative benefits viz. expected reduction in technical losses, improvement in voltage profile, reliability improvement indices, additional load growth expected to be served along with IRR, payback period and economic justification for the same.*

Submission of UPCL:

It is to submit that the since, the new 132/33 kV S/s Khatima is nearer to 33/11 kVS S/s Kanjabaga, Khatima Town, Haldi and Industrial Consumers therefore reduction in 33 kV line length will result in reduction in technical losses, improvement in voltage profile, reliability improvement indices etc. The link lines proposed in the instant petition has been proposed to link the existing 33 kV line with the 132/33 kV Substation under construction by the state transmission license i.e. PTCUL. Therefore, the calculation has not been done.

5. The total cost of proposed works at page 3 of the DPR has been indicated as Rs. 8.84 Cr., whereas at Page No. 2 & BoD approval mentioned the total cost as Rs. 8.16 Cr. Further, in the submitted estimates, the cost of the proposed works has been indicated as Rs. 8.09 Cr. UPCL is required to clarify in this regard.

Submission of UPCL:

The figure mentioned at page no. 3 of DPR is typographically error and the actual estimated cost the project including IDC is Rs. 8.16 Cr.

6. UPCL is required to furnish the cost break-up (including all) of the proposed 33 kV link lines and 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima along with the basis of the estimates in the following format...

Submission of UPCL:

The cost break-up (including all) of the proposed 33 kV link lines and 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima along with the basis of the estimates in the following format:

S. N.	Name of proposed 33 kV Link Line	Overhead Portion		Underground Portion		Total	
		O/H Length (in meter)	O/H Cost (in Rs.)	U/G Length (in meter)	U/G Cost (in Rs.)	Length (in meter)	Cost (in Rs.)
1.	33 kV Haldi Feeder	0	0.00	400	61,76,507.73	400	61,76,507.73
2.	33 kV Khatima Town Feeder	0	0.00	400	61,76,507.73	400	61,76,507.73
3.	33 kV Kanjabag Feeder	1550	2,39,33,967.45	800	1,23,53,015.46	2350	3,62,86,982.90
4.	33 kV Industrial Feeder	1200	1,85,29,523.18	800	1,23,53,015.46	2000	3,08,82,538.64
Sub Total		2750	4,24,63,490.63	2400	3,70,59,046.38	5150	7,95,22,537.00
Cost of 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima							14,51,689.00
Total cost of proposed works							8,09,74,226.00
IDC							6,37,672.03
Total cost of project							8,16,11,898.03

7. UPCL in its instant Petition has proposed for construction of 1 No. 0.4 Km 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable feeder as spare. In this regard, UPCL is required to submit the rationale for proposing 1 No. feeder as spare.

Submission of UPCL:

The total 4 no. 33 kV feeders has been proposed from 132/33 kV S/s Khatima to connect the 33/11 kV S/s Khatima Town, Kanjabagh (through 33 kV Bay at Khatima Substation), Haldi and Industrial Consumers. However, 01 no. spare feeder has been proposed to make the system readily available for future requirement.

8. UPCL is required to submit activity-wise implementation schedule of the proposed works.

Submission of UPCL:

The activity-wise implementation schedule of the proposed works is enclosed ...

9. UPCL is required to furnish the current status of the 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima and tentative date of its energization/commercial operation.

Submission of UPCL:

As informed by PTCUL the 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima has already been energized on dated: 18/06/2026.

10. UPCL has to confirm how the load of the Khatima town and adjoining areas would be catered through the existing 132/33 kV Lohiahead Substation and upcoming 132/33 kV Substation at Khatima. Further, UPCL is required to submit whether the existing 132/33 kV Substation Lohiahead would be utilized to cater for the load of nearby areas or would be shifted to other place.

Submission of UPCL:

The load of the adjoining area of 33/11 kV S/s (i. Khatima Town, ii. Kanjbagh, iii. Haldi and iv. Industrial) has been proposed to be catered from newly constructed 132/33 kV S/s Khatima. Further, the adjoining area of 33/11 kV S/s DPH Tanakpur, 33/11 kV S/s Banbasa and Lohiahead area will remain connected from the existing 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead.

11. UPCL merely states that the proposed link lines are required in view growing load demand and commissioning of 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima. In this regard, UPCL is required to furnish the following information: -

- (a) Existing and projected load at Substations namely Khatima, Tankpur, Kanjabag, Haldi & industrial feeders for the next 5 years along with the load details of existing 33 kV network.
- (b) Technical necessity of each of the 5 proposed link lines w.r.t. networks constraints, voltage issues, overloading, reliability concerns, if any.

Submission of UPCL:

- (a) The existing and projected load at Substations namely Khatima, Tankpur, Kanjabag, Haldi & Industrial feeders for the expected load growth during next 5 years is as follows:

S. No.	Name of substation/ feeder	Existing load (SS capacity & 33 kV Current in Amp.)	Load growth in next 5 years
1	Khatima Town	20 MVA (150 Amp.)	26 MVA (191 Amp.)
2	Kanjabagh	22.5 MVA (340 Amp.)	29 MVA (434 Amp.)
3	Haldi	22.5 MVA (250 Amp.)	29 MVA (320 Amp.)
4	Tanakpur & Banbasa	42.5 MVA (265 Amp.)	54 MVA (338 Amp.)
5	33 kV Industrial	25 MVA (400 Amp.)	32 MVA (510 Amp.)

- (b) Due to increasing load in Khatima region, 132/33 kV S/s is being constructed under the CM GHOSANA. Connectivity of 33/11 kV Substations in near vicinity to newly commissioned 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima shall improve overall system reliability, operational flexibility and redundancy of 33 kV network.
12. UPCL is required to furnish the pole-wise route map of each proposed link line/feeder from 132/33 kV S/s Khatima to respective 33/11 kV Substations clearly indicating the length of existing and proposed link line/feeder. Further, for proposed link line/feeder, UPCL is required to depict the span, type of poles/towers proposed, underground portion patches, conductor/cable type, tapping/LILO location, RoW issue (if any).

Submission of UPCL:

The pole-wise route map of each proposed link line is being enclosed ...

13. On examination of submitted SLD, certain following observations have been observed, which are required to be clarified by UPCL: -
- (a) Why proposed link lines between 132/33 kV S/s Khatima and 33/11 kV S/s Khatima town , two different types of underground cables i.e. 1cx630 sqmm Cable and 3cx400 sqmm are being used?
- (b) Why only 33 kV feeder between 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabag and 33/11 kV S/s Khatima Town was only taken under RDSS and other 33 kV feeders/link lines proposed in the instant Petition were not proposed under RDSS or any other centrally or state funded scheme?
- (c) What would be the anticipated load on each 33 kV outgoing feeder for first year for upcoming 132/33 kV substation Khatima?
- (d) The existing 33 kV line from 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead to industrial consumer is single circuit 33 kV AAAC covered conductor of total length 14 Km. (5.5 Km. + 8.5 Km.). Out of which, 8.5 Km. single circuit AAAC covered conductor is proposed to be connected with proposed link line of double circuit 33 kV AAAC covered conductor emanating from 132/33 kV S/s Khatima through 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable. What is the significance of proposing double circuit AAAC covered conductor in between 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable (emanating from 132/33 kV Khatima) and single circuit AAAC covered conductor (feeding Industrial consumers).

- (e) Whether UPCL has any other 33/11 kV S/s in the nearby locality of industrial consumers apart from the substations shown in the SLD? Further, whether all the industrial consumers are connected at 33 kV network?
- (f) Which 132/33 kV Substation would be primary and secondary Substation for the 33/11 kV Substations namely Tanakpur, Kanjabag, Khatima, Haldi and industrial consumers?

Submission of UPCL:

The following reply are as follows:

- (a) At the 132/33 kV GIS Substation Khatima end, 1Cx630 sq.mm. XLPE cable has been proposed as per the design requirement of the GIS switchgear and cable termination arrangement as directed by PTCUL letter is enclosed ...

At the 33/11 kV Substation Khatima Town end, 3Cx400 sq.mm. XLPE cable has been proposed in accordance with the standard specifications and engineering practices being adopted by UPCL for 33 kV underground cable networks. The current carrying capacity of the proposed cable is adequate to cater to the present as well as projected load demand of the area while ensuring economical utilization of system resources.

- (b) DPR for RDSS scheme was prepared and submitted in the Year-2022. However, 132/33 kV S/s Khatima was announced by Hon'ble CM, Uttarakhand in Year-2024. Thus only 33 kV feeder between 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabag and 33/11 kV S/s Khatima Town was taken under RDSS.
- (c) Anticipated load on 33 kV outgoing feeders for first year is as tabulated below:

S. No.	Name of substation/feeder	Anticipated load in Year-2026
1	Khatima Town	150 Amp.
2	Kanjabagh	350 Amp.
3	Haldi	280 Amp.
4	33 kV Industrial	450 Amp.

- (d) It is to submit that (2x0.6 Km.) double ckt. AAAC covered conductor has been proposed to connect 33 kV Industrial Consumers by connecting the existing (8.5 Km.) double ckt. AAAC covered conductor (Revised SLD is being enclosed ...) which is currently feeding these Industrial Consumers through 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead. It is also to submit that the (5.5 Km.) AAAC covered conductor which emanates from 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead gets bifurcated into double ckt. for feeding these Industrial Consumers.

- (e) 33/11 kV S/s Jhankat (1x12.5 MVA) & 33/11 kV S/s Nanakmatta (3x12.5 MVA) are available in nearby area. The 05 no. industrial consumer are connected at 33 kV however, about 74 no. industrial consumer are connected at 11 kV under Electricity Distribution Division, Khatima. The list of consumer with their sanctioned load is attached ...
- (f) The primary and secondary 132/33 kV source Substation for 33/11 kV S/s is as tabulated below:

S. No.	Name of substation/ feeder	Primary substation	Secondary substation
1	Khatima Town	132/33 kV GIS S/s Khatima	132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead
2	Kanjabagh		
3	Haldi		
4	33 kV Industrial		
5	Tanakpur & Banbasa	132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead	-

14. UPCL is required to furnish single line diagram of the existing and proposed scenarios covering all the 33/11 kV Substations and source 220/132/33 kV Substations clearly depicting the existing 33 kV feeder, proposed 33 kV link line/feeder, rating & loading of each Substations, type of conductor used/proposed, line distance between each Substations, no. of HT industries connected along with its total load, primary/secondary source for each Substations, provision of 'N-1' line contingency. For making easy understanding and depicting of the aforesaid parameters, the separate colors, shading and line design should be used. UPCL is required to submit the aforesaid Single Line Diagram on A3 sheet in 3 color copies.

Submission of UPCL:

The Single Line Diagram on A3 sheet in 3 color copies is being enclosed ...

15. UPCL is required to submit the voltage-wise (11 kV/33 kV/132 kV) details of the existing and prospective industrial consumers with their names and sanctioned load.

Submission of UPCL:

The voltage-wise (11 kV/33 kV/132 kV) details of the existing and prospective industrial consumers with their names and sanctioned load under Electricity Distribution Division, Khatima is being enclosed as ...

16. In a post upcoming 132/33 kV Substation Khatima scenario, UPCL is required to confirm regarding the type of connection, whether T-off/LILO arrangement has been envisaged for connection between existing and proposed 33 kV feeders. Further,

UPCL is required to provide a systematic drawing with details of the tapping arrangement including details of metering, breaker and protection.

Submission of UPCL:

The 33/11 kV Substation Khatima, Haldi & Industrial Consumers will be connected through T-off by disconnecting the existing 33 kV feeder from 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead. These disconnected feeders may be used for compliance of N-1 contingency for Haldi as well as Industrial Consumers. However, 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabagh will be connected through 33 kV separate feeder from 132/33 kV S/s Khatima through 33/11 kV S/s Khatima. This 33 kV line may be used for compliance of N-1 contingency for Khatima Substation. Further, for compliance of N-1 contingency at 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabag existing line from 33/11 kV S/s DPH may be used. 33 kV line between Khatima-Kanjabag which is already proposed in RDSS Scheme. A systematic drawing of the substation with tapping arrangement is being enclosed...

17. *UPCL is required to submit that proposed 33 kV AAAC covered AL 59 conductor is equivalent to Panther or Dog conductor.*

Submission of UPCL:

Accordingly, the proposed 241 sq.mm AAAC Covered AL-59 Conductor with continuous current carrying capacity is 570 Ampere is most commonly referred as equivalent to panther conductor. who current carrying capacity is apporx. 560 Amp.

18. *UPCL is required to furnish detailed calculations of the proposed cables viz. 3Cx400 sqmm and 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable as envisaged in the instant Petition considering all the deration factors viz. Depth of laying, ambient temperature, Grouping etc.*

Submission of UPCL:

The calculations of the proposed cables viz. 3Cx400 sq.mm. and 1Cx630 sq.mm. XLPE cable is being enclosed as ...

19. *UPCL is required to furnish technical specifications of 33 kV AAAC covered conductor, 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable & 3Cx400 sqmm XLPE cable.*

Submission of UPCL:

The technical specifications of the proposed 33 kV AAAC Covered AL-59 Conductor, 1Cx630 sq.mm. XLPE Cable and 3Cx400 sq.mm. XLPE Cable proposed is being enclosed as ...

20. On examination of the estimates following has been observed, which are required to be addressed by UPCL: -

- (1) The share of the decentralized procurement in the overall project cost is on the very higher side. UPCL is required to clarify in this regard.
- (2) UPCL is required to confirm the rationale for not procuring 33 kV AAAC covered conductor AL 59 and 33 kV XLPE 1Cx630 sqmm Cable from centralized procurement route.
- (3) UPCL is required to furnish the details of last 10 decentralized procurement done w.r.t. AAAC covered conductor AL 59 within UPCL in the format mentioned below:-

S. No.	Name of Division	Decentralized Procurement of AAAC covered conductor AL 59		Year of procurement	Present working status of conductor
		In Meter	Cost in Rs. per meter		

- (4) The per meter cable laying cost of 33 kV cable through trenchless Technology is Rs. 3350 per meter. The same appears to be on the very higher side. In this regard, UPCL is required to furnish the rationale for aforesaid cost.
- (5) UPCL is required to furnish cost details of 33 kV cable laying done in last one year for at least 5 projects executed within UPCL.
- (6) UPCL, against 3Cx400 sqmm XLPE cable, has indicated 400 meter length in the submitted SLD, however, it has estimated 800 meter in its estimates. UPCL is required to submit the rationale for estimating two times length against the requirement of XLPE cable.
- (7) Confirm whether 1Cx630 sqmm XLPE cable would be kept as spare along with each proposed 5 nos. 1Cx630 sqmm link line/feeder.

Submission of UPCL:

- (1) The share of decentralized procurement in the overall project cost appears relatively higher due to the nature of the proposed works and the requirement of various site-specific activities which cannot be effectively covered under centralized procurement arrangements.

The proposed scheme involves specialized field activities such as railway crossing works, road cutting and restoration works, trenching/HDD

(Horizontal Directional Drilling) works, cable laying, cable jointing and termination, earthing works, utility shifting/diversion, route protection works and interfacing works at the substation end. These activities are highly dependent on local site conditions, statutory permissions, field surveys and coordination with various authorities and therefore require execution through decentralized procurement mechanisms.

Further, expenditures relating to restoration charges, permissions from local authorities, railway crossing execution, transportation, loading/unloading, civil works and other incidental site-specific requirements are location-dependent and are generally not available under centralized rate contracts. Accordingly, these items have been considered under decentralized procurement for efficient and timely execution of the project.

It is further submitted that decentralized procurement has been proposed only for those items and activities where local execution is technically and administratively more appropriate.

All such procurement shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved procurement procedures, financial delegation of powers and prevailing guidelines of UPCL to ensure transparency, competitiveness and cost effectiveness.

Therefore, the higher proportion of decentralized procurement in the estimate is attributable to the project-specific execution requirements and statutory obligations associated with underground cable laying, railway crossing, road restoration and related field activities, and is considered necessary for timely and successful completion of the scheme.

- (2) The proposed procurement of 33 kV AAAC Covered AL-59 Conductor and 33 kV XLPE 1Cx630 sq.mm. cable has been considered through the decentralized procurement route due to project-specific requirements and the need for timely execution of the scheme. However, UPCL is planning to procure these items as centralized in future.*
- (3) The details of decentralized procurement done w.r.t. AAAC covered conductor AL-59 is attached ...*
- (4) The per meter cable laying cost of 33 kV cable through trenchless technology is taken from in accordance to the rate awarded in two previous agreements is attached as ...*

- (5) *The detail of 33 kV laying done in last one year:*
- (i) *Agreement no. 496/UPCL/CE(CCP-II)/21/2024-2025(Sharma) dt.: 13/06/2025 Construction of 33 kV line, 13.0 Km. (including 2.0 Km U/G D/CKT line) at Jaipur Padali, Haldwani, 33 kV cable laying cost per meter Rs. 3395/-.*
 - (ii) *Agreement no. 664/UPCL/CE(CCP-II)/20/2024-2025 (Suryacon) dt. 19/08/24 Construction of 33 kV line, 9.1 Km. (including 2.5 Km. U/G D/CKT line) at GITI Dahriya, Haldwani, 33 kV cable laying cost per meter Rs. 3700/-.*
- (6) *Proposed line is double ckt. with one extra/spare 3Cx400 sq.mm. XLPE cable and the total circuit length of is 400 meter has mentioned in the estimate.*
- (7) *Yes, 1x630 sq.mm. XLPE cable would be kept as spare alongwith each proposed 05 no. 1x630 sq.mm. feeder."*

7. UPCL vide its letter No. dated 15.07.2026 submitted additional information against the certain points of its submission dated 30.06.2026 as follows:-

"

1. ...

Submission of UPCL:

*It is to submit that there is no forest, NHAI, State Highway clearances/statutory approvals required for the project. However, 01 no. each road and railway crossings are involved in the construction of lines proposed in the instant petition. The SLD showing the road crossing as well as railway crossing **is being enclosed as Annexure-A.***

3. ...

Submission of UPCL:

The 132/33 kV S/s was being constructed under the CM Ghosana and was expected to energize at the end of March, 2026 (which was finally energized on dated 18/06/2026). SE, PTCUL gave the route clearance for laying link lines through their premises on dated 26/02/2026, after which the estimation of link lines was done. Since, the substation was expected to be energized in near future. Thus, for full energization of 132/33 kV S/s Khatima it was necessary to take all the 33 kV feeders on load. Therefore, tender was invited and financial bid was opened 08/05/2026. It is

further to submit that tender will be processed after the approval from Hon'ble Commission

4. ...

Submission of UPCL:

It is to submit that since, the new 132/33 kV S/s Khatima is nearer to 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabag, Khatima Town, Haldi and Industrial Consumers therefore reduction in 33 kV line length will result in marginal reduction in technical losses, improvement in voltage profile, reliability improvement indices etc. The link lines proposed in the instant petition has been proposed to link the existing 33 kV line with the 132/33 kV Substation under construction by the state transmission license i.e. PTCUL. Since, at present these lines are constructed to cater existing load of the concern 33/11 kV Substations. Therefore, the calculations of CBA which is based on anticipated new load has not been done.

6. ...

Submission of UPCL:

The cost break-up (including all) of the proposed 33 kV link lines and 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima along with the basis of the estimates in the following format:

S. N.	Name of Proposed 33 kV Link Line	Overhead Portion		Underground Portion		Total	
		O/H Length (m)	O/H Cost (Rs.)	UG Length (m)	UG Cost (Rs.)	Total Length (m)	Total Cost (Rs.)
1	33 kV Haldi Feeder	0	0.00	400	61,76,507.73	400	61,76,507.73
2	33 kV Khatima Town Feeder	0	0.00	400	61,76,507.73	400	61,76,507.73
3	33 kV Kanjabag Feeder	1550	2,39,33,967.45	800	1,23,53,015.46	2350	3,62,86,982.90
4	33 kV Industrial Feeder	1200	1,85,29,523.18	400	61,76,507.73	1600	2,47,06,030.91
5	33 kV Spare Feeder	0	0.00	400	61,76,507.73	400	61,76,507.73
	Sub Total	2750	4,24,63,490.63	2400	3,70,59,046.37	5150	7,95,22,537.00
Cost of 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima							₹ 14,51,689.00
Total Cost of Proposed Works							₹ 8,09,74,226.00
IDC							₹ 6,37,672.03
Total Cost of Project							₹ 8,16,11,898.03

12. ...

Submission of UPCL:

The revised pole-wise route map of each proposed link line with all required details is being enclosed as Annexure-C.

14. ...

Submission of UPCL:

The details of 'N-1' line contingency are mentioned below:

S. No.	Name of 33/11 kV S/s	'N-1' line contingency
1	Kanjabag	Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to Kanjabag
2	Khatima Town	Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to Khatima Town via Kanjabag
3	Haldi	- Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to point of tapping. 'N-1' contingency beyond point of tapping will be dealt in future planning.

*The revised Single Line Diagram on A3 sheet in 3 color **copies is being enclosed as Annexure-E.***

18. ...

Submission of UPCL:

The calculations of the proposed cables viz. 3Cx400 sq.mm. and 1Cx630 sq.mm.

*XLPE cable **is being enclosed as Annexure-H.***

The additional information is being submitted alongwith legible copy of all annexures submitted earlier for kind perusal of Hon'ble Commission.

Commission's Observations, Views & Directions: -

8. Based on the examination and analysis of the proposal & subsequent submissions made by the Petitioner before the Commission, the observations, views & directions of the Commission are as follows:

- (1) The Petitioner in its Petition has proposed the construction of 05 no. new 33 kV link lines having an approx. length of 5.15 km. (2.75 km. O/H and 2.40 km. U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima, of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima at District-U.S. Nagar. The total estimated cost of the project, as submitted by the Petitioner, is Rs. 8.16 Cr. (including IDC), which has been duly approved by its Board of Directors in its 128th meeting held on 27.04.2026.

- (2) With regard to the Scope of works, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed the construction of following 05 no. new 33 kV link lines and 01 no. 33 kV bay as mentioned below: -

S. N.	Name of proposed 33 kV Link Line	Overhead Portion		Underground Portion		Total	
		O/H Length (in meter)	O/H Cost (in Rs. Lakh)	U/G Length (in meter)	U/G Cost (in Rs.)	Length (in meter)	Cost (in Rs. Lakh)
1	33 kV Haladi Feeder	0.00	0.00	400 (1Cx630 Sqmm. XLPE cable)	61.76	400	61.76
2	33 kV Khatima Town Feeder	0.00	0.00	400 (1Cx630 Sqmm. XLPE cable)	61.76	400	61.76
3	33 kV Kanjabag Feeder	1,550 (S/C AAAC covered conductor)	239.34	800 (400 m 1Cx630 Sqmm. XLPE cable & 400 m 3Cx400sqmm. XLPE cable)	123.53	2350	362.86
4	33 kV Industrial Feeder	600 (D/C AAAC covered conductor)	185.30	400 (1Cx630 Sqmm. XLPE cable)	61.76	1600	247.06
5	33 kV Spare Feeder	0.00	0.00	400 (1Cx630 Sqmm. XLPE cable)	61.76	400	61.76
	Sub Total	2,750	424.63	2,400	370.59	5,150	795.22
Cost of 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV S/s Khatima							14.51
Total cost of proposed works							809.74
IDC							6.37
Total cost of project							816.11

- (3) With regard to the funding of the instant project, the Petitioner in its submission dated 30.06.2026 has submitted that the Petitioner had requested to M/s PFC, M/s REC and M/s HUDCO for sanctioning 70% of the project cost as a loan and the same is under process. Further, the Petitioner has also submitted that for 30% equity portion State Government has approved the same under the state budget of Financial Year 2026-27 for the Petitioner.

In this context, the Commission is of the view that timely availability of both debt and equity funding is essential for ensuring the scheduled implementation of the project and avoiding time and cost overruns. Accordingly, the Petitioner should ensure timely arrangement of the required

loan from the financial institutions and availability of equity contribution from the State Government so that the project is completed within the approved timeline.

- (4) With regard to the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the proposed works, the Petitioner has submitted that the proposed works would result in marginal reduction in technical losses, improvement in voltage profile, and enhancement of system reliability. The Petitioner has further submitted that the proposed 33 kV link lines are intended to connect the existing 33 kV network with the 132/33 kV S/s under construction by PTCUL at Khatima to cater to the existing load of the concerned 33/11 kV substations. Accordingly, it has not carried out a quantitative CBA based on conventional parameters, as the proposed works does not envisage creation of new load.

The Commission observes that the proposed works are primarily in the nature of system strengthening and management of load. Although the scheme does not involve addition of new consumers or establishment of new 33/11 kV substations, the proposed 33 kV link lines would facilitate optimal utilization of the newly commissioned 132/33 kV Khatima S/s, reduce dependence on the existing 132/33 kV Lohiahead S/s, enhance network reliability, enable load transfer during contingency conditions, and ensure resilient, quality, and uninterrupted power supply to existing consumers. In such cases, the benefits accrue predominantly in terms of improved system performance, reliability, and operational flexibility rather than direct financial returns. Therefore, conventional financial appraisal parameters such as ROI, IRR, and NPV are not appropriate indicators for evaluating the prudence of the proposed investment.

Accordingly, the proposed investment seems technically justified and prudent from the perspective of distribution system planning, operational reliability, and long-term network security.

- (5) The Petitioner has submitted that, at present, the 33/11 kV Substations namely Khatima (2x10 MVA), Haldi (10+12.5), Kanjabag (10+12.5 MVA), DPH Tanakpur (2x5 MVA) and Industrial Consumers are being supplied through 33 kV feeders emanating from the existing 132/33 kV S/s Lohiahead

(2x40 MVA). The existing 132/33 kV Lohiahead S/s is heavily loaded and is catering to the increasing power demand of the Khatima region.

Further, the Petitioner has submitted that, considering the rapid urbanization, industrial development and continuous growth in load demand in the Khatima area, the existing power supply infrastructure may not be adequate to cater to the future load requirements while maintaining reliability and quality of power supply. Accordingly, to strengthen the power supply network, reduce dependency on the heavily loaded 132/33 kV Lohiahead S/s and cater to the future load growth, PTCUL has proposed the establishment of a new 132/33 kV GIS Substation at Khatima. After commissioning of the proposed 132/33 kV GIS S/s Khatima, new 33 kV link lines (both O/H & U/G) should be constructed from the 33 kV bays of the proposed 132/33 kV Khatima S/s for connecting the existing 33 kV feeder network supplying the load centres, namely Khatima, Haldi, Kanjabag and Industrial Consumers.

On examination of the submission, the Commission is of the view that the proposed 132/33 kV GIS Khatima Substation by PTCUL and along with associated 33 kV link lines proposed by the Petitioner, would reduce dependency on the existing 132/33 S/s Lohiahead and provide an additional reliable source of supply to the Khatima area. The proposed arrangement would improve system reliability by enabling 24x7 quality power supply, reduction in feeder length and technical losses and restoration of supply, future load readiness and N-1 contingency support.

- (6) With regard to statutory clearances required for construction of the proposed 33 kV Link Lines (O/H & U/G), the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has submitted that one road crossing and one railway crossing are involved in the execution of the instant works, and that no forest clearance, NHAI clearance or State Highway clearance is required for the proposed alignment.

The Commission directs the Petitioner to obtain the requisite permission from the concerned Railway authority for the railway crossing and from the concerned local/municipal authority for the road crossing,

prior to commencement of the respective portion of the work, and to strictly comply with all safety norms and technical specifications prescribed by the said authorities while executing the crossings. The Petitioner is further directed to ensure that, in case any deviation in alignment or additional statutory requirement (forest, wildlife, NHAI, State Highway or RoW clearance) is identified at the execution stage, the same should be obtained from the competent authority prior to undertaking the affected portion of the work, and no work should be executed in the absence of the applicable statutory clearance.

Further, the Commission has observed that the Petitioner has proposed construction of the 33 kV link lines involving both overhead and underground sections, wherein 82 nos. of Steel Tabular Poles are proposed for the overhead portion. In this regard, **the Commission directs the Petitioner that, prior to commencement of execution of the proposed 33 kV link lines, a detailed route survey and site investigation should be carried out for both overhead and underground sections to finalize the alignment, pole locations and underground cable routes considering site-specific constraints such as soil conditions, railway crossing, road crossing, NHAI/State Highway requirements, existing utilities, RoW availability and other field conditions. In case the approved route/alignment is found unsuitable during execution, the Petitioner should suitably revise the alignment to ensure structural safety, stability and long-term reliability of the proposed 33 kV link lines.**

Moreover, the Commission directs the Petitioner to strictly comply with the prescribed design span limit of 100 m for Steel tabular Poles in accordance with Regulation 89 of the CEA (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022. Further, the Petitioner should ensure that the requisite electrical clearances including minimum safety working clearances as per (Schedule V) and minimum clearance in air above ground as per (Schedule VIII A) are duly maintained for the proposed Steel Tabular Poles for 33 kV link line, in accordance with the provisions of CEA (Measures relating to Safety and

Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023, duly considering the impact of sag, conductor deflection and wind load.

- (7) The Commission has examined the submissions made by the Petitioner in response to the deficiencies communicated by the Commission. It is observed that the instant Petition contained discrepancies with respect to the project cost. The Petitioner had reflected three different project costs, namely Rs. 8.84 crore, Rs. 8.16 crore and Rs. 8.09 crore, at different places in the Petition. Upon being pointed out by the Commission, the Petitioner clarified that the discrepancies were typographical in nature and confirmed the correct project cost as Rs. 8.16 crore. Further, the Commission observed that several annexures submitted by the Petitioner vide its submission dated 30.06.2026 were not legible. The Petitioner subsequently furnished legible copies of the said documents.

The Commission is of the considered view that although the aforesaid discrepancies and submission of illegible documents do not materially affect the scope, technical configuration or necessity of the proposed project, such lapses cannot be viewed lightly. The information contained in petitions, DPRs, cost estimates, Board approvals and technical analyses, forms the very basis of regulatory scrutiny and decision-making. Therefore, all documents placed before the Commission are expected to be complete, accurate, internally consistent, duly verified and legible before their submission.

In view of the above, **the Commission directs the Petitioner to ensure that all future filings are thoroughly scrutinized and verified by the concerned officers with regard to completeness, accuracy of data and figures, consistency, computational correctness and legibility before being filed before the Commission. The Commission further cautions that recurrence of such typographical, clerical, computational or inadvertent errors, or submission of illegible documents, in future filings shall be viewed seriously. In such an event, the officer(s) responsible for the preparation, verification and submission of the documents shall be held responsible, and appropriate action may be initiated under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the applicable Regulations.**

- (8) The Commission, during the course of examination of the instant Petition, sought the status of the tender proceedings pertaining to the proposed works. In response, the Petitioner, vide its submission dated 30.06.2026, submitted that the tender for the proposed works had been invited and the financial bids were opened on 08.05.2026. The Petitioner further submitted that the tender proceedings would be taken forward only after obtaining the approval of the Commission.

The Commission notes from the aforesaid submission that the contract for the proposed works has not yet been awarded and the execution of the works has not commenced. The Commission further observes that the 132/33 kV Khatima S/s has already been energized on 18.06.2026. Delay in execution of the proposed 33 kV link lines would result in under-utilization of the newly commissioned S/s and consequently affect the optimal utilization of the assets created.

Considering the circumstances of the instant case and knowing that the award of work has not yet taken place, the Commission takes a considerate view that the instant proposal qualifies as a case requiring prior approval under Regulation 40 of the UERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2014 read with the applicable Licence Conditions, which require the Distribution Licensee to obtain prior approval of the Commission before making any investment exceeding Rs. 2.50 crore.

However, the Commission expresses its concern over the initiation of the tendering process before obtaining the requisite prior approval of the Commission. The Commission clarifies that, in terms of the applicable Licence Conditions and the prevailing Regulations, the Petitioner should obtain prior approval of the Commission. The Commission cautions the Petitioner that any deviation from the aforesaid requirement in future shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate regulatory action.

Accordingly, the Commission directs the Petitioner to ensure that, in future, the financial bid of all the tender requiring prior investment approval are opened only after obtaining the prior approval of the

Commission, failing which penal action may be initiated against the Petitioner.

- (9) With regard to the activity-wise implementation schedule, the Commission observed that the Petitioner, in its submission dated 15.07.2026, has submitted that the proposed works are expected to be completed within 06 months.

The Commission is of the view that the Petitioner should make all efforts to complete the proposed works within the stipulated timeline of 06 months. However, timely completion should not be at the cost of quality, safety or compliance with the applicable technical standards and statutory requirements. The Petitioner should ensure proper quality control, adherence to safety practices and meticulous project execution.

- (10) On enquiry regarding the existing and projected load profile at 33/11 kV Substations namely Khatima, Tanakpur, Kanjabagh, Haldi and Industrial Feeders for the next five years, the Petitioner in its submission dated 30.06.2026, has submitted that the existing load and anticipated load including load growth of the aforesaid substations/feeders in the next five years are as follows:

S. No	Name of Substation/feeder	Existing load (S/s capacity & 33 kV current in Amps)	Future Load in next 5 years
1.	Khatima Town	20 MVA (150 Amp.)	26 MVA (191 Amp.)
2.	Kanjabagh	22.5 MVA (340 Amp.)	29 MVA (434 Amp.)
3.	Haldi	22.5 MVA (250 Amp.)	29 MVA (320 Amp.)
4.	Tanakpur & Banbasa	42.5 MVA (265 Amp.)	54 MVA (338 Amp.)
5.	33 kV Industrial	25 MVA (400 Amp.)	32 MVA (510 Amp.)

From the above, the Commission observes that the load demand in the Khatima region is expected to increase significantly in the coming years and is proposed to be catered through the newly constructed 132/33 kV GIS Khatima S/s. In this regard, the Commission is of the view that, considering the future load demand of the area, the Petitioner should develop a robust and reliable 33 kV network, duly incorporating all safety aspects, so as to adequately meet the projected load demand of the area besides taking pre-emptive steps by asking PTCUL to plan for future load growth requirements in the region.

- (11) With regard to the 'N-1' contingency arrangement, the Petitioner submitted that the load of Khatima Town, Kanjabagh, Haldi, and Industrial Feeders is proposed to be catered through the 132/33 kV Khatima S/s, which should function as the primary source substation, while the 132/33 kV Lohiahead Substation should serve as the secondary/alternate source. Further, the Petitioner submitted that the load of DPH Tanakpur, Banbasa, and Lohiahead areas should continue to be catered through the existing 132/33 kV Lohiahead Substation as the primary source.

The Petitioner has also furnished the proposed 'N-1' line contingency arrangement, as summarized below:

S. No.	Name of 33/11 kV S/s	'N-1' line contingency
1	Kanjabag	Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to Kanjabag
2	Khatima Town	Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to Khatima Town via Kanjabag
3	Haldi	- Existing 33 kV line from Lohiahead to point of tapping 'N-1' contingency beyond point of tapping would be dealt in future planning

The responsibility of long-term planning of distribution system lies with the distribution licensee and it is required to comply with the Regulation 3.6(4) of UERC (Distribution Code) Regulations, 2018, which stipulates that:

"(4) In every Sub-Station of capacity 10 MVA and above there shall be a provision for obtaining alternate 33 kV supply to the Sub-Station in case of a failure in the incoming supply."

On examination of the submission, the Commission observes that, upon completion of the proposed 33 kV link lines, the associated 33/11 kV substations would have source-level 'N-1' redundancy from 132/33 kV Khatima and 132/33 kV Lohiahead acting as alternate source substations. However, it does not provide complete 33 kV feeder (line) redundancy in certain sections. In particular, the 33 kV line beyond the tapping point feeding the 33/11 kV Haldi Substation and the 33 kV Industrial Consumers does not have an alternate feeder arrangement, and the Petitioner has proposed to address this only in future planning.

- (12) Upon examination of the cost estimates submitted by the Petitioner, the Commission has observed that the share of the decentralized material procurement in the overall project cost is on the very higher side. In this regard, the Petitioner submitted that the cost of 33 kV AAAC covered conductor AL-59 and 33 kV 1Cx630 sq.mm XLPE cable has been included under the decentralized procurement component due to project specific requirement and the need of timely execution of the scheme. In this regard, the Commission is of the view that centralized procurement should be given preference over decentralized procurement by the licensee, particularly for major and high-value items such as AAAC covered conductors. Centralized procurement not only facilitates in leveraging the benefits of economies of scale and ensures procurement of quality materials through standardized specifications & processes but also promotes uniformity and transparency in cost estimates across different projects. Accordingly, the Petitioner is advised to explore the inclusion of such items in the centralized procurement framework in future projects.
- (13) With regard to the Petitioner submission that certain 33 kV feeders would be connected through T-off by disconnecting the existing 132/33 kV S/s Lohiyahead. In this context, the Commission cautions the Petition to ensure to provide robust metering system for ensuring energy accounting and protection system availability to protect the network & manpower against possible fault events.
- (14) On enquiry regarding the implementation of two different cable configurations for the 33 kV underground link line between the 132/33 kV GIS S/s Khatima and 33/11 kV Khatima Town S/s, the Petitioner, in its submission dated 30.06.2026, has submitted that 1Cx630 sq. mm XLPE cable has been proposed at the 132/33 kV GIS S/s Khatima end considering the GIS switchgear design requirements and cable termination arrangement specified by PTCUL. Further, 3Cx400 sq. mm XLPE cable has been proposed at the 33/11 kV Khatima Town S/s end in accordance with the standard specifications and engineering practices adopted by UPCL for 33 kV underground cable networks.

In this regard, the Commission has examined the loading details furnished by the Petitioner vis-à-vis the current carrying capacity of the proposed underground cables. It is observed that the 3C × 400 sq. mm XLPE cable proposed between 132/33 kV S/s Khatima and 33/11 kV S/s Kanjabagh is projected to carry a load of approximately 350 Amperes, as against its assessed derated current carrying capacity of approximately 304 Amperes. Similarly, the 1C × 630 sq. mm XLPE cable proposed between 132/33 kV S/s Khatima and the Industrial Consumers is projected to carry a load of approximately 450 Amperes, as against its assessed derated current carrying capacity of approximately 410 Amperes.

The Commission is of the view that in both cases the projected loading exceeds the derated current carrying capacity of the respective cable, which is not acceptable from the standpoint of safe and reliable operation, particularly since these feeders cater to critical consumers including industrial load. Continued operation of a cable beyond its derated capacity would result in undue thermal stress, accelerated insulation ageing and increased risk of cable failure, apart from leaving no margin for contingency loading or future load growth.

The Commission therefore directs the Petitioner to re-examine the sizing of the aforesaid cables and select cable configurations whose derated current carrying capacity is adequate to safely cater not only the present projected load but also the anticipated load growth over the ensuing five years, in compliance with Regulation 91(2)(d) of the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022, which mandates that electric lines and associated equipment be planned with adequate capacity for projected load growth for at least next five years.

- (15) In light of the above, the Commission grants in-principle approval for the “Construction of 05 no. new 33 kV Link Lines (O/H and U/G) to connect outgoing feeders at 33 kV Bay of 132/33 kV Substation Khatima of PTCUL and 01 no. 33 kV Bay at 33/11 kV Substation Khatima at District-U.S. Nagar” subject to strict fulfillment of terms & conditions as mentioned below: -

- (i) The Petitioner is directed to go for the competitive bidding for obtaining most economical prices from the bidders under the prevailing Rules & Regulations.
- (ii) The Petitioner must submit the detailed sanctioned letter from the Financial Institution, if any, to the Commission as soon as they get approval for the same. All the loan conditions as may be laid down by the funding agency in their detailed sanction letter should be strictly complied with. However, the Petitioner is directed to explore the possibility of swapping the loan with cheaper debt option.
- (iii) The Petitioner shall, within one month of the Order, submit a letter from the State Government or any such documentary evidence in support of its claim for equity funding agreed by the State Government or any other source in respect of the proposed schemes.
- (iv) The Petitioner is directed to re-examine the sizing of the XLPE cables and select cable configurations whose derated current carrying capacity is adequate to safely cater not only the present projected load but also the anticipated load growth over the ensuing five years, in compliance with Regulation 91(2)(d) of the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022, which mandates that electric lines and associated equipment be planned with adequate capacity for projected load growth for at least next five years.
- (v) The Commission may verify/check the proposed works to be executed by the Petitioner at any point of time during/post execution of the works from the perspective of not only substantiating that the assertions & commitments made by the Petitioner have been fully complied and correct, but also to assess Quality, Optimum utilization of resources, Benefits accrued from the proposed investments etc. as has been projected by the Petitioner.
- (vi) The Petitioner is directed to ensure that, in future, the financial bid of all the tender requiring prior investment approval are opened only after obtaining the prior approval of the Commission, failing which penal action may be initiated against the Petitioner.

- (vii) Post execution of the project, the Petitioner shall submit the Project Completion Report to the Commission alongwith photographs, expenditure incurred/completed cost, financing of the Project and detailed analysis & calculations of the benefits accrued from the proposed investments etc.
- (viii) The Petitioner shall comply to the following CEA and UERC Regulations and amendments thereof at every step of the Construction and Operation & Maintenance of the lines. The Petitioner shall also ensure the compliance of relevant standards, and the Project should be executed with safety and due diligence so that minimal incidents of break downs/fault occurrences/hindrances are faced during operation & maintenance:
 - (a) Central Electricity Authority (Safety requirements for construction, operation and maintenance of electrical plants and electric lines) Regulations, 2011.
 - (b) Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022.
 - (c) Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2023.
 - (d) Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006.
 - (e) UERC (Distribution Code) Regulations, 2018.
- (ix) The Petitioner is directed to strictly comply with the prescribed design span limit of 100 m for Steel tabular Poles in accordance with Regulation 89 of the CEA (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, 2022. Further, the Petitioner should ensure that the requisite electrical clearances including minimum safety working clearances as per (Schedule V) and minimum clearance in air above ground as per (Schedule VIII A) are duly maintained for the proposed Steel Tabular Poles for 33 kV link line, in accordance with the provisions of CEA (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023, duly considering the impact of sag, conductor deflection and wind load.

- (x) The Petitioner is directed that prior to commencement of execution of the proposed 33 kV link lines, a detailed route survey and site investigation should be carried out for both overhead and underground sections to finalize the alignment, pole locations and underground cable routes considering site-specific constraints such as soil conditions, railway crossing, road crossing, NHAI/State Highway requirements, existing utilities, RoW availability and other field conditions. In case the approved route/alignment is found unsuitable during execution, the Petitioner should suitably revise the alignment to ensure structural safety, stability and long-term reliability of the proposed 33 kV link lines.
- (xi) After completion of the aforesaid project, the Petitioner shall submit the completed cost and financing of the project.

The approval is given subject to the above conditions and on the basis of submissions and statement of facts made by the Petitioner in the Petition under affidavit. In case of violations of any of the condition mentioned above or in case any information provided, if at any time, later on, found to be incorrect, incomplete or in case relevant information was not disclosed, that materially affects the basis for granting the approvals, in such cases, the Commission may cancel the approval or refuse to allow all or part of the expenses incurred in the ARR/True-up apart from initiating plenary action.

Ordered accordingly.

(Prabhat Kishor Dimri)
Member (Technical)

(Anurag Sharma)
Member (Law)

(M. L. Prasad)
Chairman