Before
UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Petition No. 31 of 2026

In the Matter of:

Investment Approval for "Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand" under PSDF grant.

And

In the Matter of:

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (PTCUL)
Vidyut Bhawan, Near ISBT Crossing,
Saharanpur Road, Majra,
Dehradun

….. Petitioner

Coram

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

Date of Order: September 02, 2026

ORDER

This Order relates to the Petition filed by Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "PTCUL" or "the Petitioner") vide letter No. 813/MD/PTCUL/UERC dated 31.03.2026 seeking investment approval for Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand" under PSDF grant under Para 11 of Transmission Licence. [Licence No. 1 of 2003].

1. Background

1.1. In the aforesaid Petition, the Petitioner has submitted the following proposal for investment approval:

Particulars	Total Project Cost as per DPR (including GST) (in Crore)
Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand	19.44

1.2. The Petitioner has submitted a copy of the extract of the Minutes of the 105th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of PTCUL held on 10.02.2026, wherein the Board approved the PTCUL's proposal. The relevant portion of the resolution passed by the BoD is reproduced below:

"…

After consideration, the Board passed the following resolution unanimously:

RESOLVED THAT the consent of the Board be and is hereby accorded to approve the revised Detailed Project Report for "Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand" at a total scheme cost of Rs. 19.44 Cr (including GST).

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the DPR submitted and approved in the 104th Board meeting held on 25/11/2025 vide agenda item no. 104.20 on the same project shall be treated as null & void and shall be deemed to have been withdrawn by the management.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the aforesaid DPR shall be submitted to Hon'ble UERC for investment approval.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Managing Director and/or Director Finance and/or Company Secretary and/or Nodal PSDF be and are hereby jointly and severally authorized to approach to PSDF, NLDC, Delhi on the basis of 90% Grant and rest to be borne by State.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Managing Director and/or Director (Finance) and/or Company Secretary be and are hereby jointly and severally authorized to accept suitable terms and conditions and execute the requisite documents alongwith other legal papers, under the common seal of the Company wherever required, creation of charge by following the prescribed procedure of law."

1.3. The Petitioner has submitted the following scope of the project:

"…

A) Indigenous NG-Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC):

1. *Supply & installation of Software tools (NG-SIEM, SOAR, NBAD, UEBA, DAM) including 5 years Back-to-Back OEM Warranty / Support & Product Update.*
2. *Supply and installation of Hardware (Video wall, 24*7 Workstations, Log Collectors, necessary server and storage infrastructure, Firewall, server recks, switches, routers and cables etc).*
3. *Comprehensive AMC for 5 years alongwith Operation & Maintenance with deputation of 24*7 L1 & L2 Resources.*

B) Indigenous NOC:

1. *Supply & installation of Software tools (NMS, ITSM, Licensing for Hypervisor Kernel and Server OS platforms with virtualization software) including 5 years Back-to-Back OEM Warranty / Support & Product Update.*
2. *Supply and installation of Hardware (Data Diode, 24*7 Workstations, Log Collectors, necessary server and storage infrastructure, Firewall, server recks, switches, routers and cables etc.).*
3. *Comprehensive AMC for 5 years alongwith Operation & Maintenance with deputation of 24*7 L1 Resource."*

1.4. To justify the need of the proposed works the Petitioner has submitted that:

"…

SLDC, Uttarakhand has envisaged the security solutions required to enhance the robust monitoring that are compliant with ISO 27001, CERT-In, NCIIPC, CEA Cyber Security Guidelines 2021 or any cyber-Security regulations issued by CEA/CERC in due course etc.

The goal of this Next Generation Security Operation Centre is to provide a complete comprehensive cyber security solution focusing on NG-SIEM (Next Generation Security Information and Event Management), Threat Intelligence System, Asset Discovery & Management, SOAR (Security Orchestration, Automation and Response), NBAD (Network Behavior Anomaly Detection), UEBA (User and Entity Behavior Analytics) and DAM (Database Activity Monitoring). This will help SLDC,

Uttarakhand to have all IT and OT cyber infrastructure aspects and solutions in one complete package.

Uttarakhand SLDC intended to set-up on-premises state of- the-art Next Generation Security Operations Centre (SOC) & Network Operations Centre (NOC) which can collate, integrate and analyse data form various security devices and endpoints at extremely high concurrency operating on 24x7x365 basis.

These services and solutions included in NG SOC and NOC will enhance the overall cyber posture of SLDC, Uttarakhand against new and advanced cyber threats and strengthen the defence against threats emerging from multiple interconnected heterogeneous sub-systems."

1.5. The Petitioner has submitted that the cost estimate has been prepared based on benchmark cost provided by 26th Monitoring Committee PSDF meeting held on 16.12.2025.

1.6. The Petitioner in its Petition has enclosed the Bar chart for the project with an estimated execution period of 18 months after agreement (PSDF First Grant Installment). Further, the Petitioner under the financial analysis has projected an IRR of 18.05 % with breakeven in the 5th year of operations.

1.7. On examination of the proposal submitted by the Petitioner, certain queries were raised on the deficiencies/shortcomings observed in the Petition, which were communicated to the Petitioner vide the Commission's letter dated 15.05.2026. In response to the aforesaid queries, the Petitioner, through its letter dated 16.06.2026, submitted the reply to the Commission. The queries and respective replies are as follows:

Query 1	Government of Uttarakhand vide its order dated 09.07.2025 (Copy enclosed) has mandated for all departments of Uttarakhand to get vetted the DPRs related to information technologies from the committee constituted under the aforesaid order. In this regard, PTCUL is required to provide the approval of proposed DPR from the committee constituted by GoU for all IT related infrastructures.
Reply 1	*It is to apprise to the Hon'ble Commission that:* *1. As per Information Technology (Information Security Practices and Procedures for Protected System) Rules, 2018 [Clause (3)(3)(j)], its*

	mandatory to establish SOC and NOC for the organization having Protected System. 2. *DPR for "Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand" is benchmarked (including technical specifications of all hardware and software) by CSIRT-Power for all SLDCs. PSDF (Grid India) has already modified and benchmarked all the BOQ and estimation of software, hardware, Maintenance and Operation cost of SOC and NOC including quantity and skills of manpower for maintaining SOC and NOC before approval. SLDC has not made any change in specification or BOQ/estimate.* 3. *DPR has already been scrutinized minutely before benchmarking by appraisal committee, Monitoring committee of PSDF (Grid India) and two members committee comprising of J&FA(MOP) and CMD(Grid India) which reviewed the SOC+NOC project alongwith indigenous aspect and recommended the cost of hardware/software and AMC of SOC/NOC, on the basis of which BOQ/Estimate is benchmarked. It was deliberated in 26th meeting of Monitoring committee, PSDF held on 16.12.2025 that* ***"SOC & NOC projects with 5 year AMC to be sanctioned for hilly states with 90% PSDF grant and 10% contribution from the state".*** *Also the total benchmark cost of (SOC+NOC) has been reduced to Rs. 19.44 Cr. for all states.* *It is also to apprise that NG-SOC and NOC functions are explicitly engineered for OT environments, prioritizing safety, availability and regulatory compliances. It emphasizes on industrial-protocol visibility, process-aware incident response and strict change-control to maintain operational integrity. In addition, the project has been approved and funded by PSDF and all the guidelines of PSDF are to be complied with. Hence it is requested to kindly consider the DPR for investment approval.*
Query 2	In the present Petition, PTCUL has proposed the CAPEX (on premises model) model for the implementation of the proposal, in this regard, PTCUL is required to clarify whether they have considered the OPEX (managed SoC) based model before the

	finalising the Capex model. PTCUL is also required to provide the comparative cost benefit analysis between CAPEX and OPEX model.
Reply 2	*As SLDC has apprised above that the proposal is prepared as per model DPR circulated by CSIRT-power in CAPEX (on premises model). The CAPEX (On-Premises) model was adopted considering that there is no need to share CII data/logs to any IT system located at out of SLDC premises. The on-premises approach was preferred to avoid dependency on any IT system established out of SLDC premises for monitoring and cyber security.*
Query 3	In the present Petition, PTCUL has not submitted the present security infrastructure of IT system at SLDC, in this regard, PTCUL is required to submit the details of present security status of IT infrastructure at SLDC with its architectural diagram.
Reply 3	*At present IT system of SLDC comprises of Desktop (06 Nos.) and Laptop (05 Nos.). The security of these systems is being ensured by following these steps as basic hygiene for cyber security :* *1. Installation of latest antivirus/antimalware and timely updations.* *2. Limited access to the systems.* *3. Blocking of spare serial ports.* *4. Restriction of USB drives/blocking of USB ports.*
Query 4	In the present Petition, PTCUL has not provided the details regarding the breach protection warranty to be provided by the OEM/Vendor in case of the system was not able to detect any cyber-attack. In this regard, PTCUL is required to provide the details regarding the breach protection warranty by OEM/Vendor.
Reply 4	*As per standard operation of SOC-NOC, the technology performs to monitor and detect possible suspected behaviour or traffic and provide alerts depending on the existing correlations and threat intelligence. The SOC-NOC is not designed to protect the system and hence such breach protection warranty is in general not included in the scope.*
Query 5	In the present Petition, PTCUL has mentioned the SIEM compression ratio as 70% at Section 7.0(f) of page 15 of DPR, while it is mentioned 50% at item 16 of page 25 of DPR, in this regard, PTCUL is required to clarify the reason for the variation and required to submit the supporting documents of current industry standards in this regard.

Reply 5	*All the technical specifications for SIEM are benchmarked by CSIRT-power. However, the variation in SIEM compression ratio mentioned in the DPR is based upon assumptions used for estimation at different stages of sizing calculations. The 70% compression ratio mentioned on Page 12 is assumed as achievable compression under optimized log archival and storage conditions for structured logs and 50% compression ratio mentioned in Item 16 on Page 21 was considered as a conservative sizing approach for BOQ estimation to ensure adequate storage provisioning under worst-case scenarios.* *Industry-standard SIEM platforms generally provide compression efficiencies ranging between 50% and 80% (depending on log type and format, retention policy, data mirroring mechanism and compression algorithms used by OEMs).*
Query 6	In the present Petition, the Firewall throughput is 2.5 Gbps (item 42, page 48 of 65), whereas, NBAD capture capacity is only 512 Mbps (item 7, page 54 of 65), in this regard, PTCUL is required to explain how the monitoring system remains efficient if network throughput significantly exceeds monitoring capture capacity.
Reply 6	*The technical specifications for Firewall are also benchmarked as model DPR circulated by CIRT-Power. The Firewall throughput of 2.5 Gbps represents the maximum traffic handling capacity of the firewall appliance under defined security profiles while the NBAD solution is designed for sampled and selective traffic analysis rather than continuous full-packet capture of all network traffic. The 512 Mbps capture capacity is considered for monitoring critical SCADA/OT communications through SPAN/TAP-based selective visibility, traffic prioritization, network segmentation, traffic filtering policies and metadata/Net Flow-based anomaly detection.*
Query 7	In the present Petition, at section 5.3 (hardware requirement) at page no. 12 has specifically mentioned as: *"If the vendor feels that the tendered specification and sizing is not adequate to cater the requirement as indicated above, the vendor is liable to design the requirement and propose the higher specification and size of hardware felt suitable accordingly"*

	In this regard, PTCUL is required to justify the reason for inclusion of such condition in the DPR after finalization of BOQ as it also affects the total cost of the project proposed for the approval.
Reply 7	*The clause is included in line to the model DPR provided by CSIRT-power. It is included to maintain the flexibility during implementation. Further, it may be noted that as different SOC vendors do have different architecture of log capturing, retention, meta data conversion algorithm and compression ratio, the requirement of hardware may largely vary from OEM to OEM. Hence to safeguard the interest of the SLDC at a post award scenario it is provisioned that any such requirement of hardware over and above the standard hardware requirement indicated in the TS need to be provided by the vendor at no extra cost.*
Query 8	In the present Petition, PTCUL has proposed the staffing requirement for the NOC and SOC, in this regard, PTCUL is required to clarify: a. How the network's high availability and performance will be maintained 24x7, considering that the SCADA and URTDSM systems are classified as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) and staffing adequacy for the NOC during the two shifts mentioned 'Nil' specialized NOC manpower at Point 9.2 (Page 22 of 65) of the DPR. b. Reason for skill mismatch in the proposal: the SOC L1 resources, whose job descriptions focus on security monitoring, seem to have no mandated experience or technical training for handling complex NOC tasks (such as routing, switching, and latency management). Please state why a dedicated 24x7 specialized NOC team was not considered essential for such a critical system.

Reply 8	*It is mentioned in DPR on Page 22, the "rest of the shift L1 of OC will handle the NOC" in addition, monitoring/appraisal committee of PSDF has also recommended that the project entities shall also deploy suitable number of personnel/official from the relevant fields alongside the AMC personnel deployed by the vendor, to ensure effective handholding and transfer of expertise and skills from the AMC personnel to SLDC officials. For the NOC, "Nil" specialized NOC manpower for two shifts is taken on the basis of high level of automation and centralized monitoring systems. The proposed model provides 24x7 SOC monitoring through deployed resources and automated alerting. During critical incidents 24X7 support will be there from OEM TAC/SI. The proposed manpower is provisioned based on optimal utilisation of resources required for initial operation of the SOC-NOC till internal skilled resources are developed and provisioned. SLDCs may add more manpower as per their internal requirement funded separately.* *SOC L1 resources are primarily intended for cyber security monitoring, alert triage and incident escalation.* *Complex network administration activities such as routing, switching, bandwidth optimization and latency troubleshooting are expected to be handled by resources deployed/Technical Assistance support by vendor/OEM.* *The current proposal follows an integrated operational approach where:* *a. SOC handles cyber security monitoring.* *b. Existing network operations teams manage core network operations.* *c. OEM/SI provides advanced technical support.* *A fully dedicated 24x7 specialized NOC team was not separately proposed to optimize operational expenditure and avoid duplication of existing manpower functions.*

Query 9	PTCUL is required to explain the apparent lack of redundancy for the Data Diode, which is specified as a 'single unified device in a single 1U chassis under Point 5 (Page 55 of 65) of the General Requirements. Considering that this device serves as the critical, mandatory link for transferring real-time data from the OT (SCADA) environment to the IT (SOC) environment, please justify how this single-chassis configuration aligns with the 'no-single-point-of-failure' mandate referenced at point 3(page 20 of 65) in the DPR.
Reply 9	*The technical specifications for NOC are also benchmarked as model DPR circulated by CSIRT-Power. However, the reason behind single unified diode in a single 1U chassis* *1. The Data Diode has been proposed as a secure one-way communication mechanism between OT (SCADA) and IT (SOC) environments to maintain network isolation and cyber security compliance.* *2. The proposed single 1U chassis configuration represents the OEM appliance architecture; however, the overall system design includes provisions for:* *a. High availability of associated network infrastructure.* *b. Redundant communication paths where applicable.* *c. Backup and disaster recovery arrangements.* *3. The Data Diode itself is a hardened appliance with high Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) and purpose-built architecture for critical infrastructure environments.* *4. Since the device performs unidirectional data transfer, the cyber security risk surface is significantly reduced compared to conventional bidirectional gateways.* *5. Therefore, the proposed architecture aligns functionally with cyber security isolation objectives while allowing flexibility for enhanced redundancy during implementation.* *6. As per comment of CISO, NLDC, the proposed architecture is based on optimal utilisation for funding through PSDF. SLDCs may add items / quantity in BOQ funded internally*

Query 10	PTCUL is required to clarify the following: (a) Confirm whether end point security is considered or not in the NG-SOC. (b) Size of Lot as mentioned in the Bill of Quantity (page 57-58 of 65) in this Petition (c) Basis of cost estimation mentioned in Bill of Quantity (page 57-58 of 65).
Reply 10	*Yes, endpoint security has been considered as part of the NG-SOC architecture. End point protection measures include:* *1. Antivirus/anti-malware controls.* *2. Endpoint monitoring and logging.* *3. Integration with SIEM/SOC for centralized event correlation.* *4. Policy-based endpoint security controls for critical systems.* *The "Lot" mentioned in the BOQ represents a consolidated package of hardware/software/services corresponding to the defined scope of work under each category. The lot sizing has been derived based on:* *1. Number of substations/sites.* *2. SCADA/URTDSM integration requirements.* *3. Estimated log volume and traffic analysis requirements.* *4. Redundancy and scalability considerations.* *The cost estimate amounting to Rs 19.44 Cr. Is prepared on the basis of benchmark cost of (SOC+NOC) finalized by Monitoring Committee, PSDF in 26th meeting of Monitoring Committee, PSDF held on 16th December 2025.*

2. Commission's Observations, Views and Directions:

2.1. Based on the submission made in the Petition and subsequent submission of the Petitioner, the Commission observed that:

2.1.1. The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Unified Real Time Dynamic State Measurement System (URTDSM) of SLDC, Uttarakhand stand gazette notified as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) by the Energy Department, Government of Uttarakhand on 30.05.2023, in pursuant to the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) guidelines.

Further, Establishment of a Security Operation Centre (SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) for such Protected Systems is accordingly mandated under the Information Technology (Information Security Practices and Procedures for Protected System) Rules, 2018. Accordingly, the Petitioner has prepared the DPR on the basis of Model DPR issued by Computer Security Incident Response Team–Power (CSIRT-Power) and stands benchmarked by the PSDF Monitoring Committee, Grid India, in its 26th meeting held on 16.12.2025.

2.1.2. With regard to the Compliance of GoU IT-DPR Vetting Requirement, PTCUL has submitted that the DPR is benchmarked by CSIRT-Power/PSDF and stands approved by the PSDF Monitoring Committee. The Commission observes that this benchmarking does not, by itself, substitute for the vetting/concurrence of the Committee constituted vide Government of Uttarakhand order dated 09.07.2025 for IT-related infrastructure projects of Departments/Boards. The Commission is, therefore, of the view that in-principle approval accorded herein shall not be treated as a waiver of this requirement, and PTCUL shall follow GoU guidelines issued from time to time and place it on record.

2.1.3. With regard to the CAPEX (On-Premises) vs. OPEX (Managed SOC) Model, PTCUL has justified selection of the on-premises CAPEX model on the ground that it prevents CII telemetry and logs from leaving SLDC premises, thereby preserving data sovereignty and avoiding dependence on third-party/cloud infrastructure for grid-control systems. The Commission finds this justification reasonable given the sensitivity of SCADA/URTDSM data and the CII status of SLDC's systems, and accepts the CAPEX model for the present proposal. While the Commission acknowledges the Petitioner's submission regarding the sensitivity of SCADA/URTDSM telemetry and the necessity of preserving data sovereignty within SLDC premises under the present CAPEX approval, regulatory approval of capital expenditure cannot be construed as a permanent endorsement of an unalterable operational philosophy. In accordance with Section 61 of the Electricity Act, 2003, ensuring prudence of capital investments and optimizing lifecycle costs passed onto grid users

remains a primary regulatory objective. Given the high rate of technological obsolescence in cybersecurity infrastructure and the development of hybrid Managed SOC delivery frameworks, the Petitioner is directed to undertake a comprehensive Comparative Cost-Benefit and Security Analysis (CAPEX vs. Hybrid/OPEX SOC) prior to initiating any future major infrastructure refresh or expansion.

2.1.4. With regard to the Technical Architecture, Sizing and Redundancy, on the variance between the 70% and 50% Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) log-compression assumptions, PTCUL submitted that the lower figure was conservatively adopted in BOQ sizing to avoid under-provisioning of storage during peak log-generation periods. Similarly, on the apparent mismatch between firewall throughput (2.5 Gbps) and Network Behavior Anomaly Detection (NBAD) capture capacity (512 Mbps), the NBAD system is intended for targeted, sampled analysis of Operational Technology (OT) traffic rather than full perimeter throughput. The Commission observes that the petitioner must discuss the same with Uttarakhand's IT specialized agencies (ITDA/ CERT-UK) to avoid any issue at the time of implementation of the project.

On the issue of redundancy of the Data Diode – a single-chassis unit interfacing the OT (SCADA) and IT (SOC) domains – PTCUL has submitted that the unit is a hardened, high Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) OEM appliance with redundancy provided at the level of associated communication links. The Commission accepts this position for the present approval but considering that the Data Diode constitutes a critical single point of interface between OT and IT environments, directs PTCUL to undertake a post-commissioning redundancy/vulnerability assessment and report the outcome to the Commission, as detailed in Para 2.5 below.

The Commission also takes note of the open-ended clause in the DPR obligating the OEM/System Integrator to supply, at no extra cost, any additional hardware found necessary at the post-award stage to meet the benchmarked BOQ. The Commission views this as a reasonable commercial safeguard for PTCUL and accepts the same, subject to the condition that any

resultant deviation in scope or specification be recorded and reported to the Commission.

2.1.5. With regard to the Staffing and Skill Development, PTCUL has proposed an integrated operational model wherein automated alerts are handled by L1 staff, backed 24x7 by OEM Technical Assistance Centre (TAC), the System Integrator and PTCUL's core network team, for complex network issues. The Commission is of the view that mere reliance on outsourced/vendor personnel would not build internal capability within PTCUL/SLDC. Accordingly, while accepting the staffing model proposed, the Commission directs PTCUL deployment of its own trained departmental officers alongside CAMC personnel from Day 1 of operations, as detailed in Para 2.5 below.

2.1.6. With regard to the Cost Basis, Endpoint Security and Warranty, the Commission has considered PTCUL's submission that breach-protection warranty is not standard industry scope for SOC-NOC systems, which are designed for proactive monitoring, detection and alerting rather than indemnity against breach. Accordingly, while accepting the Petitioner's reply, the Commission directs the Petitioner to ensure robust operational SLAs, mandatory compliance with NCIIPC/CEA cybersecurity guidelines, and conduct annual third-party CERT-In audits to safeguard the state's critical power infrastructure.

2.2. With regard to financing, the Petitioner has submitted that the project is to be funded through PSDF grant of Rs. 17.49 Crore (90%) sanctioned by the Ministry of Power vide letter dated 12.01.2026, with the balance Rs. 1.94 Crore (10%) to be met through State Government equity/PTCUL's internal resources. The Commission take note of the submission with regard to the 90% grant from PSDF for the proposed work and directs that no tariff benefit – whether by way of Return on Equity, depreciation or interest on loan – shall accrue to PTCUL on the PSDF-funded portion of the capital cost, and that only the actual equity/self-funded component shall be eligible for such tariff treatment, subject to prudence check at the time of capitalisation.

2.3. On the aspect of Cost-Benefit Analysis, the Commission observes that, as is typical for cyber-security investments, the benefits accruing from the proposed NG-

SOC/NOC cannot be readily quantified in monetary terms; they are preventive and protective in nature, aimed at safeguarding Critical Information Infrastructure, ensuring continuity of grid operations, and complying with the statutory framework under the IT (Protected System) Rules, 2018. The Commission observes that given the criticality of securing SLDC's SCADA/URTDSM systems, the proposed investment is justified notwithstanding the qualitative nature of its benefits.

2.4. The Commission further observes that the estimated cost of Rs. 19.44 Crore stands benchmarked by the PSDF Monitoring Committee and is not the outcome of a competitive tender specific to PTCUL; the actual cost shall therefore be discovered in consultation with ITDA/CERT-UK and through a transparent and competitive procurement process, which shall not exceed the benchmarked ceiling.

2.5. In view of the above observations, the Commission hereby grants in-principle approval for Rs. 19.44 Crore for the project "Establishment of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (NG-SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) at SLDC, Uttarakhand", subject to the fulfilment of the conditions mentioned below:

i. PTCUL shall undertake procurement through a transparent, fair and competitive bidding process in accordance with applicable GoI/GoU/PSDF procurement guidelines, and shall obtain the most economical prices under the prevailing Rules and Regulations.

ii. The approved cost of Rs. 19.44 Crore shall operate as the ceiling. Any expenditure over and above this amount, including under the vendor hardware-flexibility clause, shall not automatically qualify for capitalisation or tariff pass-through and shall be subject to prudence check by the Commission at the time of ARR/Tariff determination.

iii. No tariff benefit, including Return on Equity, depreciation or interest on capital loan, shall be claimed by or allowed to PTCUL on the portion of capital cost funded through the PSDF grant (Rs. 17.49 Crore). PTCUL shall submit source-wise details of the equity/self-funded component (Rs. 1.94 Crore) at the time of capitalisation during the filing of ARR.

iv. PTCUL shall implement the project strictly in accordance with the DPR and the CSIRT-Power/PSDF benchmarked technical specifications; no material

deviation in scope, architecture or configuration shall be made without approval of the competent authority.

v. PTCUL shall ensure continued compliance with the IT (Information Security Practices and Procedures for Protected System) Rules, 2018, Ministry of Power/CEA Cyber Security Guidelines, and directions issued by CSIRT-Power, Grid India, CERT-In and NCIIPC from time to time, throughout the lifecycle of the project.

vi. PTCUL shall complete implementation and commissioning of the project within the PSDF-stipulated timeline of 18 to 24 months.

vii. PTCUL shall ensure deploying adequately trained departmental officers/engineers alongside OEM/CAMC personnel for effective skill transfer and long-term internal capability building for NOC/SOC operations and shall submit a staffing and training plan to the Commission within one (01) month of this order.

viii. PTCUL shall, within six (6) months of commissioning, undertake a post-commissioning redundancy and vulnerability assessment of the single-chassis Data Diode and submit the report to the Commission, augmenting redundancy through its own resources if found necessary.

ix. PTCUL shall ensure that all hardware, software licences, CAMC/Technical support and cyber-security subscriptions remain valid throughout the approved operational period, and shall undertake periodic security audits/VAPT of the NG-SOC/NOC infrastructure through CERT-In empanelled agencies, implementing the recommendations thereof.

x. PTCUL shall periodically re-assess the OPEX (managed SOC) option at the time of future upgradation of the SOC-NOC infrastructure.

xi. The assets commissioned and put to use shall be considered for capitalisation, subject to prudence check by the Commission at the time of tariff determination. PTCUL shall submit a Project Completion Report to the Commission containing the date of commissioning, final project cost, source-wise funding, details of assets commissioned, a certificate of compliance with the approved DPR, and the Utilisation Certificate for the PSDF grant for the purpose.

2.6. The approval is granted based on the submissions and statements made by the Petitioner under affidavit in the Petition. Any violation of these conditions, or if any information provided is later found to be incorrect, incomplete or if relevant information was withheld, materially affecting the basis of approval, the Commission reserves the right to cancel the approval, disallow expenses in ARR/True-up, and initiate appropriate penal actions.

Ordered accordingly.

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