



## **TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, SIDCO Corporate Office building,

Thiru.Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.

Phone Nos : ++91-044-2953 5806 / 2953 5816 Fax : ++91-044-2953 5893

Email: [tnerc@nic.in](mailto:tnerc@nic.in)

Website: [www.tnerc.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnerc.tn.gov.in)

### **The Chairman cum Managing Director,**

TNEB Limited,

144, Anna Salai,

Chennai – 600 002.

### **Lr.No.TNERC/D/E/DDEI/F.RM/D. No.436/2025, dt. 28.03.2025.**

Sir,

Sub.: TNERC – Record note of discussions of the meeting held in the Commission on 19-03-2025 regarding the status of ongoing and upcoming Generation Projects in Tamil Nadu – Communicated - Regarding.

Ref.: Norms for Manpower Requirement in Thermal Power Sector notified by the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, Government of India during December, 2022.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am directed to communicate the following:

The Record note of discussions of the meeting held in the Commission on 19-03-2025 regarding the status of ongoing and upcoming Generation Projects in Tamil Nadu is enclosed herewith for necessary action at your end.

The Commission would like to place on record its appreciation in bringing the NCTPS Stage-III (1 x 800 MW) and Udangudi TPP Stage-I (2 x 660 MW) projects closer to the COD declaration and commissioning stage respectively in spite of various obstacles.

The Commission would further strongly recommend that adequate manpower in the Technical, Non-Technical and Administrative disciplines shall be deployed on regular basis which will avoid delay in commissioning the project due to dearth of manpower and also facilitate completion of the projects in all aspects within the scheduled date of commissioning without any additional cost and time overrun. It is also stated that the employment of regular employees as per the CEA norms cited in the above reference would ensure effective and successful commissioning, operation and maintenance of the power station as by that time they would be conversant with the operation and maintenance of the power plant.

In this connection, detailed status report on the various issues discussed in the meeting shall be sent to the Commission on or before **30-04-2025** without fail.

Sd/- dated 28-03-2025  
(Dr.C.Veeramani)  
Secretary

Encl:- As above

Copy to the Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Secretariat, Chennai – 600 009.

Copy to the Managing Director/TNPGCL, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Managing Director/TNGECL, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Managing Director/TANTRANSCO, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Director (Distribution), TNPDC, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Director (Projects), TNPGCL, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Director (Generation), TNPGCL, Chennai – 2.

Copy to the Director (Transmission Projects), TANTRANSCO, Chennai – 2.

**Record note of discussions of the meeting held in the Commission on 19-03-2025 regarding the status of ongoing and upcoming Generation Projects in Tamil Nadu.**

(List of participants annexed.)

The Director (Legal) of the Commission welcomed all the participants. The officials of the TNPGL and TNGECL elaborated the present status of the following partially completed / ongoing / upcoming projects:

**1. North Chennai Thermal Project Stage – III (1x800MW)**

1. The Director/Projects stated that the plant was already synchronized with grid on 17.03.2024 and can run with the imported and domestic coal in the ratio of 50:50. The problem with the imported coal is high moisture content and low ash and the problem with the domestic coal is low moisture and high ash content.
2. TNPGL also exploring the possibilities of using washed coal to achieve higher percentage of PLF. The plant can generate above 600MW within one week. The trial run can be achieved within 30 days. The generation from this plant will be a support to meet the coming summer demand. The project was delayed due to dearth of staff from M/s.BHEL and quality of coal issues.
3. At present due to boiler tube (re-heater tube) puncture, the unit was under shutdown from 31.01.2025. Auxiliary boiler was lighted-up on 17.03.2025 and the main boiler light-up was done on 19.03.2025.
4. Extension of Time for completion of work is given up to 31.03.2025 for BTG Package and 31.03.2024 for BOP Package. As the BOP contractor, M/s. BGRESL stopped all the BOP activities from 02.02.2024, extension of time was not granted beyond 31.03.2024. In order to complete all the pending/unfinished/partially completed works, a fresh tender was floated so as to complete the pending works.

5. With respect to FGD, it was stated that works commenced and extension of time for completion of the package is issued upto 30.06.2026.
6. Commission suggested that the evacuated power shall be directly connected to 400 kV networks available in Chennai itself instead of 765 kV route.

## **2. ETPS Expansion (1 x 660 MW)**

1. The Bank Guarantee provided towards Security Deposit and Performance Guarantee by the previous firms viz. M/s.Lanco Infra Tech Ltd. and M/s.BGRESL were recovered. Earlier the works awarded to these firms were terminated due to their poor performance.
2. Due to increasing power demand and to cater the future energy demand supply scenario of Tamil Nadu, it was proposed to execute / complete the project "as is where is basis" condition through PPP mode. In this regard, the services of M/s.SBI CAPS is being utilized for the preparation of feasibility report for execution of the remaining works of the project through PPP mode.

## **3. Ennore SEZ Thermal Power Project (2 x 660 MW)**

1. As per the original schedule, the project is to be completed on 26.03.2018. But, due to court case and COVID outbreak, the project got delayed. Further due to inadequate manpower provided by M/s.BHEL, the progress was badly affected. However, M/s.BHEL has committed to complete the project by March 2026.
2. The estimated project cost was increased from Rs.8587 Crores to Rs.18085 Crores due to abnormal delay in commencing the works and due to IDC payable to M/s.PFC.
3. The following are the proposed milestones:
  - a. Synchronization -15.12.2025
  - b. Coal firing - 31.12.2025
  - c. CoD - 31.03.2026

4. The usage of domestic and imported coal will be in the ratio of 50:50
5. Regarding evacuation of power from this plant, 80% of works were completed in respect of 400kV DC line from the power plant to North Chennai and ETPS Expansion Project. Regarding 400kV DC transmission line for startup power, 90% of works were completed from this project to North Chennai –II.
6. The price bid for Re-routing of pipe conveyor and others as per MoEF & CC approved route works was opened on 05.03.2025 and negotiation is under progress. Boiler & ESP Units 1 & 2, Internal Coal and ash handling plant, Cooling Water & Sea Water Intake pump house, Pre treatment plant, RODM and external coal handling plant works are under progress.
7. As the EC and CRZ clearance expired on 31.12.2024, necessary application for extension of EC and CRZ clearance for one more year was presented on 20.11.2024 and the same is under process with MoEF & CC. However, the works are not affected.
8. Sea water pipe line works will be completed in 12 Months and pipe conveyor works will be completed in the next 5 Months

#### **4. Uppur Thermal Power Project (2 x 800 MW)**

1. The BTG and BoP works were awarded to M/s.BHEL and M/s.RIL respectively. The BoP contract awarded to M/s. RIL was short closed due to huge price escalation sought by M/s.RIL.
2. Due to increasing power demand and to cater the future energy demand supply scenario of Tamil Nadu, it was proposed to execute / complete the project “as is where is basis” condition through PPP mode. In this regard the services of M/s.SBI CAPS is being utilized for the preparation of feasibility report for execution of the remaining works of the project through PPP mode.

### **5. Udangudi Thermal Power Project Stage I (2X660 MW)**

1. The following are the proposed milestones:

	Unit-I	Unit-II
a. Synchronization -	April, 2025	July, 2025
b. Coal firing -	May, 2025	August, 2025
c. CoD -	May, 2025	August, 2025

2. The 400kV D/C power evacuation works from this plant to Ottapidaram was completed and the startup power is also availed through this line.
3. Bridge linkage available with SCCL for indigenous coal till Mine development by TANGEDCO. Imported coal will be procured to the requirement.
4. Sea Water Outfall HDPE Diffuser pipe line, Outfall Pump House - Pump Installation – 3 nos. Sea Water Intake Pump house Fore bay Channel cleaning and Epoxy painting works, Cable laying works and Crusher House works are under progress.

### **6. Udangudi Thermal Power Project Stage - II (2X660 MW) & Stage - III (2x660MW)**

1. The GoTN has accorded administrative sanction for acquisition of 1500Acres of land.
2. To process the land acquisition, Six Nos. of Revenue unit was formed and accordingly Six Spl. Thasildhar, one Revenue Inspector and four Revenue staff have been posted and they joined duty in Udangudi STPP. One Revenue Inspector transferred and 90% of staff have been identified by the Revenue department, but they are yet to join. One Special District Revenue Officer, Highways has been posted in Udangudi Project as an additional charge.
3. The District Collector had been addressed from CE/Projects intimating the consent for extension of Revenue units and payment for establishment charges.

4. The Chief Engineer/Udangudi STPP has been addressed to make necessary arrangement to pay the establishment charges to the Special Revenue Unit.

### **7. Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Power Project (4 x 125 MW)**

1. Works are in Progress. Expect that the plant would be commissioned by November'25.

Transmission work for evacuation of power - Forest Clearance obtained from Kundah PH VII to Kundah PH II (Geddai 175MW). The feasibility study was jointly conducted for adopting Double circuit Towers with HTLS conductors instead of Multi Circuit Towers with Zebra conductors from KPSHEP to Parali 400 kV SS.

2. For initial commissioning of first 2 Units, the Generated power can be evacuated through the Kundah PH VII to Kundah PH II (Geddai 175MW) stretch (Newly to be erected DC Towers with HTLS conductors and one circuit with Zebra ) to Arasur 230 kV SS with the existing 230 kV towers.
3. For the remaining 2 units, Power can be evacuated through the newly proposed Special type/Mono Pole Towers to Parali 400kV SS. GCC/ Coimbatore / Transmission wing to request M/s.Transglobal to expedite the progress of line works for early completion.
4. Forest clearance for erecting the Transmission lines for 14 kms is yet to be obtained and the same is being pursued.
5. The following are the time frame for completion of the projects;
  - a. Unit 4 - July, 2025
  - b. Unit 3 - August, 2025
  - c. Units 2 &1 - November, 2025
6. The lower intake works are expected to be completed by 31.05.2025. The entire steel lining works in respect of pressure shaft I & II are expected to be completed by 11/2025.
7. The upper intake works including trash rack are expected to be completed by 30.06.2025.

8. The Commission suggested that the amount of around 900 crores due claimed by the forest department for the entire land can be adjusted against the CC arrears owed by the GoTN to TNPDC.

#### **8. Kollimalai Hydro Electric Power Project (1X20MW)**

1. The delay in commissioning the project was due to COVID -19, delay in obtaining blasting permission, non-handing over of patta land etc.,
2. The expected date of CoD would be during October 2025.
3. The acquisition of balance land is under progress with the Namakkal revenue department.
4. No issues expected on the front of evacuation.

#### **9. 15 Nos Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Projects at various locations**

1. The works in respect of Upper Bhavani PSP project (4 x 250MW) was allotted to M/s.NTECL on JV basis.
2. Preparation of DPR works was already awarded and the field survey works are in progress.
3. For the remaining 14 Nos of PSP projects to the tune of 13,500 MW, the GoTN has accorded in principle approval to execute the projects under PPP mode.
4. Apart from this, expression of interest for development of pumped storage projects by the private players have been called for and the bid was already opened. The expression of interest for development of small hydro projects has also been called for.

#### **10. CO-GEN PLANTS, BESS & Solar PV:**

1. 7 Nos of CO-GEN projects to the tune of 108 MW have already been completed and are in operation. Commissioning of 3 Nos CO-GEN projects with the capacity of 45 MW is under progress. Remaining 2 Nos of projects of capacity 30 MW is yet to be taken up.
2. Land identified across six districts (2568.31 acres) for establishment of Solar Park with BESS.



3. Tender has been floated for 500 MW / 1000 MWh BESS projects (2 cycles each hours) under VGF scheme by the MoP.
4. Establishment of Solar PV plants to the tune of 424 MW under PM-KUSUM scheme was sanctioned by the MNRE, out of which only 3 MW has been installed so far.

### **Observation of TNERC**

The officials of the TNPGL have stated that the COD of North Chennai Thermal Project Stage – III (1x800MW), Udangudi Thermal Power Project Stage - I (2X660 MW) and Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Power Project (4 x 125 MW) can be achieved during 2025 itself. In this connection, the Commission feels that the manpower for the O&M of these plants could have been arranged earlier so as to have smooth operation of the power plants during the transition period from the developer to the TNPGL as has been done earlier in the cases of TTPS, MTPS Stages - I & II. Therefore, Commission strongly recommended that the TNPGL to arrange adequate manpower for smooth O&M of these power plants as per the CEA norms. Further, the Commission suggests the TANTRANSCO to complete the required evacuation facilities well before the COD dates of the Power Plants concerned.

Finally, the Director (Engineering)/TNERC thanked the participants.

Sd/- dated 28-03-2025  
Secretary  
Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission

## **Annexure - List of participants**

### **From TNERC:**

1. Thiru R.Maivannan,Chairman/TNERC
2. Thiru K.Venkatesan, Member/ TNERC
3. Thiru B. Mohan, Member Legal/TNERC
4. Thiru.S.John Sundararaj, Director Engineering/TNERC
5. Thiru. A.V. Raghunathan, Director Legal/TNERC
6. Thiru. J.Prabhakaran, Deputy Director Engineering 2/ TNERC
7. Thiru. S.Gowrisankar, Deputy Director Tariff 1 / TNERC
8. Thiru. M.Thanigivelu, Deputy Director Engineering 1 / TNERC
9. Thiru E.Pugazhenthii, AD/Computer/TNERC
- 10.Thiru. L.Rajendra Kumar, ADSA/ TNERC
- 11.Thiru T.R.Ramesh Babu, AD(F&EA)/TNERC

### **From Power Utilities:**

1. Thiru.R.K.Vinothan – Director / Technical /TNGECL
2. Thiru. A.R.Mascurnas – Director / Distribution /TNPDCCL
3. Thiru.K.Karukkuvel Rajan – Director / Projects /TNPDCCL
4. Thiru.K.Balakrishnan – Director / Finance / TNPDCCL
5. Thiru.N.Vijayee- Chief Engineer /GO/TNSLDC/TANTRANSCO
6. Thiru.R.R.Sanathi – Chief Engineer Planning & RC / TNPDCCL
7. Thiru.R.Sunil - Chief Engineer / Projects/ TNPDCCL
8. Thiru.S.Mangalanathan - Chief Engineer / NCES/TNGECL
9. Thiru. R.Ravichandran – CE / Coal /TNPDCCL (FAC)
- 10.Thiru.R.Balakrishnan – SE/Projects / TNPDCCL
- 11.Tmt. J.Pushpalatha – SE/Elec./Projects-II/TNPDCCL
- 12.Thiru.T.John – SE/Civil/TNGECL
- 13.Thiru.Patricia Thangaraj – EE/RAP/TNPDCCL
- 14.Tmt.S.Chitra – EE/Mech /TNPDCCL
- 15.Tmt.C.N.Muthumeenakshi – EE/coal / TNPDCCL
- 16.Tmt.G.Manoranchitham – EE Grid /TNSLDC/TANTRANSCO
- 17.Thiru.S.Senthil Kumar – EE/Udangudi Projects / TNPDCCL
- 18.Tmt.D.Sinthuja – AEE/SP/TNGECL
- 19.Tmt.T.E.praveena – AEE/Electrical / TNPDCCL
- 20.Tmt.P.V.Shanthi – AEE/RAP / TNPDCCL
- 21.Tmt.P.Akila – AE/TNGECL