

NHPC LIMITED

(A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)



Policy and Procedure

For

Banning Business Dealings



NHPC LTD.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
NHPC Office Complex, Sector – 33
Faridabad, Haryana – 121003



Policy and Procedure for Banning Business Dealings

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 NHPC Limited (NHPC) deals with Agencies viz parties/ contractors/ suppliers/ bidders, who are expected to adopt ethics of highest standards and a very high degree of integrity, commitments and sincerity towards the work undertaken. It is not in the interest of NHPC to deal with Agencies who commit deception, fraud or other misconduct in the tendering process.
- 1.2 Since banning of business dealings involves civil consequences for an Agency concerned, it is incumbent that adequate opportunity of hearing is provided and the explanation, if tendered, is considered before passing any order in this regard keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 The Information for Bidders/ Instruction to Bidders and even the General Conditions of Contract (GCC) of NHPC generally provide that NHPC shall have the rights to remove from list of approved suppliers / contractors or to ban business dealings if any Agency has been found to have committed misconduct or fraud or anything unethical not expected from a reputed contractor.
- 2.2 The procedure of (i) Removal of Agency from the List of approved suppliers / contractors; (ii) Suspension and (iii) Banning of Business Dealing with Agencies, has been laid down in these guidelines.
- 2.3 These guidelines shall apply to all the Projects/ Power Stations/ Regional Offices/ Liaison Offices of NHPC.
- 2.4 It is clarified that these guidelines do not deal with the poor performance of the contractors/ Agencies.
- 2.5 The banning shall be with prospective effect, i.e. future business dealings.



3.0 Definitions

In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- i) **“Party / Contractor / Supplier / Bidders”** shall mean and include a public limited company or a private limited company, a joint Venture, Consortium, HUF, a firm whether registered or not, an individual, cooperative society or an association or a group of persons engaged in any commerce, trade, industry, etc. “Party / Contractor/ Supplier / Bidder” in the context of these guidelines is indicated as ‘Agency’.
- ii) **“Unit”** shall mean the Project/ Power Station/ Regional Office/ Liaison Office.
- iii) **“Competent Authority”** and **‘Appellate Authority’** shall mean the following:
 - a) **For NHPC Wide Banning**

The concerned director shall be the ‘Competent Authority’ for the purpose of these guidelines. CMD shall be the ‘Appellate Authority’ in respect of such cases.
 - b) **For Projects/ Power Stations/ Regional Offices/Liaison Offices**

Head of the Unit not below the rank of Chief Engineer/Chief shall be the ‘Competent Authority’ for the purpose of these guidelines. The Executive Director of the concerned unit shall be the ‘Appellate Authority’ in all such cases.
- iv) **“Investigating Committee”** shall mean any Officer/Committee appointed by Competent Authority to conduct investigation.
- v) **“List of approved Agencies viz Parties / Contractors / Suppliers/Bidders”** shall mean and include list of Parties/ Contractors / Suppliers / Bidders etc if registered with NHPC.

4.0 Initiation of Banning / Suspension

Action for banning /suspension business dealings with any Agency shall be initiated by the department responsible for invitation of bids after noticing the irregularities or misconduct on the part of Agency

concerned. Besides the concerned department, Vigilance Department of each Unit/ Corporate Vigilance may also be competent to initiate such action.

5.0 Suspension of Business Dealings.

- 5.1 If the conduct of any Agency dealing with NHPC is under investigation, the Competent Authority may consider whether the allegations (under investigation) are of a serious nature and whether pending investigation, it would be advisable to continue business dealing with the Agency. If the Competent Authority, after consideration of the matter including the recommendation of the Investigating Committee, if any, decides that it would not be in the interest to continue business dealings pending investigation, it may suspend business dealings with the Agency. The order of suspension would operate for a period not more than six months and may be communicated to the Agency as also to the Investigating Committee. The Investigating Committee may ensure that their investigation is completed and whole process of final order is over within such period. However, if investigations are not completed in six months time, the Competent Authority may extend the period of suspension by another three months, during which period the investigations must be completed.
- 5.2 The order of suspension shall be communicated to all Departmental Heads of NHPC and Heads of the Units. During the period of suspension, no business dealing may be held with the Agency.
- 5.3 As far as possible, the existing contract(s) with the Agency may continue unless the Competent Authority, having regard to the circumstances of the case, decides otherwise.
- 5.4 If the Agency concerned asks for detailed reasons of suspension, the Agency may be informed that its conduct is under investigation. It is not necessary to enter into correspondence or argument with the Agency at this stage.
- 5.5 It is not necessary to give any show-cause notice or personal hearing to the Agency before issuing the order of suspension.



6.0 Ground on which Banning of Business Dealings can be initiated

- 6.1 If the security consideration, including questions of loyalty of the Agency to NHPC so warrants;
- 6.2 If the director /owner of the Agency, proprietor or partner of the firm, is convicted by a Court of Law for offences involving moral turpitude in relation to its business dealings with the Government or any other public sector enterprises, during the last five years;
- 6.3 If business dealings with the Agency have been banned by the Department of Power, Government of India.
- 6.4 If the Agency has resorted to corrupt, fraudulent practices including misrepresentation of facts;
- 6.5 If the Agency uses intimidation / threatening or brings undue outside pressure on NHPC or its official for acceptance / performances of the job under the contract;
- 6.6 If the Agency misuses the premises or facilities of the NHPC, forcefully occupies or damages the NHPC's properties including land, water resources, forests / trees or tampers with documents/records etc. (Note: The examples given above are only illustrative and not exhaustive. The Competent Authority may decide to ban business dealing for any good and sufficient reason).

7.0 Banning of Business Dealings

- 7.1 A decision to ban business dealings with any Agency shall normally apply throughout NHPC. However, the Competent Authority of the Unit can impose such ban unit-wise only if in the particular case banning of business dealings by respective Unit will serve the purpose and achieve its objective and banning throughout the Company is not required in view of the local conditions and impact of the misconduct / default to beyond the Unit. Any ban imposed by Corporate Office shall be applicable across all Units of NHPC.
- 7.2 There will be an Investigating Committee in each Unit to be appointed by Head of the Unit for processing the cases of "Banning of Business Dealings". However, for procurement of items /award of contracts at Corporate Office, the committee shall consist of officers not below the

rank of Chief Engineer/ Chief from Indenting Division, Finance, Law and Contracts. Member from department responsible for invitation of bids shall be the convener of the committee. The functions of the committee shall, inter-alia include:

- i) To study the report of the department responsible for invitation of bids and decide if a prima-facie case for banning exists, if not, send back the case to the Competent Authority.
- ii) To recommend for issue of show-cause notice to the Agency by the concerned department as per clause 9.1.
- iii) To examine the reply to show-cause notice and call the Agency for personal hearing, if required.
- iv) To submit final recommendations to the Competent Authority for banning or otherwise.

8.0 Removal from List of Approved Agencies - Suppliers/ Contractors, etc.

- 8.1 If the Competent Authority decides that the charge against the Agency is of a minor nature, it may issue a show-cause notice as to why the name of the Agency should not be removed from the list of approved Agencies - Suppliers / Contractors, etc.
- 8.2 The effect of such an order would be that the Agency would not be qualified for competing in Open Tender Enquiries or Limited Tender Enquiries till the period mentioned in the order.
- 8.3 Past performance of the Agency may be taken into account while processing for approval of the Competent Authority for awarding the contract.

9.0 Show-cause Notice

- 9.1 In case where the Competent Authority decides that action against an Agency is called for, a show-cause notice has to be issued to the Agency, Statement containing the imputation of misconduct or misbehavior may be appended to the show-cause notice and the Agency should be asked to submit within 15 days a written statement in its defence.



- 9.2 If the Agency requests for inspection of any relevant document in possession of NHPC, necessary facility for inspection of documents may be provided.
- 9.3 The Competent Authority may consider and pass an appropriate speaking order:
- a) For exonerating the Agency if the charges are not established;
 - b) For removing the Agency from the list of approved Suppliers / Contactors, etc.
 - c) For banning the business dealing with the Agency.
- 9.4 If it decides to ban business dealings, the period for which the ban would be operative may be mentioned.

10.0 Appeal against the Decision of the Competent Authority

- 10.1 The Agency may file an appeal against the order of the Competent Authority banning business dealing etc. The appeal shall be filed to Appellate Authority. Such an appeal shall be preferred within one month from the date of receipt of the order banning business dealing, etc.
- 10.2 Appellate Authority would consider the appeal and pass appropriate order which shall be communicated to the Agency as well as the Competent Authority.

11.0 Circulation of the names of Agencies with whom Business Dealings have been banned

The concerned unit shall forward the name and details of the Agency(ies) banned to IT&C Division of Corporate Office for displaying the same on the NHPC website.