

## **Guidelines on Banning of 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 and/or during execution of work undertaken. NHPC is committed for timely completion of the Projects within the awarded value without compromising on quality.
- 1.2 Since suspension/ 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 NHPC reserves its rights to remove from list of approved suppliers / contractors (if such list exists) or to Suspend/Ban Business Dealings if any Agency has been found to be non / poor performing or have committed misconduct or fraud or anything unethical or any of its action(s) which falls into any such grounds as laid down in this policy.
- 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 units of NHPC.
- 2.4 These guidelines shall not be applicable in Joint Venture, Subsidiary Companies of NHPC unless they are assignees, successors or executor.
- 2.5 The suspension/banning except suspension/banning under Integrity Pact shall be with prospective effect, i.e. future business dealings.

### **3.0 Definitions**

*In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:*

- i) **“Agency / Party / Contractor / Supplier / Bidders/Vendors”** 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/Vendor”** in the context of these guidelines is indicated as ‘Agency’.
- ii) **“Unit”** shall mean the Corporate Office, Project/ Power Station/ Regional Office/ Liaison Office or any other office of NHPC.

iii) *“Competent Authority” and ‘Appellate Authority’ shall mean the following:*

- a. For works awarded/under Tendering from corporate office (falling in the competency of CMD /Board of Directors)
    - Competent Authority: CMD
    - Appellate Authority : Board of Directors
  - b. For works awarded/under Tendering from Corporate Office/Projects/ Power Stations/ Regional Offices/Liaison Offices (falling in the competency of Director /Executive Director )
    - Competent Authority: Concerned Director/Executive Director as the case may be
    - Appellate Authority: CMD /Concerned Director as the case may be
  - c. For works awarded/under Tendering from Regional Offices / Projects/ Power Stations/ Liaison Offices ( falling in the competency of GM and below)
    - Competent Authority: Head of the Unit not below the rank of Chief Engineer/Chief
    - Appellate Authority: Next higher authority
- iv) **“Investigating Committee”** shall mean a Committee appointed by Competent Authority to conduct investigation.

#### **4.0 Initiation of Suspension /Banning**

Action for Suspension / Banning Business Dealings with any Agency shall be initiated by the department responsible for invitation of Bids/Engineer-in-charge 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, 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 the investigations are not completed within six months ,the investigation committee shall put up the proposal to the competent authority for approval of extension of time maximum up to further three months with in which the committee shall conclude the proceedings .

- 5.2 The order of suspension shall be effective throughout NHPC in case of work falling in the Competency of CMD/ Board of Directors/Directors, in case of falling in the competency of Executive Director throughout Region and in case of falling in the competency of HOP and below throughout the Project/Power Station and attached liaison offices/units. During the period of suspension, no business dealing shall be held with the Agency.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 It is not necessary to give any show-cause notice or personal hearing to the Agency before issuing the order of suspension.
- 5.5 The format for intimation of suspension of business dealing is placed at **Appendix– I**
- 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 the Agency has resorted to Corrupt, Fraudulent, Collusive, Coercive practices including misrepresentation of facts and violation of the any provisions of the Integrity Pact provided in the Contract.
- 6.4 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;
- 6.5 If the Agency misuses the premises or facilities of NHPC, forcefully occupies or damages the NHPC's properties including land, water resources, forests / trees or tampers with documents/records etc.
- 6.6 If the Agency does not fulfill the obligations as required under the Contract and Violates terms & conditions of the contract which has serious affect for continuation of the Contract.
- 6.7 If the work awarded to the agency has been terminated by NHPC due to poor performance of the contract in the preceding 5 years.
- 6.8 If the Central Vigilance Commission, Central Bureau of Investigation or any other Central Government investigation Agency recommends such a course in respect of a case under investigation or improper conduct on agency's part in matters relating to the Company (NHPC) or even otherwise;
- 6.9 On any other ground upon which business dealings with the Agency is not in the public interest.

- 6.10 If business dealings with the Agency have been banned by the Ministry of Power, Government of India OR any PSU/ any other authority under the MOP if intimated to NHPC or available on MOP Website, the business dealing with such agencies shall be banned with immediate effect for future business dealing except banning under Integrity Pact without any further investigation.

(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 Procedure for Banning of Business Dealings**

- 7.1 An Investigating Committee shall be constituted by the authority competent to Ban the dealing comprising members from Engineering/Indenting department (convener), Finance, Law and Contract. The level of the committee members shall be GM and above for works falling in the competency of CMD/Board of Directors, Chief Engineer/Chief and above for the works falling in the competency of Director/ Executive Director and SM/M with at least one member of the level of Chief Engineer/Chief for works falling in the competency of GM and below.
- 7.2 The order of Banning of Business Dealings shall be effective throughout NHPC in case of work falling in the Competency of CMD/Board of Directors/Directors, in case of falling in the competency of Executive Director throughout Region and in case of falling in the competency of HOP and below throughout the Project/Power Station and attached liaison office/units. During the period of Banning of Business Dealings, no Business Dealing shall be held with the Agency. In situation where based upon the gravity of the default, it is decided by the competent authority and the Project/Region to extend the banning to Region/wide NHPC approval of regional ED/Concerned Director as the case may be, shall be obtained.
- 7.3 The functions of Investigating Committee in each Unit to be appointed by the competent authority in line with para 3 (iii) shall, inter-alia include:
- a) 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.
  - b) To recommend for issue of show-cause notice (after vetting by legal deptt.) to the Agency by the concerned department as per clause 7.4 “Show Cause Notice”.
  - c) To examine the reply to show-cause notice and call the Agency for personal hearing, if required.
  - d) To submit final recommendations to the Competent Authority for banning or otherwise.

## **7.4 Show Cause Notice**

Once the proposal for issuance of Show Cause Notice is approved by the Competent Authority, a 'Show Cause Notice' (as per format at **Appendix-II** of these guidelines) shall be issued to the delinquent Agency by the Competent Authority or by a person authorized by the Competent Authority for the said purpose. The Agency shall be asked to submit the reply to the Show Cause Notice within 15 days of its issuance. Further, the Agency shall be given an opportunity for Oral hearing to present its case in person, if it so desires, and the date for Oral Hearing shall necessarily be indicated in the Show Cause Notice.

The purpose of issuing the Show Cause Notice is only that the Agency concerned shall be given an opportunity to explain their stand before any action is taken. The grounds on which action is proposed to be taken shall be disclosed to the Agency inviting representation and after considering that representation, orders may be passed. Such orders require only the satisfaction of the authority that passed the final orders.

If the Agency requests for inspection of any relevant document in possession of NHPC, necessary facility for inspection of documents may be provided.

During the conductance of oral hearing, only the regular duly authorized employees of Agency will be permitted to represent the Agency and no outsider shall be allowed to represent the Agency on its behalf.

Reply to the Show Cause Notice given by the Agency and their submissions in oral hearing, if any, will be processed by the Committee for obtaining final decision of the Competent Authority in the matter.

In case, no reply to Show Cause Notice is received from the Agency within stipulated time, further reminder shall be given with further period of 10 days thereafter if no reply is received action for processing ex-parte against the concerned Agency shall be initiated.

## **7.5 Speaking Order**

The speaking order (reasoned order) for banning the business dealing with the Agency shall be issued by the Competent Authority or by a person authorized for the said purpose.

The decision regarding banning of business dealings taken after the issue of a Show Cause Notice and consideration of representation, if any, in reply thereto, shall be communicated to the Agency concerned along with a reasoned order. The fact that the representation has been considered shall invariably be mentioned in the communication. Also the fact that if no reply was received to the Show Cause Notice shall invariably be indicated in the final communication to the Agency. The format for intimation of banning of business dealing is placed at **Appendix- III**

## **7.6 Period of banning**

In case banning is processed for violation of provisions of Integrity pact, the banning would be operative for a period of 3 years and in case termination of contract due to poor

performance the period of banning shall be for 5 years. For contracts awarded to JV/Consortium, a constituent of the JV shall be permitted to participate in the bidding process if it has not been banned on grounds of its role and responsibility in the tendering process for which the Joint Venture has been banned in Past. In case if the Joint Venture which has been banned does not indicate the roles and responsibility of individual Partner(s) then, the partner of the banned Joint Venture shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding process if its participation share is less than 35%.

In case the information/documents submitted by Agency in competing for the tender found to be false/forged then NHPC, without prejudice to any other rights or remedies it may possess, shall recover from Agency the cost incurred in carrying out physical assessment for establishing veracity of such information/documents. In case Agency refuses to reimburse such cost to NHPC then banning period of Agency shall be extended by another one year.

## **7.7 Effect of Banning**

As far as possible, the existing ongoing contract(s) with the Agency may continue unless the Competent Authority, having regard to the circumstances of the case, decides otherwise, keeping in view contractual and legal issues which may arise thereof. In case the existing Contracts are allowed to continue, the suspension/Banning of Business Dealing along with default of the Contractor shall be recorded in the experience certificate issued for the work.

The Agency, (after issue of the order of banning of business dealings) would not be allowed to participate in any future tender enquiry and if the Agency has already participated in tender process as stand-alone OR constituent of joint venture and the price bids are not opened, his techno-commercial bid will be rejected and price bid will be returned unopened. However, where the price bids of Agency have been opened prior to order of banning, bids of Agency shall not be rejected and tendering process shall be continued unless Competent Authority having regard to the circumstances of the case decides otherwise keeping in view the Contractual, Legal issues which may arise thereafter. However, in case the suspension /Banning is due to default of an Agency for the provisions under Integrity Pact and the Agency happens to be Lowest Bidder (L1), the tendering process shall be annulled and fresh tenders shall be invited.

During the Suspension/ Banning period, if it is found at any stage that Agency has participated in tender enquiry under a different name then such Agency would immediately be debarred from the tender/contract and its Bid Security/Performance Security would be forfeited. Payment, if any, made shall also be recovered.

After Suspension/ Banning order, the Suspended/ Banned Agency shall not be allowed to participate as Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor in the tenders.

Further, if the Suspended/ Banned agency is an approved Sub-Vendor under any Contract for such equipment/component/service, the Main Contractor shall not be permitted to place work order/Purchase order/Contract on the Suspended/ Banned agency as a Sub-Vendor /Sub-Contractor after the date of Suspension/ Banning even though the name of the party has been approved as a Sub-Vendor /Sub-Contractor

earlier.

There would be no bar on procuring the spares and awarding Contracts towards Annual Maintenance (AMC)/ O&M/ Repair works on Agencies pertaining to the packages for which they have been banned provided the Equipment has been supplied by such Agency.

Banning of business dealing shall not be applicable to the Subsidiary Company of the Banned agency provided subsidiary company has not participated on the strength of the Banned agency. However, in case of a default by a Sub-Contractor, the banning shall be applicable to the Sub-Contractor as well as the Lead Partner of the concerned JV or the Sole bidder as the case may be.

#### **7.8 Hosting at NHPC website**

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

#### **8.0 Appeal against the Decision of the Competent Authority.**

The Agency may file an appeal against the order of the Competent Authority banning of business dealing before Appellate Authority. Such an appeal shall be preferred within 30 (Thirty) Days from the date of receipt of the order of banning of business dealing. Appellate Authority would consider the appeal if convinced may constitute another committee for further investigation. Based on the recommendation of the committee Appellate Authority shall pass appropriate order which shall be communicated to the Agency as well as the Competent Authority (as per format enclosed as **Appendix-IV** with these guidelines).

#### **9.0 Circulation of the names of Agencies with whom Business Dealings have been banned**

The name of the concerned banned agency shall also be shared with MOP and other PSU in the sector and all the units of NHPC.

The provisions of this policy supersede and will have overriding effect on all earlier guidelines, procedures & system issued for the similar purpose.

## Appendix –I

### (Format for Intimation of Suspension of business dealing)

BY REGD. POST/SPEED POST/COURIER

No.....

Date.....

To

M/s .....

Attn.: Shri .....

**Sub:** Intimation of Suspension of Business Dealings

Dear Sir,

Whereas the work of ..... was awarded to your firm vide letter of award no ....dt..... amounting to Rs. .... OR In response to NHPC NIT ( e-tender / physical tender ) no .....dt. you have submitted your bid . (strike out whichever is not applicable )

Whereas the conduct of your firm in respect of the following is under investigation:

Brief of the default

“Whereas the Competent Authority prima facie considered the allegations (under investigation) are of a serious nature and decided pending investigation, it is not in the interest of the corporation to continue business dealing with your firm

This order shall have the following effects:

- i) Further business dealings with your firm is Suspended within Region/Project/Unit/wide NHPC. The order of Suspension is effective with immediate effect and would operate for a period of six months or till the 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
- ii) During the period of Suspension, no business dealing shall be held with your firm. No enquiry / bid / tender shall be issued to your firm nor will the bids submitted by your firm be entertained.
- iii) In cases where tenders have already been issued to you and price bids are yet to be opened, the Price Bid submitted by you shall not be opened and BG/EMD, if any, submitted by you shall be returned.
- iv) In cases where tenders have already been issued to you and Price Bids have already been opened , the tendering process shall be continued
- v) In case of ongoing contracts between you & NHPC, (including cases where contract has already been awarded before the issue of Suspension order) you will be required to continue with the execution and perform as per terms of the contract.



a) In case the Firm is in Joint Venture the following would also be applicable:

i) **Participation of Agency in Joint Venture**

Tenders in which your firm has been proposed as Joint Venture Partner by any of the bidders and price bids have been opened prior to Suspension of your firm in such cases the tendering process shall not be annulled on this ground and the Agency shall be permitted to continue as Partner in the Joint Venture for such bidding. However where event of Price Bid opening has not taken place prior to Suspension/Banning of Agency then in such case Agency shall not be permitted to participate as Partner in the Joint Venture.

ii) **Banning of joint Venture:**

As the Joint Venture is Banned, your firm intends to bid as Partner(s) of Joint Venture in bidding process then it shall be permitted to participate in the bidding process if it has not been Banned on grounds of its role and responsibility in the tendering process for which the Joint Venture has been Banned in Past. In case if the Joint Venture which has been Banned does not indicate the roles and responsibility of individual Partner(s) then, the partner of the Banned Joint Venture shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding process if its participation share is less than 35%.

b) Your firm shall not be allowed to participate as Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor in the tenders.

Further if your firm is an approved Sub-vendor under any Contract for such equipment/component/service, the Main Contractor shall not be permitted to place work order/Purchase order/Contract on your agency as a Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor after the date of Suspension/ Banning even though the name of the party has been approved as a Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor earlier.

c) There would be no bar on procuring the spares and awarding Contracts towards Annual Maintenance (AMC)/ O&M/ Repair works on Agencies pertaining to the packages for which they have been Banned provided the Equipment has been supplied by such Agency.

d) Banning of business dealing shall not be applicable to the Subsidiary company of the Banned agency provided subsidiary company has not participated on the strength of the Banned agency.

On expiry of the above period of Suspension/Banning, you may approach..... (Indicate the concerned procurement department), with request for revocation of the order mentioning inter-alia the steps taken by you to avoid recurrence of misconduct which has led to Suspension.

Yours faithfully,

For & On behalf of NHPC.

**Note:** Strike out whichever is not applicable

**(Format of Show Cause Notice)**

BY REGD. POST/SPEED POST/COURIER

No.....

Date.....

To

M/s .....

.....

Attn.: Shri .....

**Sub: Show Cause Notice**

Ref :

Dear Sir,

You are hereby required to Show Cause in writing within 15 days from the date hereof why Business Dealing with your firm should not be banned / your firm is placed in the Banning List (as the case may be) and be debarred from entering into any contracts with NHPC for the following reasons:

(Give Reasons)

Your reply (if any) should be supported by documents and documentary evidence which you wish to rely in support of your reply. Should you fail to reply to this Show Cause Notice within the time and manner aforesaid, it will be presumed that you have nothing to say and we shall proceed accordingly.

Your reply, if any, and the documents / documentary evidence given in support shall be taken into consideration prior to arriving at a decision.

Yours faithfully,

For & On behalf of NHPC.

## Appendix –III

### (Format for Intimation of Banning of Business Dealing)

BY REGD. POST/SPEED POST/COURIER

No.....

Date.....

To

M/s .....

Attn.: Shri .....

**Sub:** Intimation of Suspension of Business Dealings

Dear Sir,

Whereas the work of ..... was awarded to your firm vide letter of award no ...dtd.... amounting to Rs. .... OR In response to NHPC NIT (e-tender / physical tender) no .....dt. you have submitted your bid .(strike whichever is not applicable)

Whereas the Competent Authority had prima facie considered the allegations as detailed below are of a serious nature and decided to conduct investigation.

Whereas show cause notice vide no ... dtd....was served upon you. (whereas in spite of the opportunity given to you, you failed to submit the reply to the show cause notice within the time period mentioned there upon or further extended period, if any). Whereas you submitted the reply along with documents vide your letter no. \_\_\_\_\_dt. \_\_\_\_\_. After considering the allegations made in the show cause notice, your reply to the show cause notice documents/documentary evidence in support thereof, it has been decided to Ban the Business Dealing with you and you are hereby debarred from entering into contracts with NHPC within jurisdiction of Region/Project/Unit.

This order shall have the following effects:

- i) Further business dealings with your firm is banned with immediate effect . The order of Banning would operate for a period of .....years/month Competent Authority may extend the period of Banning.
- ii) During the period of Banning, no Business Dealing shall be held with your firm. No Enquiry / Bid / Tender shall be issued to your firm nor will the bids submitted by your firm be entertained.
- iii) In cases where tenders have already been issued to you and Price Bids are yet to be opened, the Price Bid submitted by you shall not be opened and BG/EMD, if any, submitted by you shall be returned.
- iv) In cases where tenders have already been issued to you and price bids have already been opened, the Tendering Process shall be continued.
  - a) In case of ongoing contracts between you & NHPC, (including cases where contract has already been awarded before the issue of Banning order) you will be required to continue with the execution and perform as per terms of the contract.
  - b) In case the Firm is in Joint Venture the following would also be applicable:
    - i) **Participation of Agency in Joint Venture**  
Tenders in which your firm has been proposed as Joint Venture Partner by any of the bidders and price bids have been opened prior to Banning of your firm in such cases the tendering process shall not be annulled on this ground and the Agency shall be permitted to continue as Partner in the Joint Venture for such

bidding. However where event of price bid opening has not taken place prior to Banning of Agency then in such case Agency shall not be permitted to participate as Partner in the Joint Venture.

ii) **Banning of joint Venture:**

As the Joint Venture is banned, your firm intends to bid as Partner(s) of Joint Venture in bidding process then it shall be permitted to participate in the bidding process if it has not been banned on grounds of its role and responsibility in the tendering process for which the Joint Venture has been banned in Past. In case if the Joint Venture which has been banned does not indicate the roles and responsibility of individual Partner(s) then, the partner of the banned Joint Venture shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding process if its participation share is less than 35%.

- c) Your firm shall not be allowed to participate as Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor in the tenders.

Further if your firm is an approved Sub-vendor under any Contract for such equipment/component/service, the Main Contractor shall not be permitted to place work Order/Purchase Order/Contract on your agency as a Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor after the date of Banning even though the name of the party has been approved as a Sub-Vendor/Sub-Contractor earlier.

- d) There would be no bar on procuring the spares and awarding Contracts towards Annual Maintenance (AMC)/ O&M/ Repair works on Agencies pertaining to the packages for which they have been banned provided the Equipment has been supplied by such Agency.
- e) Banning of Business Dealing shall not be applicable to the Subsidiary company of the Banned Agency provided subsidiary company has not participated on the strength of the Banned Agency. However, in case of a default by a Sub-Contractor, the banning shall be applicable to the Sub-Contractor as well as the Lead Partner of the concerned JV or the Sole bidder as the case may be.

On expiry of the above period of Banning, you may approach..... (Indicate the concerned procurement department), with request for revocation of the order mentioning inter-alia the steps taken by you to avoid recurrence of misconduct which has led to Banning.

Further if you desire to appeal against this order you may do so within 30 days from the date of issue of this order to the appellate authority as here under:

Appellate Authority : .....

Designation:

Address:.....

Ph . no.

e-mail :

Yours faithfully,

For & On behalf of NHPC.

**Note:** Strikeout whichever is not applicable

## Appendix –IV

### (Format for communication of Appellate Decision on Suspension/Banning Order)

BY REGD. POST/SPEED POST/COURIER

No.....

Date.....

To

M/s .....

Attn.: Shri .....

**Sub:** Suspension Banning of Business Dealings - Intimation of decision of Appellate Authority

**Ref:** 1. Order dated ..... Placing M/s ..... on Suspension/Banning List by NHPC;

2. Your Appeal reference ..... Dt.....

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the order dt..... placing you on Suspension/Banning List and your appeal petition reference ..... dt.... on the same.

After considering the findings of the Original Authority in order and submissions made by you in your appeal, and the documents/documentary evidences available on record, it has been decided finally that :

- \* There is no infirmity in the order of the Original Authority, and the allegations stand substantiated and the Suspension/Banning for the period of ..... years/month from the date of order, as ordered by the original Authority is upheld,
- \* Considering your submissions, the order of Suspension/Banning passed by the original authority is upheld, but with a reduction in period of Suspension/Banning for ..... years/months from the date of order of original authority;
- \* Considering your submissions and the evidence available on record, there is enough justification to annul the order of the original authority.

(\*\*\* Incorporate any one of the above as applicable)

Yours faithfully,

For & On behalf of NHPC.