

पावर ग्रिड कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम 2005 के अंतर्गत आपीलीय अधिकारी
APPELLATE AUTHORITY UNDER THE RTI ACT, 2005

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, 'साँदामिनी', प्लॉट नं.2, सैक्टर-29, गुड़गांव, हरियाणा- 122001
CORPORATE CENTRE, 'SAUDAMINI', PLOT No.2, SECTOR-29, GURGAON, HARYANA- 122001

Ref: C/CP/AA/RTI Act, 2005

Date: 05 Jan, 2024

Appellant: Sh. Arnab Biswas, Flat No. 2A, AE-29, Street No. 78, Action Area - 1A, New Town Kolkata

Public Authority: POWERGRID

Respondent: CPIO, Corporate Centre, POWERGRID, Gurgaon

ORDER

Grounds of Appeal

The Appellate Authority has received an online RTI Appeal bearing number PGCIL/A /E/23/00071 dated 06/12/2023 from Sh. Arnab Biswas, Flat No. 2A, AE-29, Street No. 78, Action Area - 1A, New Town Kolkata, (appellant). Earlier, the appellant herein had filed the RTI application bearing number PGCIL/R/E/23/00447, dated 10/11/2023. The instant appeal has been preferred on the ground that the CPIO has "Refused access to Information Requested".

Order:

I have seen the above-mentioned RTI application. I have also perused the reply sent by the CPIO and other relevant documents. The appellant herein in his RTI application had sought information related to policy and approval for seeking the Service Agreement Bond. It is noteworthy that recruitment advertisement number CC/10/2023 dated 04.11.2023 talked about submitting a service agreement bond.

CPIO vide reply dated 06.12.2023 had informed that Service Agreement Bond is an internal document and is used for a specific purpose for limited number of candidates who are issued offer of engagement, therefore falls under the definition of intellectual property as per clause 8(1) (d) of RTI Act and hence cannot be shared. However, the appellant has preferred this appeal seeking policy and approval.

In my considered opinion the appellant has failed to satisfy the requirement of larger public interest which warrants disclosure of such policy and approval. It is pertinent to mention that the CPIO in its reply has mentioned in unequivocal terms that service bond comes into picture once the offer of engagement is issued hence, will be material for those candidates who have been issued offer letter. It was incumbent upon the appellant to show that larger public interest warrants that policy and approval must be made public.

It is not the case of the appellant that he is not aware whether he would be required to submit any service bond or not as the same is clear from the advertisement itself that the selected candidates would be required to submit service bond for a particular amount. As mentioned earlier the appellant has not been able to show what public purpose would be served by disclosing the policy and approval.

As the act provides for in unequivocal terms that information related to commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property is denied unless the larger public interest warrants the disclosure under section 8 (1) (d) of RTI Act, I also find merit in the submission of CPIO that the information cannot be shared.

Accordingly, the appeal is disposed of.


(B. Anantha Sarma)
ED (CP/MM) & Appellate Authority

To: Sh. Arnab Biswas, Flat No. 2A, AE-29, Street No. 78, Action Area - 1A, New Town Kolkata

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Copy to: CGM (CP) &CPIO, Corporate Centre, POWERGRID, Gurgaon.