

**MINUTES OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THERMAL POWER PROJECTS HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the re-constituted EAC (Thermal Power) organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 through video conference under the Chairmanship of Shri Gururaj P. Kundargi. The list of Members participated in the meeting is at **Annexure**.

**Agenda Item No. 22.1:**

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> EAC meeting**

The Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> EAC (Thermal Power Project) meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No. 22.2:**

**North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) in an area of 2620 acres located near Tandwa, District Chatra, Jharkhand by M/s NTPC Limited – Amendment in Environment Clearance (EC) – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/JH/THE/236374/2021; F. No. J-13011/26/1989-IA.II (T)]**

**22.2.1** The proposal is for grant of amendment in Environment Clearance (EC) to North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) in an area of 2620 acres located near Tandwa, District Chatra, Jharkhand by M/s NTPC Limited.

**22.2.2** The details of the project submitted by project proponent and ascertained from the document submitted are mentioned below:

- i. North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) is located at Latitude: 23° 49' 51"N to 23° 51' 16"N Longitude: 85° 00' 16"E to 85° 02'03"E. Plant area is located at near Tandwa, District Chatra, Jharkhand.
- ii. Source of Coal: Magadh Coal Block of North Karanpura Coal field of CCL. Coal requirement will be 10 MTPA at 80% PLF. Water requirement is fulfilled from River Garhi, a tributary of river Damodar. Total project cost Rs. 7,196.80 Crores (as per EC), Rs. 14,366.58 Crores (Revised cost, 2014).
- iii. Environmental Clearance (EC) for North Karanpura Super Thermal Power Project (3x660 MW) was accorded by MoEF&CC vide Letter no. J-13011/26/89-IA.II(T) dated 29.11.2004.

Subsequently, EC was revalidated by MoEF&CC on 19.02.2014. Further, EC was amended on 31.10.2014 by MoEF&CC for use of Air Cooled Condenser System and water requirement is revised to 2,180 m<sup>3</sup>/hr instead of 10,100 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The project is still under construction and no unit has started yet. The amendments requested along with brief justification of the same are as follows:

<b>Date of EC &amp; condition No.</b>	<b>Stipulation in EC</b>	<b>Amendment Requested</b>	<b>Justification for Amendment</b>
<p>Clause No. xxx Revalidation of EC letter no J-13011/26/89-IA.II(T), dated 19.02.2014</p>	<p>“A long term study of radio activity and heavy metals contents on coal to be used shall be carried out through a reputed institute. Thereafter mechanism for an <b>in-built continuous monitoring</b> for radio activity and heavy metals in coal and fly ash (including bottom ash) shall be put in place.”</p>	<p>The term “<i>in-built continuous</i>” in aforesaid stipulation may kindly be amended with “<b>regular periodical monitoring</b>”.</p>	<p>NTPC has explored the technologies for in-built continuous monitoring of radioactivity and heavy metals in coal and ash. It may kindly be noted that no instrument for online in-built continuous monitoring of heavy metals is available. Only periodic sampling of Heavy metals and radioactivity is usually being conducted through reputed Laboratory/ in-built Institute.</p> <p>The above-mentioned condition has been amended by MOEF&amp;CC for our other projects like Firoz Gandhi Unchahar STPP Stage-IV (1x500 MW) and Telengana STPP Stage-IV, Phase-I (2x800 MW).</p>

**22.2.3** *The EAC during deliberations observed that the project proponent has not circulated the project related documents to the EAC members so EAC members could not go through the details about the proposal to facilitate the discussion during the EAC. Accordingly, it was unanimously decided to defer the project.*

**Agenda Item No. 22.3:**

**Issue regarding Splitting & Combining of EC - 43 MW Captive Thermal Power Plant in an area of 20 acres at Village Versamedi, Tehsil Anjar, District Kutch, Gujarat - Transfer of EC from M/s Welspun Corp Ltd to M/s Welspun Captive Power Generation Ltd – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/GJ/THE/215738/2021; F. No. J-13011/17/2007-IA.II (T)]**

**22.3.1** The Member Secretary informed to the EAC that this proposal has been received for transfer of Environmental Clearance of 43 MW Captive Thermal Power Plant in an area of 20 acres at Village Versamedi, Tehsil Anjar, District Kutch, Gujarat from M/s Welspun Corp Ltd to M/s Welspun Captive Power Generation Ltd. The proposal was deliberated in the Ministry and it was decided to take opinion the EAC (Thermal Power Sector) on the requirement of fresh EIA/EMP study is required given the fact that time has lapsed and situation on the ground may have changed.

**22.3.2 In view of the aforesaid decision of the Ministry the EAC decided to examine the facts and circumstances of the matter and asked the project proponent to present the details about the status of operation of the project whose EC is proposed to be transferred along with present environmental scenario of the project site. Accordingly, the project proponent made a presentation before the EAC and informed that:**

- i. Initially, Environmental Clearance was granted vide letter No. F. No J-13011/17/2007-IA-II(T) dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007 to M/s. Welspun Gujarat Stahl Rohern Ltd for establishing 123 MW CPP.
- ii. 123 MW EC was split between two units.
  - 1) 43 MW CPP in the name of M/s. Welspun Corp Ltd, EC vide letter No. J-13011/17/2007-IA.II(T) dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
  - 2) 80 MW CPP in the name of M/s. Welspun Captive power generation Limited, EC vide letter No. J-13011/17/2007-IA. II(T) dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
- iii. Both 1 x 43 MW and 1 X 80 MW are under Operation and all regular compliance reports are submitted to MoEF&CC and GPCB.
- iv. PP submitted the proposal no. IA/GJ/THE/215738/2021 for transfer of Environmental Clearance of 43 MW Captive Thermal Power Plant in an area of 20 acres at Village Versamedi, Tehsil Anjar, District Kutch, Gujarat from M/s Welspun Corp Ltd to M/s Welspun Captive Power Generation Ltd.
- v. Welspun Group is restructuring all its Assets in Five Broad Verticals.
  - a) Steel Manufacturing – **Welspun Corp Limited**
  - b) Textile Manufacturing – Welspun India Limited
  - c) Infrastructure Development – Welspun Enterprise Limited
  - d) Warehousing and New Business – Welspun One Logistics Limited
  - e) Power Generating Assets. – **Welspun Captive Power Generation Limited**
- vi. All Power Generating Assets are planned to be brought under Welspun Group Company – WCPGL. As part of the restructuring 1 X 43 MW owned by WCL to be transferred to WCPGL.

- vii. To improved operational efficiency with power generating assets under single company will help PP in improving operational efficiency including sourcing and managing raw material, manpower management, maintenance scheduling among others.
- viii. For Strategic Restructuring following was submitted:
  - a) Electricity Rule – 2005 Mandates that Captive Power Plant can supply Power to its Share Holders (Legal Entity) in proportion to their Share Holding.
  - b) With 1 X 43 MW only owned by WCL – It was possible as per Electricity Rule – 2005 that the power generated by the plant can be used by WCL Only.
  - c) There was significant volatility in the operation of WCL on account of market conditions and thereby 1 X 43 MW Power Plant was required to be operated at sub-optimal Levels.
  - d) Operations of WCL- 1 X 43 Power Plant were becoming inefficient due to volatility in WCL market on account of various external factor like Covid 19, disruption in global supply chain etc.
  - e) WCPGL is a SPV formed as Group Captive Generator – Electricity Rule 2005 allow that power generated from group captive power plant can be consumed by all its shareholder.
  - f) Effectively power generated by WCPGL can be consumed by WCL and other Welspun Group Companies.
  - g) This gives PP a flexibility to load the 1 x 43 MW unit up to its optimal levels.
  - h) Based on the Consumption Planning of the entire Welspun Group, Load Management becomes more efficient by way of optimal loading on both the Generating Assets.
  - i) Based on the Consumption Planning of the entire Welspun Group, Load Management becomes more efficient by way of optimal loading on both the Generating Assets.
- ix. The proposal is only for the transfer of EC of 1 X 43 MW CPP which is already in operational since 2007 to WCGPL, without any change in capacity. Therefore, as per the EIA Notification 2006 and its subsequent amendment for transfer of EC, no EIA Study is suggested/ required.

**22.3.3** *The EAC after detailed deliberation on the information submitted and as presented during the meeting **deferred** the proposal seeking following information:*

- i. *Certified compliance report of EC conditions from Regional Office of MoEF&CC for both existing 1 x 43 MW and 1 X 80 MW focusing on:*
  - a) *Issues raised and commitments made by PP during public hearing, their implementation status and budget allocated to those activities.*
  - b) *EMP implementation status along with its budget and ash utilization during last past 5 years.*
- ii. *Copy of valid CTO and CTE from State Pollution Control Board for both the plants under operation.*
- iii. *Detailed explanation for merging of two EC shall be submitted.*

iv. *A study shall be conducted to assess the pollution load of individual running plant and after combining them.*

*The project was **deferred** on above points.*

**The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.**

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**ATTENDANCE**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1.	Shri Gururaj P. Kundargi	Chairman	P
2.	Shri Suramya Vora	Member	P
3.	Shri K. B. Biswas	Member	P
4.	Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member	P
5.	Dr. Nandini. N	Member	P
6.	Dr. Unmesh Patnaik	Member (Representative of IIT/ISM)	P
7.	Shri M.P. Singh	Member (Representative of CEA)	P
8.	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh	Member Secretary	P

## APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN

**From:** [gpkundargi@gmail.com](mailto:gpkundargi@gmail.com)  
**To:** "Yogendra Pal Singh" <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:37:19 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Draft MOM of the EAC (Thermal) meeting held on 14.03.2022 for perusal and comments-reg

Dear Yogendra ji  
Draft minutes are in order & approved  
You may take further needful action.  
Thank you  
G P Kundargi

On Mon, 11 Apr, 2022, 11:19 am Yogendra Pal Singh, <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)> wrote:

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the draft MOM of the EAC (Thermal) meeting held on 14.03.2022 for approval please. No comments have been received from EAC members till date.

With Regards,

**Yogendra Pal Singh**  
**Scientist 'E'**  
**M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
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