

MINUTES OF THE 24TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR RIVER VALLEY AND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2022 FROM 10.30 AM – 1:00 PM THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.

The 24th meeting of the re-constituted EAC for River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi, was held on 22nd February, 2021 through video conference, under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Gopakumar. The list of Members present in the meeting is at **Annexure**.

Agenda Item No. 24.1

Confirmation of the minutes of 23rd EAC meeting

The minutes of the 23rd EAC (River Valley Hydroelectric Project) meeting held on 28th January, 2022 were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 24.2:

Teesta Low Dam – I & II (Combined) Hydro-Electric Project 71 MW (2x30+1x11MW) in an area of 170 ha by M/s West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited in Triveni town, Tehsil Rangli Rangliot, District Darjeeling, West Bengal – Reconsideration of Terms of Reference - reg.

[Proposal No. IA/WB/RIV/219929/2021; F. No. J-12011/11/2021-IA. I (R)]

24.2.1 The proposal is for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) to Teesta Low Dam -I & II (Combined) Hydro-Electric Project 71 MW (2x30+1x11MW) in an area of 170 ha by M/s West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited in Triveni town, Tehsil Rangli Rangliot, District Darjeeling, West Bengal.

24.2.2: The proposal was earlier considered by the EAC in its 15th & 19th meeting held on 27th July, 2021 & 15th November, 2021 respectively and project was deferred the proposal seeking additional information from Project Proponent (PP) in 19th meeting.

Point-wise replies submitted by the PP vide letter no. PIDD/TLDP-I&II/34/277 dated 18th January, 2022 in response to additional details sought (ADS) by EAC in its 19th meeting are as follows:

Query 1: Conduct detailed study on site suitability by covering all ecological aspects such as loss of biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, loss of forest etc.

Reply: A detailed study on site suitability by covering all ecological aspects such as loss of biodiversity habitat fragmentation, loss of forest shall be covered as a part of CEIA study.

At present, appraisal for ToR clearance is needed and undertaking has been submitted to conduct the same as a part of CEIA Study.

Conditional ToR Clearance for CEIA Study may kindly be accorded.

Query 2: Undertaking shall be submitted stating that minimum E-flow 20% in lean season will be maintained as recommended in CIA&CCS study report.

Reply: PP submitted undertaking stating that, Minimum E flow of 20% shall be released in the lean season as mentioned in CIS&CCS Study Report for TLDP-I&II Hydro Power Project, West Bengal.

Query 3: NOC/ Consent from Govt. of Sikkim needs to be submitted as submergence of the project area is falling in jurisdiction of Govt of Sikkim.

Reply: The NOC/ Consent for Inter-State Clearance shall be taken as a part of CWC Clearance. WBSEDCL has already contacted Govt. of Sikkim in this regard. Copy of relevant communications have been submitted for further considerations. At present, ToR Clearance for CEIA Study is being sought. Hence, conditional clearance may be given.

24.2.3: The EAC during deliberations noted the following:

The EAC in the present meeting (24th meeting) deliberated on the additional information submitted by PP and noted that points raised by the EAC in the earlier meetings were necessary for site selection criteria for the proposed project. In view of high ecological value of the proposed project location in terms of dense forest cover, the EAC raised concerns about the ecological sustainability of the project. Therefore, the EAC decided to conduct site-visit by following EAC sub-committee members before making any recommendations on proposal:

- i. Dr. A.K. Malhotra
- ii. Dr. Chandrahas Deshpande
- iii. Shri Sharvan Kumar Member
- iv. Dr. M.K. Sinha
- v. Dr. J.A. Johnson
- vi. Dr. A.K. Sahoo
- vii. Representative from MoEF&CC

The proposal was **deferred** on the above lines.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Sr. No	Name & Address	Role	Attendance
1.	Dr. K. Gopakumar	Chairman	P
2.	Dr. A. K. Malhotra	Member	P
3.	Shri Sharvan Kumar	Member (Representative of CEA)	P
4.	Representative of CWC	Representative of CWC	P
5.	Dr. A. K. Sahoo	Representative of CIFRI	P
6.	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh	Member Secretary	P

APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN

Fwd: Draft MoM of 24th EAC (RVHEP) meeting held on 22.02.2022-reg

Yogendra Pal Singh <yogendra78@nic.in>
To: geetdeepbisht <geetdeepbisht@gmail.com>

From: "Yogendra Pal Singh" <yogendra78@nic.in>
To: kgopa@iisc.ac.in
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 4:14:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: Draft MoM of 24th EAC (RVHEP) meeting held on 22.02.2022-reg

Dear Sir,

Draft MOM of 24th EAC held on 22.02.2022 are attached herewith for approval please.

With Regards,

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