

**MINUTES OF THE 205<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO COASTAL REGULATION ZONE HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 AT INDIRA PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, NEW DELHI.**

The 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee for projects related to Coastal Regulation Zone was held on 17.12.2018 at Brahmputra Conference Hall, Vayu Wing, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The members present were:

1.	Dr. Deepak Arun Apte	-	Chairman
2.	Shri T.P. Singh	-	Member
3.	Dr. V.K Jain	-	Member
4.	Shri Anil Kumar Singh	-	Member
5.	Dr. N.K Verma	-	Member
6.	Shri. Prabhakar Singh	-	Member
7.	Dr. Manoranjan Hota	-	Member
8.	Shri. N.K. Gupta	-	Member
9.	Dr. Mohan Singh Panwar	-	Member
10.	Smt. Bindu Manghat	-	Member
11.	Dr. Anuradha Shukla	-	Member

In attendance: Shri W. Bharat Singh, Director, MoEFCC. The deliberations held and the decisions taken are as under:

## **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The Committee having noted that the Minutes of the 203<sup>rd</sup> meeting are in order, confirmed the same with suggestions that in case any typographical/grammatical errors are noticed the same may be corrected suitably.

## **3.0 FRESH PROPOSALS:**

### **3.1 Proposed 200 MW Solar Park Project (Phase-1 located in the Mouzas-Dadanpatrabar, Mania & Dakshin Puroshottampur under Ramnagar-II, District East, Midnapur, in West Bengal by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd., Solar Power Generation Department [F.No. 11-29/2018-IA.III] – CRZ Clearance reg.**

This item was placed in the last meeting but since neither the project proponent nor its consultant attended the meeting nor an intimation was received for their inability to attend the meeting, the item was deferred for reconsideration in the next meeting.

2. The Committee was informed that the WBCZMA has preferred to forward the project proposal for further action by the Ministry on the plea that the term of the WBCZMA has expired. The Committee noted that the CRZ Notification, 2011 through an amendment had already empowered the State Environment Departments to function as the CZMA and send its recommendation for project proposals and the project proponent/WBCZMA should have proceeded accordingly.

3. The Committee in view of the above declined to appraise the project and decided that since WBCZMA is now in place as statutorily required the project proponent shall first obtain the recommendation of the WBCZMA and apply for CRZ clearance. The Committee further decided that the CRZ map drawn with project site superimposed shall be in consonance with the CZMPs prepared based on CRZ Notification, 2011 and already approved in respect of West Bengal.

4. The Committee further decided that the EIA report seem to have missed out vital information of avian fauna with specific focus on migratory birds and the project proponent shall submit a supplementary report on the same. The proposal was accordingly deferred for reconsideration at a later stage once the above are in place.

### **3.2 Proposal for “Chennai-Andaman Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable System at Santhome Beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by Department of Telecommunication[ IA/AN/MIS/86913/2018] [F.No. 11-28/2018-IA.III] - CRZ Clearance reg.**

The proposal of Department of Telecom is for “Laying of Chennai- Andaman Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable System at Santhome Beach, Chennai. Department of Telecommunication (DOT) has appointed Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) as technical consultant for the project. The Committee was informed that this proposal is a continuation of the proposal considered in the last meeting, wherein Cable System originating from A&N Islands was considered and appropriate recommendations made.

2. A presentation was made by TCIL on behalf of DOT and provided the following information:

- i) The Submarine Cable System will connect Indian mainland at Chennai with eight Islands of Andaman and Nicobar viz. Port Blair, Little Andaman (Hut Bay), Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar (Campbell Bay), Havelock, Long and Rangat.
- ii) Cable will land at Santhome beach opposite to Faith Fullgospel Church, Chennai and will terminate in the proposed Beach Manhole (BMH) location there which is at 13° 1.475' N; 80° 16.722' E. There are existing 4 BMH close to the proposed BMH site.
- iii) No other major infrastructure will be developed in coastal area other than BMH. Cable from BMH will be connected to the cable landing station which is in existing BSNL building located in R. K. Nagar, Chennai.
- iv) There are various existing and planned cable in Bay of Bengal especially near Chennai. No power cable exists along the route.
- v) Military activity areas like firing practise area (especially areas with buried UXO): Two military exercise area lies along or close to the route viz. Firing practise area off the Chennai landfall and Firing practice area east of Great Andaman Island. Proposed cable route crosses Chennai Firing Practise area whereas Great Andaman island area is avoided. There are no charted prohibited or restricted areas along the CANI cable route.
- vi) Tholkappiar Ecological Park is located at 0.62 km WSW and Adyar Creek at 370 meters, West. Guindy National Park is at about 5.0 km, SW.
- vii) Cable will not cross any coral reef in the coastal waters of Chennai upto 12 nautical miles.
- viii) Cable laying operations are done through slow shipping methods where speed of ship may not exceed 10 knots (18.6 kmph) thus risks of encountering or collision with mammals is minimal.

- ix) As per requirement of CRZ Notification, 2011, Anna University has been contracted for carrying out the CRZ survey and mapping of proposed landing points, BMH site and the cable route and through survey, it is found that these sites fall under CRZ-I, CRZ II and CRZ-IV areas.
- x) The total Cost of the project will be Rs15.02 crores.
- xi) The TNCZMA has recommended the project vide letter No. 21811/EC-3/2018-3, dated 07.12.2018.

2. It was reiterated to the Committee that the proposed submarine cable system in addition to being an initiative of better connectivity of the A&N Islands, who has long been deprived of good telecom services unlike the mainland. It was further reiterated that a segment of the proposed system will be purely dedicated for Defence sector and will be bear immense strategic importance in addition to significance in combating natural disaster.

3. The Committee was informed by the project proponent that as recommended by the Committee in the last meeting NCSCM has authenticated the ICRZ/IIMP maps drawn for the project route superimposed and with following recommendation:

- i) ESAs and ICRZ-IA may be superimposed in the maps prepared;
- ii) Beach Man Hole and Cable Landing Stations sites may be shifted landward in high erosion areas; and
- iii) CRZ maps for BMH/CLS sites should be prepared as per approved ICRZ/IIMPs.

5. The recommendation of the NCSCM was deliberated and the Committee decided that the recommendations made may form a part of the conditions in the clearance issued for the proposed project. *The Committee noted a slight error in its earlier observation and highlighted that as ICRZ/IIMPs have been finalized only in respect of Port Blair, Little Andaman, Havlock and Long Island, the clearance may be issued only in respect of CANI system passing through these Islands and the remaining portion can be subsequently supplemented once the ICRZ/IIMPs of the remaining Islands are finalized and approved.*

6. Based on the deliberations held and submissions made, the Committee decided that in larger public interest the instant proposal can be recommended for IPZ/CRZ clearance and a composite clearance issued subject to the following additional conditions in addition to conditions already recommended in the last meeting held on 28.11.2018:

- i) Cable laying operations shall be done through slow shipping methods where speed of ship shall not exceed 10 knots (18.6 kmph) so that risks of encountering or collision with mammals is avoided.
- ii) Survey and installation operations shall be stopped in the event if per chance any marine mammals such as whales are observed within 1.0 km area.
- iii) Beach shall be restored to its original state after installations.
- iv) NIOT will provide all technical support in terms of beach and coral restoration in both Andaman and Nicobar and Chennai section of the work
- v) Since ICRZ/IIMPs have been finalized only in respect of Port Blair, Little Andaman, Havlock and Long Island, the clearance may be issued for the A&N portion only in respect of CANI system passing through these four Islands and the remaining portion can be subsequently supplemented once the ICRZ/IIMPs of the remaining Islands are finalized and approved. The project proponent shall approach the Ministry for such an inclusion in the clearance.

- vi) Clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife shall be obtained as may be applicable.

## **RECONSIDERATION/AMENDMENTS**

### **3.3 Amendment of CRZ Clearance accorded for Laying of Onshore Treated Waste Water Disposal pipeline upto Landfall Point near Nakti Creek, in Gulf of Kutch, in Gujarat from its 25 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant by M/s Welspun India Ltd. [F. No. 11-22/2015-IA.III]- reg.**

This item was chaired by Shri Anil Kumar Singh and Dr Apte rescinded from Chairing due to the fact that his organisation provides few consultation services to the group. M/s Welspun India Ltd. was accorded CRZ Clearance on 09.10.2015 for Laying of Onshore Treated Waste Water Disposal pipeline upto Landfall Point near Nakti Creek, in Gulf of Kutch, in Gujarat, from its 25 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant. M/s Welspun had requested for few amendments in CRZ clearance as detailed in the minutes of the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 17.09.2018, wherein, it was decided that a site visit will be under taken and based on the report the request will be reconsidered.

2. The site visit by Sub-Committee / team comprising of: (i) Dr.V.K Jain; (ii) Shri M. Hota; (iii) Shri Anil Kumar Singh; and (iii) representative of the GCZMA/Forest Department, along with a representative of the Ministry, was undertaken on 29.10.2018 and the report was presented to the Committee.

3. The Committee perused the findings of the Sub-Committee and agreed to its recommendations which is reproduced below:

- i) As the laying of the pipeline also involves offshore activity, requested amendment may be considered i.e., 'onshore may be read as onshore and offshore'.
- ii) Detailed examination of the documents submitted by WIL (GCZMA clearance, NIO study and recommendations of IIT- Chennai) during the processing of EC reveals that only Trenching and Burial method was proposed throughout the project proposal. HDD was never considered in all their studies and recommendations. In view of the above and taking into consideration the technical aspects of Horizontal Directional Drilling (i.e., not feasible for an offshore activity with land on one side and sea on other side) following amendment may be considered: "In all the major water bodies, the horizontal directional drilling method will be used." may be read as "No major water bodies were encountered during the laying of disposal pipeline except the offshore portion, where Trenching and Burial methods will be adopted"

4. The Committee also recommended that in case guard pond is not in place, the project proponent shall install guard pond before final discharge to the seas. The Committee further decided that the Ministry may carry out necessary amendments after satisfying itself on the legal perspective in so far a NGT orders as deliberated in the last meeting is concerned.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **4.0 Site visit to M/s Saurashtra Chemicals Ltd. (Nirma Division)**

The Committee was informed that a long pending site visit to M/s Saurashtra Chemicals Ltd. (Nirma Division) could not be materialise so far. The Committee decided that the site visit shall be completed not later than 1<sup>st</sup> week of January, 2019 by a team comprising of Shri N.K. Verma, Member EAC and Shri N.K. Gupta, Member (EAC).

The being no item left, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*