

Minutes of 3rd State Expert Appraisal Committee, Arunachal Pradesh Meeting on 21st March 2022 through VC.

1. The 3rd State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) Meeting of Arunachal Pradesh was held on 21st March 2022 on virtual mode under the Chairmanship of Shri. S. Raghavan, Chairman, State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Arunachal Pradesh. List of participants is enclosed. (Annexure-A)
2. At the outset, Shri. Dy. Director (Env) & Member Secretary, SEAC, welcomed all the committee members to the virtual meeting and briefed the meeting about the agenda points. He stressed that physical meeting could not be organized due to fund constraints as the budgetary support from the State government has not materialized. He assured that financial support has been discussed with the PCCF and it may materialize in the financial year 2022-23.
3. The Chairman set the tone of meeting and requested all concerned to reflect on the reply given by the Vedanta Group on our request for Additional Documents and information. He added that the project proponent has now clarified that the land on which the project/exploratory wells would come up is on Government Forest land and that no Community land or Private land is involved. Since there is an elaborate process of Forest and Wildlife clearance through MoEF &CC which the proposed project would have to go through, the SEAC in this case should concentrate on the environmental aspects regarding this project and should strengthen the proposed environmental plan before considering recommending Environmental Clearance for the project.
4. Dr. Srinivasan also added forestry aspects can be taken up later and our focus should be on the scope of the project. He stressed that the Vedanta group seems to be applying for a 90-day exploratory drilling which doesn't seem to constitute any harsh environmental impact. He emphasized that clearance may be considered for 90 days only specifically for exploratory drilling operations only. Any environmental clearance, if given, should be only for exploration purposes only. Further development plans including commercial wells should involve another proposal and a separate EIA for such purpose.
5. Prof. B. Mohan Kumar also stressed that considering the magnitude of the project, he agreed with Srinivasan that the committee should be categorical in stating that if they further activity including commercial, experimental or any other further development may need another round of EIA and approvals.
6. Dr. Rani Jha also suggested to have a real time monitoring with pictures apart from the analysis part.
7. During the discussion, Srinivasan stressed furthermore that, before and after assessment should be made, having the fact that even the small-scale activities also have impacts on ecosystems, society and environment so in order to obtain the actual picture it is necessary to have a ground report. He extended his willingness to draft a report and work with Prof. B. Mohan Kumar, Member SEAC.
8. Member Secretary, SEAC, expressed that there is possibilities that during the exploratory operations that crude oil if found in the drilling could get into nearby agriculture fields and forest could be impacted adversely and the nearby villages would be seriously affected for a long period



of time. So, He suggested, SEAC should intimate the project proponent for intended field visit for factual assessment and evaluation.

9. The Chairman and other committee members were also of the view that the State Government should provide support for travel and logistics arrangements during the site visit. It was felt that a Sub-Committee of SEAC could visit the site for on the spot assessment and location of monitoring stations especially near villages near the drilling site. He further added that conflict of interest should not arise between the committee and the project proponent and the committee should abstain from seeking assistance in any form from the project proponent. Shri. Dohu assured that field visit shall be organized even if there are constraints of fund for the time being. The committee also collectively agreed that site visit is very important to get the actual picture. An official visit of the Sub-Committee to the project site in the presence of the project proponent is recommended by the Committee.

10. The Member Secretary was requested to constitute a Sub Committee consisting of Members residing in Arunachal Pradesh or their representatives from their Institutions to make on the spot visit. The Chairman was also requested to write to Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh to make funds available for functioning of the SEAC.

The meeting adjourned with the vote of thanks to the Chair and all members of SEAC.

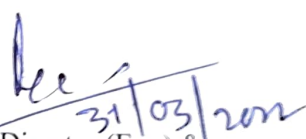
Sd/-
Chairman
State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)
Arunachal Pradesh

No.For (Env)-153/20 / 583

Dated: 31st March '2022

Copy to: -

1. The Chairman, SEAC, Arunachal Pradesh.
2. All Members concerned.
3. Office copy.


Dy. Director (Env) &
Member Secretary
State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)
Arunachal Pradesh

List of participants in the 3rd State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) Meeting held on 21st March 2022 as under:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Dept/Institute
1.	Shri. S. Raghavan	Chairman	SEAC
2.	Shri. G. Srinivasan	Member	SEAC
3.	Dr. Rani Jha	Member	SEAC
4.	Prof. B. Mohan Kumar	Member	SEAC
4.	Shri. D. Dohu Robin	Member Secretary & Director Environment	SEAC, DoEF, GoAP