

MINUTES OF 48th MEETING OF STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE, CHANDIGARH (UT) HELD ON 25th AUGUST'2022 AT 11:00 AM, IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, 2ND FLOOR, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, SECTOR 19 B, CHANDIGARH FOR APPRAISAL OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

1. "Proposed General Housing Scheme at Plot No. 1 & 2 at I.T. Habitat at RGCTP by Chandigarh Housing Board".
2. "Bus Depot-cum-Workshop" at Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh, located at Phase III, Industrial Area, Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh.

A meeting of State Expert Appraisal Committee, Union Territory, Chandigarh was held on 25th August'2022 at 11.00 AM, in the Conference Hall, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, Sector 19 B, Chandigarh under the chairmanship of Prof. Siby John, Department of Civil Engineering, Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh.

Following members of SEAC, Chandigarh (UT) were present in the meeting:

1. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Professor
Civil Engineering Department, NITTTR Campus,
Sector-26, Chandigarh. Member
2. Prof. Naval Kishore, Ex Professor
Department of Geology,
Panjab University
Chandigarh-160014. Member
3. Dr. Suman Mor,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Environment Studies, Panjab University,
Chandigarh. Member
4. Dr. Neeraj Khatri,
Principal Scientist & Head, IMTECH, Sector-39 A,
Chandigarh. Member
5. Sh. Vivek Pandey,
Scientist E, Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC),
Chandigarh. Member
6. Sh. Brij Bhushan, Scientist 'SD',
Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration. Secretary

Following members were on leave of absence:

1. Prof. Amrik Singh Ahluwalia,
Ex Professor, Department of Botany, Panjab University,
Chandigarh-160014 Member
2. Prof. Sangeeta Bagga Mehta,
Principal, Chandigarh College of Architecture, PEC Campus, Sector-12,
Chandigarh. Member
3. Prof. Haripada Bhunia, Professor, Member

Department of Chemical Engineering, Thapar University,
C-101, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology,
Patiala -147004.

At the outset, the Chairman, SEAC, Chandigarh welcomed all the members of the committee and apprised the committee members about brief of the projects mentioned at Sr. No.1 and 2 above, which were to be considered by State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), U.T. Chandigarh.

Project 1: "Proposed General Housing Scheme at Plot No. 1 & 2 at I.T. Habitat at RGCTP by Chandigarh Housing Board".

The item was considered for the EC on the basis of the application submitted by the Project Proponent (PP) and the Final EIA Report submitted in compliance to the Terms of Reference issued by SEIAA, Chandigarh, vide Letter No. ED-2022/EC/751 dated 05.05.2022.

Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Member was requested, in the interest of fairness, to recuse himself from the item, as he was found had acted as a consultant at the project proposal level.

The Chairman, SEAC, Chandigarh, then invited the Project Proponent for making the presentation. The team of Chandigarh Housing Board (PP) headed by Sh. Ajay Grover, SE II along with Mr. Sandeep Garg and Ms. Simran, Project Consultant, Eco-Laboratories and Consultant Private Ltd. made the presentation of the project.

During the presentation, the committee members raised queries on the different aspects of the project. Based on the presentation and responses to the queries raised by the members, following observations (which were made known to the Project Proponent during the presentation itself) were made by the committee:

1. The committee expressed its concern and anguish on the fact that the information presented during the meeting were at variance from the information/data originally submitted in the project proposal against which the ToR was issued.
2. In the EC application submitted by the PP, under item at Sr. No. 29, requisite permission from Competent Authority for the realignment of the natural water course ('Barsati Nallah') was stated to have been obtained. However, the document uploaded/submitted (letter No.53 Dated 18 August 2020) purported to be the permission was only an in-house committee notified by the Project Proponent. No formal permission from the competent authority, whatsoever, was found submitted. It was observed that as per the existing regulations and relevant NGT orders formal permission from the Competent Authority is a pre-requisite for considering the proposal of diversion of natural water course in the project site.

It was also viewed with concern that the PP had been given the opportunity to prove their claim of the recent emergence of the 'Barsati Nallah'; through a proper scientific study; but the PP has opted not to do so. Therefore, the PP could not establish their point of

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'Insignificant impact of the diversion of the natural water course'. Also, no hydrological study to assess the environmental impact of the proposed diversion of the natural water course is found.

3. Regarding the construction of the artificial channel to divert the natural water course, it was proposed vide reply of Specific conditions /TOR by SEAC at Sr. No. 1 that part of the open RCC drain from Plot No. 1 to Sukhna Choe and boundary of Plot No. 6 & 7 to end of Plot No. 8 will be constructed and maintained by the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), Govt of Haryana. However, no clear cut commitment from Department concerned of Haryana Govt. was presented on record. A clear cut commitment from the Department concerned is required for construction and maintenance of storm water drain from Haryana Govt. for the part of diversion channel falling under the jurisdiction of Haryana state.
4. In all of the SEAC and SEIAA meetings held at the TOR stage, the project proponent (PP) had consistently asserted that there would be no ground water abstraction for the proposed project. Despite that, the application submitted for Environmental Clearance stated the source of water as Tube-Well (groundwater). As per standing regulations (letter No. F.No. 22-34/2018-IA.III dated 04.01.2019 of MOEF&CC, Notification dated 09.12.2016 issued by MOEF&CC), the approval from the competent authority along with the quantity of groundwater abstracted is required for the proposed water source.
5. As mentioned in the report, the treated sewage will be discharged into the Municipal Corporation sewer line. Even after repeated instructions by the SEAC, the PP had not submitted permission from the MCC in this regard indicating the capacity of the STPs to which the proposed discharge is admitted. The committee also viewed that the proposed project is expected to have 02 STPs of 300 KLD capacity each, discharging the treated wastewater into the sewer line. Report in this context is required to be certified by an independent expert from a government agency, specifically mentioning the effect on performance of receiving common STP, if any.
6. The results of the baseline data on groundwater quality, as presented, seemed unreliable and unsatisfactory. This needs to be explained scientifically.
7. Similarly, results for air quality presented in the EIA report indicated marginal increment in the pollutant concentration using AERMOD model. However, the results of the baseline data, as presented, indicated that the observed values exceeded the permissible limit; indicating that the values for PM10 and PM2.5 will be more than the permissible limits during the construction and operation phases. Therefore, a detailed plan on air pollution control/mitigation measures is required to be submitted for both construction and operation stage.

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8. Relocating of 66 kVA substation is proposed in the report of M/s Aton Engineers, Mohali, Punjab for which no information has been submitted earlier. The PP verbally committed that it was written mistakenly and that no such activity was being proposed. The report must be amended to reflect this and then resubmitted.
9. Wildlife Clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife to be submitted.
10. The Central Ground Water Board's letter No. (156) CHD/NWR/S&I/2022-298 Dated 02.06.2022 regarding recommendation for five rainwater recharge pits with two injection wells in each structure needed a technically sound design. It was once again highlighted that the proposed groundwater recharge facilities should be technically designed and sound taking into account the level of the water table in that area, as was previously pointed out by the SEAC. The water from roof top rain water harvesting is proposed to be used for recharge of aquifers; whereas the proposed project site is adjacent to Sukhna Choe. Therefore, the proposal needs to be relooked for aquifer recharge considering the level of water table in that area.

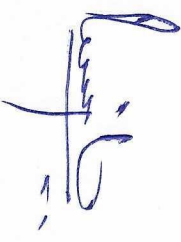
Project 2: "Bus Depot-cum-Workshop" at Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh, located at Phase III, Industrial Area, Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh.

The project mentioned at Sr. No. 2 namely "Bus Depot-cum-Workshop" at Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh, located at Phase III, Industrial Area, Raipur Kalan, Chandigarh" was placed before the committee for recommendation of Environment Clearance. Sh. Amit Gupta, General Manager, Transport Department, U.T. Chandigarh, along with Mr. Sandeep Garg and Ms. Simran, Project Consultant, Eco-Laboratories and Consultant Private Ltd. were present before the committee on behalf of Transport Department, Chandigarh, for detailed presentation of the project.

Based on the presentation and responses to the queries raised by the members, following observations (which were made known to the Project Proponent during the presentation itself) have been made by the committee. The PP consented to submit their reply regarding the deficiencies/observations at the earliest. After detailed deliberations, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend the proposal to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), U.T. Chandigarh for further consideration and grant of Environmental Clearance to the proposed project with the following specific conditions.

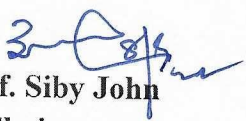
1. The subject mentioned on the permission letter obtained from Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh vide Memo No. 2438, Dated 23.06.2022 regarding the water supply and sewer connection for disposal of waste water must be rectified and submitted again. The permission must also specify the quantity of water committed for the proposed project during the operational phase.

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2. The 20% water loss during the operation of the Effluent Treatment Plant, as shown in the water balance diagram, need to be reassessed and a sound scientific rationale be presented. Accordingly, the water balance diagram for the ETP component may be revised.
 3. SEAC suggested that the proposed project should include use of more tertiary treated water from Raipur Kalan STP for the various activities of the workshop like cleaning/washing buses, flushing and gardening etc. The fresh water use shall be limited only to drinking or direct human consumption, consequently, the 18 KLD fresh water requirement projected may be reviewed. Taking this into consideration the water balance diagram may be revised and approval from Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh for the revised amount of water demand, must be obtained.
 4. In order to improve the water efficiency of the project, the PP should also consider the possibility of rain water harvesting and use rather than the current proposal of rain water for aquifer recharging.
 5. In compliance with the MoEF New Delhi circular J-11013/41/2006-1A, II (I) Part, dated 19 May 2011, the project needs to have a well laid down Environment Policy, duly approved by the Board of Directors. The policy should consist of standard operating norms/procedures to bring into focus any infringement/ deviation / violation etc and the hierarchical system or administrative order to deal with the environmental issues, for ensuring compliance with EC conditions as well as Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and subsequent amendments issued there under.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.


Sh. Brij Bhushan
Secretary


Prof. Siby John
Chairman