

F.No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E 177258]  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Impact Assessment Division

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing, Jor Bagh Road  
Ali Ganj, New Delhi-3

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2023

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Procedure for consideration of Category 'B' proposals at Central level due to the non-functionality or delay in constitution of SEIAA/SEAC - reg.**

The State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs)/State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) have been constituted in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for decentralisation of the Environment Clearance (EC) process and grant of Environment Clearances at the State level. All projects or activities under Category 'B' in the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 are appraised by the respective SEACs/SEIAAs of the States/UTs.

2. As per the extant provisions of EIA, 2006, in the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA/SEAC, a Category 'B' project shall be considered at the Central Level as a Category 'B' project. However, instances have been brought to the notice of this Ministry that in the event of non-functionality or delay in constitution of SEIAA/SEAC, many proposals submitted to SEIAA are held up at different stages of EC process at the State level. The matter has been examined in the Ministry and it is observed that there could be different situations arising out of non-functionality or delay in constitution of SEIAA/SEAC as enumerated below:

- i. Proposals submitted to SEIAA and not accepted by SEIAA.
- ii. Proposals received by SEAC/SEIAA and have been processed or are under processing.
- iii. Proposals considered and/or deferred by SEAC for various reasons.
- iv. Proposals recommended by SEAC but not forwarded to/not approved by SEIAA.
- v. Proposals (which do not require examination of SEAC) accepted by SEIAA but not processed and/or deferred for various reasons.
- vi. Proposals approved by SEIAA but minutes/letter not uploaded on PARIVESH.

3. In this regard, the Ministry deems it necessary to clarify the process for handling such proposals. For the scenarios mentioned at sub para (i) to (v) of para 2 above, the following procedures shall be followed:

- i. Consequent upon the non-functioning/discontinuation of SEIAA/SEACs, the Member Secretary of SEIAA/State Government shall submit the details of the pending proposals to the PARIVESH of MoEF&CC with a request to transfer such proposals to the Central level.
- ii. PARIVESH shall examine the aforesaid request and seek the approval of the Competent Authority for the transfer of proposals from SEIAA/SEAC to the Central level.
- iii. Thereafter, the proposals from the SEIAA/SEAC shall be transferred through PARIVESH to the concerned Member Secretary of the EAC at Central level.
- iv. The concerned Member Secretary of the EAC at Central level shall carry out the due diligence to ascertain the level of examination/appraisal needed to be carried out by the Central level EAC based on the stage at which the proposal was pending for appraisal at the concerned SEIAA/SEAC.

4. For the scenario mentioned at sub para (vi) of para 2 above, based on the request from the Member Secretary of SEIAA/State Government, a window period of 15 days shall be provided to the Member Secretary SEIAA, extendable by a further period of 15 days, to only upload the minutes/letters for the proposals which were duly approved by SEIAA before it became non-functional.

5. Further, in case of only SEIAA becoming non-functional / discontinued due to various reasons, the proposals pending with SEAC for (re)consideration up to the day of such discontinuation shall be (re)considered by the respective SEAC and forwarded to the Ministry along with recommendation as per the procedure prescribed at Para 3 above.

6. This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

  
(Sundar Ramanathan)  
Scientist E

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs

4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
5. All the Officers of IA Division

**Copy for information to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. Sr.PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. Sr.PPS to AS(TK) / AS (NPG)
5. Sr.PPS to JS (SKB)
6. Website, MoEF&CC
7. Guard file.