

F. No. 19-84/2019-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

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Dated: 23rd May, 2019

Office Memorandum

Sub: Recommendations of Expert Committee on issue related to ground water in pursuant to the direction passed by Hon'ble NGT in application no. OA No. 176/2015 - policy/regulations for OCS areas where industry / mining / infrastructure / power plants etc seeking Environmental Clearance and proposing to use of groundwater - Regarding.

This has reference to the decisions of the Expert Committee during its meeting held on 7th May, 2019 on issue related to ground water in pursuant to the direction passed by Hon'ble NGT in application no. OA No. 176/2015, the following guidelines for industry / mining / infrastructure / power plants etc., seeking Environmental Clearance and proposing to use of groundwater has been proposed.

It is proposed to prescribe the following ToRs pertaining to development projects seeking environmental clearance

1. The project proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
2. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
3. The project proponents shall explore the possibility of utilization of treated sewage water / treated effluent from the industries located within 10 Kms, for industrial purpose, in lieu of the ground water and the report on the same shall be submitted along with the EIA/EMP.
4. The project proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be delineated in the EIA/EMP
5. The project proponent shall prepare the scheme for mandatory recycle/re-use of water as specified by the Central Ground Water Authority for different category areas seeking NoC for ground water withdrawal and the shall submit as part of EIA/EMP report.
6. The project proponent shall make an application for NoC to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/ Concerned Local authority, as the case may be, if applicable, the MoEFCC/SEAC may ensure that such application is made


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The following specific condition shall be prescribed for the projects intended to use the ground water at the time of issue of the Environmental Clearance:

“NoC from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/ Concerned Local authority, as the case may be, shall be obtained before drawing the ground water for the project activities, State Pollution Control Board / Pollution Control Committees shall not issue the Consent to Operate (CTO) under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act till the project proponent shall obtain such permission.”

Based on the studies conducted as per the proposed ToRs, the concerned Expert Appraisal committee / State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, as the case may be, will prescribe the appropriate specific conditions for regulation of the drawal of ground water.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director /IA (Policy) Division

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