

No. 19-31/2015-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
IA-III Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh, New Delhi – 110 003

Dated, 27th February, 2015

CIRCULAR

Sub: CRZ Clearance – rationalisation of variation in output and activities integral to the approved projects – consideration – reg.

Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance to the projects are being regulated under the specified provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011 which *inter alia* stipulate the appraisal process and the approval of the projects with laid down safeguards for environmental management. This Notification explicitly require prior approval for new projects and/ or expansion and modernisation of existing projects with addition of capacity beyond prescribed limits and/ or any change in product mix in an existing manufacturing unit. The basic underlying principle necessitating appraisal of the project is to assess the potential environmental damage on account of project activities. An alteration and/ or modification in project configuration, however, without incremental pollution load has not been excluded from the requirement of re-appraisal of projects while considering expansion and modification of the projects activities with or without changing technology.

2. The subject matter of modifications in project configuration leading to setting up of ancillary activities integral to the projects, specified or not specified at the time of appraisal and approval is receiving attention in the Ministry. Simultaneously, beginning of operation of a project without any prior approval has also come to the knowledge of the Ministry. In this perspective it is imperative to differentiate the typologies of the project activities, some of which are to be considered and proceeded with as a violation of the existing regulations. In consideration of the above the following order is issued with immediate effect:

- (i) In line with the extant provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011, any project activity as specified therein must have a prior environmental clearance and/ or CRZ clearance. A deviation from this stipulation where a scheduled project activity is undertaken without mandatory prior approval will be considered as a case of violation and proceeded with action as laid down in Section 15 of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (ii) In the projects in CRZ areas,, permissible activities which are integral and ancillary to the operation of approved projects including that of construction of temporary bridges over creeks or backwaters, temporary make-shift infrastructure/ constructions required for completing the main permitted activity, transportation of men and material by any mode, etc. will not be deviation from the conditions of approval because the project proponents often undertake such works either on the direction of local authorities or necessitated during

construction which are very minor in nature serving the public at large without damaging environment.

3. The above provisions permitting variation in the project configuration shall also be factored in for all the approvals in future under CRZ Notification, 2011.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. Manoranjan Hota)
Director

To
All concerned