

F.No.10-12/2014-IA-III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi -3  
Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016

To,

The Secretary,  
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department,  
M G Marg,  
**Gangtok** -737201 (Sikkim)

E-mail: secy\_tourism@yahoo.com; phone: 03592-203425;

**Sub: Development of Tsomgo passenger ropeway at Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim (Sikkim) by Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim - Environmental Clearance - reg.**

**Ref:** Online proposal No.IA/SK/MIS/22764/2014 dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No.IA/SK/MIS/22764/2014 dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 along with project documents including Form I, Terms of References, Pre-feasibility Report, EIA/EMP Report and public hearing report regarding above mentioned project.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the application. It is noted that the proposal is for development of Tsomgo passenger ropeway at Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim, Sikkim by M/s Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Govt. of Sikkim. The project is a 625 m long aerial ropeway, covering an area of 8072 sqm (including Lower Terminal Station, Upper Terminal Station & ropeway corridor). The Lower Terminal Point (LTP) has been developed in south to the lake on right side of the existing Alpine Café and the Upper Terminal Point (UTP) has been developed on the hill top. The ropeway system proposed to be used in the proposed project is Monocable continuously circulating Gandola System.

3. Kyongnosla Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 200 m from LTP. Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 8.2 km. Kabi Forest Block is located within 10 km distance. For the development of Ropeway, 0.8327 ha of the forest land has been acquired for the construction of terminal stations, line towers & the ropeway corridor has been carried out on an area of 8072 sqm (0.80 ha). North Eastern Regional Office of MoEFCC vide letter No.3, SK B 027/2008-SHI/84-85 dated 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 has granted Stage-I forest clearance for diversion of 0.8273 ha of forest land. Cost of the project is Rs. 9.0 Crore. Details of the proposed Infrastructure are as given below:

**(a) At Hilltop (UTP)**

1. Ropeway Tower & Terminal Station (boarding & de-boarding, control room, store room, first aid counter, waiting room, toilets)



**(b) At Tsomgo Lake (LTP)**

1. Ropeway Tower & Terminal Station (boarding & de- boarding, MCC control room, Administration block, toilets)
2. Waiting room
3. Public convenience facilities
4. Basic infrastructural facilities (sewage system, drinking water, medical facilities, electricity, telecommunication, etc.)

4. The Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF, Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim vide their letter No.58/GoS/(Env)/Pr.Secy-PCCF dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 has confirmed that the proposed project does not fall within any Eco-sensitive Zones of any protected area as notified by MoEF&CC. Ministry vide S.O.2168 (E) dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, has notified Eco-sensitive Zone of Kyongnosla Wildlife Sanctuary. MoEF&CC vide S.O.2173 (E) dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 has notified the Eco-sensitive Zone of Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary.

5. Water requirement during operation phase will be 101 m<sup>3</sup>/day and source of water supply will be Tsomgo lake overflow. Wastewater generation will be 42 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Wastewater will be treated in the sewage treatment plant (STP). STP will be designed for the climatic conditions of the project site. Treated effluent will be reused for flushing at project site and nearby building. No treated and untreated sewage/effluent will be discharged in the lake. The solid waste generation will be 967 kg per day. Solid waste will be segregated and disposed as per the norms of the municipal solid waste management and handling rules, 2006. Used oil will be sent to the authorized recycler/re-processor.

6. Public consultation/public hearing was held on 24.03.2016.

7. All the projects related to Aerial Ropeway located at an altitude above 1000 m are listed at 7(g) of schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 covered under category 'A' and appraised at central level.

8. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Infrastructure) in its meetings held during 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014- 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014 and 23-24 May, 2016 respectively. Project Proponent and the EIA Consultant namely M/s Perfect Enviro Solutions, have presented EIA/EMP report as per the TOR. EAC has found the EIA/EMP Report and additional information to be adequate and in consonance with the presented TORs. The Committee recommended the proposal for environmental clearance.

9. Based on the information submitted by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords environmental clearance to above project under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 subject to the compliance of the specific and general conditions as below:

**A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:**

- (i) 'Consent to Establish' shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- (ii) The project should conform to the norms prescribed by the Director General Mine safety. Necessary clearances in this regard shall be obtained.

- (iii) Energy conservation measures as suggested in the "Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment" (GRIHA), shall be followed while constructing associated buildings.
- (iv) The gaseous emissions from DG set shall be dispersed through adequate stack height as per CPCB standards. Acoustic enclosure shall be provided to the DG sets to mitigate the noise pollution. Diesel generating sets shall be installed, in the downwind directions.
- (v) Provide for standby solar Power generation and utilisation. Adequate infrastructure, including power, shall be provided for emergency situations and disaster management.
- (vi) Total fresh water requirement from Tsomgo lake over flow will be 45.675 m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- (vii) Wastewater shall be treated in the STP and shall be designed for the climatic conditions of the project site. Treated effluent shall be reused for flushing. In any case, treated and untreated sewage shall not be discharged into lake.
- (viii) Continuous online (24x7) monitoring to be installed for flow measurement and measurement of pollutants within the treatment unit. Data to be uploaded on company's website and provided to the respective Regional Office of MoEF&CC and SPCB.
- (ix) Adequate parking shall be constructed. Storm water from the project area shall be passed through setting chamber.
- (x) Adequate first aid facility shall be provided during construction and operation phase of the project.
- (xi) Regular safety inspection shall be carried out of the ropeway project and a copy of safety inspection report should be submitted to the Regional Office at Shillong.
- (xii) Solid waste shall be managed and disposed as per Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2016. Disallow the use of plastics at the stations.
- (xiii) Publicly display the Disaster Management Plan and the Do's and Dont's at the LTP/UTP.
- (xiv) All the issues raised during the public hearing/consultation meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 should be satisfactorily implemented. Whatever has been agreed and committed in the Public hearing should form part of the project implementation plan.

**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

- (i) The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), State Government and any other statutory authority.
- (ii) No further expansion or modification in the project shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In case of deviations or alterations in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be

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made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.

- (iii) The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels shall conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (daytime) and 70 dBA (nighttime).
- (iv) A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities must be set up to carry out the environmental management and monitoring functions.
- (v) Adequate funds shall be earmarked towards capital cost and recurring cost/annum for environment pollution control measures and shall be used to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as well as the State Government alongwith the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purposes.
- (vi) The Regional Office of this Ministry/Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board will monitor the stipulated conditions. A six monthly compliance report and the monitored data along with statistical interpretation shall be submitted to them regularly.
- (vii) A copy of clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad/Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the web site of the company by the proponent.
- (viii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The Regional Office of this Ministry/CPCB/SPCB shall monitor the stipulated conditions.
- (ix) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company alongwith the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC by e-mail.
- (x) The project proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the SPCB and may also be seen at website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at <http://envfor.nic.in>. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular

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language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office.


(xi) Project authorities shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work.

10. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.

11. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.


12. Any appeal against this Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

13. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Water Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

  
2/9/2016  
**(S.K. Srivastava)**  
**Scientist E**

Copy to:-

- 1) The PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, Forest Secretariat Annexure II, Ground Floor, Room No. 1101, Deorali - 737102, Sikkim
- 2) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, North-Eastern Zone, Upland Road, Laitumhran Shillong-793003
- 3) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 32
- 4) The Chairman, Sikkim Pollution Control Board Forest, Environment Wildlife Management Department Government of Sikkim Forest Secretariat Annex I, Ground Floor,, Deorali, Gangtok - 737102, Sikkim
- 5) The District Collector, District South Sikkim, Sikkim
- 6) Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi
- 7) Guard File/Monitoring File/Record File

  
2/9/2016  
**(S.K. Srivastava)**  
**Scientist E**

