

## **MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THERMAL POWER PROJECTS HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the re-constituted EAC (Thermal Power) organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 through video conference under the Chairmanship of Shri Gururaj P. Kundargi. The list of Members participated in the meeting is at **Annexure**.

### **Agenda Item No.15.1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> EAC MEETING**

The Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> EAC (Thermal Power) meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 were confirmed in the meeting.

### **Agenda No. 15.2**

**Expansion Project of 4x600 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant located at Village Tamnar, Taluk Gharghoda, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh by M/s Jindal Power Ltd. – Amendment of Environmental Clearance (EC) – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/CG/THE/228312/2021; F. No. J-13012/117/2008-IA. II (T)]**

**15.2.1** The proposal is for amendment in Environment Clearance of Expansion Project of 4x600 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant located at Village Tamnar, Taluk Gharghoda, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh by M/s Jindal Power Ltd.

**15.2.2** The details of the project submitted by project proponent and ascertained from the document submitted are mentioned below:

- (i) Environment Clearance for setting up of 2x250 MW Phase 1 was accorded by MoEF on 24.09.1997 and 2x250MW Phase II has been accorded 8.6.2006. Thermal Power Plant at Village Tamnar, Dist. Raigarh, Chhattisgarh respectively.
- (ii) Subsequently, Environment Clearance for 2x600 MW (Units 1 & 2) was accorded on 18.03.2011 based on domestic coal linkage and 2x600 MW (Units 3 & 4) based on imported coal (till domestic coal linkage is available) was accorded on 04.11.2011.
- (iii) Following table shows the chronology of EC issued date to the project and its commissioning date:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>EC issued Date</b>	<b>Commission of project Date</b>
1.	2x250 MW (Phase I)	24.09.1997	08.12.2007 & 15.06.2007
2.	2x250 MW (Phase II)	08.06.2006	16.04.2008 & 05.09.2008

3.	2x600 MW (Units 1&2)	18.03.2011	27.08.2014 & 09.11.2014
4.	2x600 MW (Units 3&4)	04.11.2011	15.01.2015 & 12.12.2016

(iv) The following amendments and permissions have been issued w.r.t. 4x600 MW Thermal Power Plant:

- The amendment to specific condition no (xxvi) of EC was accorded on 10.01.2014 w.r.t temporary location of coal handling plant and temporary transportation of domestic coal by road for a period of three years. Permission was also accorded for utilisation of existing water reservoir, water allocation and ash dyke of the existing 1,000 MW TPP for all the four expansion units for an interim period not exceeding three years.
- The amendment to specific condition no (xxvi) of EC was accorded on 27.03.2015 for change in location of coal crusher & alignment of CCPC and temporary transportation of imported coal also by road for a period of two years.
- The temporary permissions were accorded vide letters dated 10.01.2014 and 27.03.2015 have been extended till 30.04.2017 vide Ministry's letter dated 22.12.2016. It has also been decided that the subject matter shall be placed before the EAC, upon its re-constitution, for appraisal.
- The Ministry vide letter dated 26.4.2017 issued an amendment in EC for using existing ash dyke for two more years and transportation of coal by road for thirty months (till 25.10.2019), use of existing water reservoir.
- The amendment in EC was accorded vide letter dated 28.08.2020 by MoEF&CC permitting extension to use of existing ash dyke of 4x250 MW for disposal of unutilized ash of 4x600 MW till October, 2021.

(v) The amendment in Environmental Clearance for 4x250 MW Thermal Power Plant has been issued for raising the height of the ash dyke (198 ha) from 10 m to 14 m vide Ministry's letter No. J-13012/08/2006-IA dated 3.1.2019. Subsequently, amendment in Environmental Clearance for 4x250 MW Thermal Power plant has been issued vide Ministry's letter No. J-13011/08/2006-IA dated 13.08.2021 for raising the height of the ash dyke shall be limited to 18m.

(vi) As per the EC dated 18.03.2011, a separate ash dyke was to be constructed for 4x 600 MW. However, till date the ash dyke for 4x 600 MW could not be constructed as the land for the proposed ash dyke area became part of coal block. Subsequently, MoEF&CC vide letter dated 26.04.2017 also granted permission to construct the ash dyke for 4x 600 MW at an alternate location outside the coal block area.

(vii) An application for amendment in Consent to Establish (CTE) w.r.t. change in location of proposed ash dyke was applied to Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CECB) on

07.08.2017. However, CECB vide letter dated 19.03.2021 has intimated to the company that the amendment in CTE for construction of ash dyke at new location may not be granted citing a judgment of NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

- (viii) Further, M/s Jindal Power Ltd has filed an application before NGT, Bhopal against the CECB letter dated 19.03.2021 and prayed the NGT to quash the CECB letter & to direct the CECB to grant CTE for construction of ash dyke.
- (ix) As the bottom ash from the power plant has to be evacuated in slurry form and disposed to ash pond before same can be dried and utilized. Accordingly, PP has been disposing the unutilized ash from 4x600 MW in the existing ash dyke of 4x 250 MW.
- (x) **Ash utilization:**
- a) **Mine backfilling:** Supply of ash to South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) for use in backfilling of Gare Pelma IV/2 & IV/3 coal mine.
  - b) **Supply to Cement Plant:** Signed agreements with M/s UltraTech Cement, M/s Nuvoco Cement and M/s Shree Cement for supply of ash to its cement plants. M/s Jindal Power Ltd is also supplying fly ash to cement plant of M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. at Raigarh.
  - c) **Supply to Ash tech for supply to cement plants and for export:** M/s Jindal Power Ltd. has awarded contract to Ash tech India Pvt. Ltd. for transportation of ash through railway in small/ jumbo bags for export/supply to cement plants.
  - d) **Supply for road/ embankment construction:** Ash supplied to PWD for construction of embankment/ road.
  - e) **Abandoned mine backfilling:** M/s Jindal Power Ltd. has been granted permission to use ash for back filling of abandoned Gudeli stone quarry.
- (xi) **Present proposal:** Proposal no. IA/CG/THE/228312/2021 received to the ministry vide dated 8.09.2021 for extension of permission for use of existing ash dyke of 4x250 MW for disposal of unutilized ash of 4x600 MW till December, 2022.
- (xii) **Reasons for seeking extension of permission:**
- The ash from the 4x 250 MW as well as from 4x 600 MW units is being utilized in coal mine backfilling along with Overburden, ash dyke raising, cement, low lying area filling, road widening, road construction, fly ash brick making etc.
  - However, there is large variation in availability of over burden in the coal mines and other avenues for ash utilization, leading to large variations in ash utilization varies.
  - Further, the bottom ash from the power plant has to be evacuated in slurry form and disposed to ash pond before same can be dried and utilized.
  - In view of the above and due to the non-availability of ash dyke for 4x 600 MW, M/s Jindal Power Limited is compelled to continue disposal of bottom ash and un-utilized fly ash from

4x600 MW in the existing ash dyke of 4x 250 MW.

**15.2.3** The EAC during deliberations noted the following:

- i. The proposal is for amendment in Environment Clearance of Expansion Project of 4X600 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at Village Tamnar, Taluk Gharghoda, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh by M/s Jindal Power Ltd.
- ii. M/s Jindal Power Ltd. (JPL) is operating 1000 MW (4X250 MW) & 2400 MW (4x600 MW) thermal power plant located at village Tamnar, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The 1000 MW plant was constructed in two phases. Phase –I and Phase –II, each comprising of two units of 250 MW. Existing ash dyke for 4x250 MW has been constructed in an area of 198 ha. The 4x600 MW units were granted EC in two parts, due to non-availability of coal linkage.
- iii. An amendment of EC was granted vide letter no. J-13012/117/2008IA.II(T) dated 28.08.2020 permitted use of existing ash dyke of 4x250 MW for disposal of unutilized ash from 4x600 MW till October, 2021.
- iv. Year wise Fly ash utilization from April, 2014 to March, 2022 was submitted for 4x600 MW and it was noted that in the 7<sup>th</sup> financial year i.e. from April, 2020 to March, 2021 only 18.15% ash utilization was carried out instead of 100% due to reasons arosed at time of COVID-19. In the present financial year (till August 2021) 55.06% ash utilization was archived by PP. Therefore, PP has submitted a plan to achieve 100% in future.

**15.2.4** *The EAC after deliberations, considering the fact of ash utilization percentage in last several years and commitments from PP for 100% ash utilization in future, **recommended** the extension of existing permission to use ash pond for disposal of unutilized ash generated from 4x600 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant located at Village Tamnar, Taluk Gharghoda, District Raigarh, Chhattisgarh by M/s Jindal Power Ltd. till December, 2022 under the EIA Notification, 2006 and its amendment therein along with following specific conditions:*

- i. *PP shall strictly adhere to the guidelines as per OM number 22-13/2019-IA.III dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 & CPCB guidelines for filling of ash in low lying area & accordingly proper study to be conducted regarding the impact on various parameters such as ground water, leachate, stability & as per above guidelines along with statutory permissions & submit to Ministry's Regional office.*
- ii. *100% ash utilization shall be carried out considering the fly ash as a resource and not a waste.*
- iii. *Extension of permission to use ash pond for disposal of unutilized ash generated from 4x600 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant is strictly subject to 100% utilization of ash.*

**The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.**

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**ATTENDANCE**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1.	Shri Gururaj P. Kundargi	Chairman	P
2.	Dr. N. P. Shukla	Member	P
3.	Shri SuramyaVora	Member	A
4.	Dr. Santosh Kumar	Member	P
5.	Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member	P
6.	Shri K. B. Biswas	Member	P
7.	Dr. Nandini. N	Member	P
8.	Dr. Unmesh Patnaik	Member	P
9.	Shri Prasant Kumar Mohapatra	Member	-
10.	Shri M. P. Singh	Member (Representative of CEA)	P
11.	Prof. S. S. Rai	Member Representative of IIT/ISM Dhanbad	P
12.	Prof. R. K. Giri	Member (Representative of IMD)	A
13.	Representative from CPCB	Member	A
14.	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh	Member Secretary	P

# APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN

Email

<https://email.gov.in/h/printmessage?id=58786&tz=Asia/Kolkata&xim=1>

Email

Yogendra Pal Singh

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**Re: Draft of 15th EAC meeting held on 27.09.2021-Reg**

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**From :** gpkundargi@gmail.com Mon, Oct 04, 2021 10:37 AM  
**Subject :** Re: Draft of 15th EAC meeting held on 27.09.2021-Reg  
**To :** Yogendra Pal Singh <yogendra78@nic.in>

Dear Yogendra ji  
Thank you for revised draft minutes.  
The Minutes are fine with me & approved. You may take further needful action in the matter.  
Thank you.  
G P Kundargi

On Mon, 4 Oct, 2021, 10:15 am Yogendra Pal Singh, <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)> wrote:  
Dear Sir,

The correction as suggested have been incorporated and modified draft MOM is attached herewith for approval.

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**From:** [gpkundargi@gmail.com](mailto:gpkundargi@gmail.com)  
**To:** "Yogendra Pal Singh" <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 3, 2021 7:23:36 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Draft of 15th EAC meeting held on 27.09.2021-Reg

Dear Yogendra Ji  
I have gone through the minutes. Under EAC recommendation at 12.2.4 condition number (i) is slightly modified as below  
(I) PP shall strictly adhere to the guidelines as per OM number 22-13/2019-IA.III dated 28th August 2019 & CPCB guidelines for filling of ash in low lying area & accordingly proper study to be conducted regarding the impact on various parameters such as ground water, leachate, stability & as per above guidelines along with statutory permissions & submit to Ministry's Regional office.  
Condition number (iv) needs to be deleted as the content is already covered in condition (III).  
Thank you  
G P Kundargi

Sent from my iPad

1 of 2

04-10-2021, 12:48