

MINUTES OF THE 290th MEETING OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO COASTAL REGULATION ZONE HELD ON 9th MARCH, 2022.

The 290th meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee for projects related to Coastal Regulation Zone was held on 9th March 2022 through Video Conferencing due to the prevalent pandemic situation. The list of members presents in the EAC (CRZ) is at **Annexure.**

The deliberations held and the decisions taken are as under:

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee has noted that the Minutes of the 288th meeting held on 16th February 2022 are in order and confirmed the same with suggestions that in case any typographical/grammatical errors are noticed in due course, the same may be corrected suitably.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR CRZ CLEARANCE

Item No. 3.1

Proposal for pipeline carrying secondary treated sewage from Ghatkoper pumping station to the main plant at Deonar for Development of 600 TPD Waste to Energy project to generate about 4 MW of Power at Deonar, Mumbai by M/s Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)

IA/MH/CRZ/252961/2022] [F.NO.11/7/2022-IA.III]

“The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA/EMP report. If any part of data/information submitted is found to be false/misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental and or CRZ Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent.”

1. The project proponent and their consultant made a detailed presentation of salient features of the project and informed that:
 - (i). The proposal is for CRZ Clearance to the project for Laying 3.5 Km. long pipeline for carrying secondary treated sewage from Ghatkoper pumping station to main processing plant at Deonar for the proposed 600 TPD waste to energy project at Deonar, Mumbai, Maharashtra by M/s Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

(ii). The details of the CRZ area wherein the pipeline passing through is as under: -

S. No	Description	CRZ - Classification	Length of Pipeline (m)
1	Proposed Pipeline	CRZ-IA (50m Mangroves Buffer)	2455.0
2		CRZ - IB	2.4
3		CRZ - II	425.8
4		Outside CRZ	345.7
5	Total Length of Proposed pipeline		3228.9

- (iii). The project proponent has decided to commission a Waste-To-Energy (WTE) Project in Mumbai which will have a capacity of 600 Tons Per Day, which is in compliance with SWM Rules 2016 and all other applicable rules.
- (iv). Environmental Clearance for the waste to energy plant has been obtained from the SEIAA Maharashtra *vide* EC identification no. EC21B037MH160158 dated 7th December 2021.
- (v). It is proposed to have 3.5 Km. long pipeline (dia-300 mm) along the side of Deonar dumping ground to convey 4.5 MLD of pre-treated water from Ghatkopar STP Lagoon (as raw water) to the proposed WTE site location.
- (vi). The water conveyance is meant for 600 TPD plant and future modules planned at Deonar (up to 3000 TPD). Also, the water is meant for other uses such as irrigation, firefighting etc.
- (vii). The total cost of the pipeline project is ₹27crores. The project will provide employment for 400 persons (including the main plant) directly and indirectly.
- (viii). The Stage-I Forest Clearance has been obtained *vide* letter dated 14th June 2019.
- (ix). The local Level CRZ Map for the proposed project was prepared by the Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai. The HTL, LTL, ecologically sensitive areas indicated in approved CZMP with setback lines as per CRZ Notification 2011 were superimposed onto the georeferenced cadastral map to prepare a local level CRZ map at 1:4000 scale. The layout of proposed constructions in the Waste to Energy project, Sewage Treatment Plant and Pipeline in Deonar village, Mumbai was superimposed on the georeferenced ward map. The proposed Waster-to-Energy, Sewage Treatment Plant falls fully outside CRZ. The pipeline proposed as a part of the project passes partly through CRZ-IA, CRZ-IB, CRZ-II as per approved CZMP (Map No. MH 76) prepared *vide* CRZ Notification 2011 with remaining length outside CRZ.

- (x). The project was recommended by the Maharashtra CZMA *vide* letter no. CRZ 2020/CR 40/TC 4 dated 04/05/2021.

2. Deliberations in the EAC:

The Committee made a detailed deliberation on the proposal and noted that the proposed pipeline project is the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) project would have been appraised as a single project and as such it required composite clearance (EC+CRZ) as per the CRZ Notification 2011, as the viability of the project WTE project depends entirely on the inputs through the proposed project.

The Committee noted that, as per the submissions of the PP, currently the waste dumpsite at Deonar receives approximately 800 tons of MSW and 1000 TPD C&D waste. Deonar Dumping Ground falls in CRZ - IA (Mangroves), CRZ - IA (50m Mangroves Buffer Zone), CRZ – IB and CRZ – II. It was also informed to the Committee that the proposed sites for construction of Waste to Energy (WTE) Project covering an extent of 12.19 hectares, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) covering an extent of 4.3 hectares in Deonar Village, Chembur, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai falls fully outside CRZ as per approved CZMP.

The Committee noted that as per the provisions contained in Para 3 (vii) of the CRZ Notification, 2011, Dumping of city or town wastes including construction debris, industrial solid wastes, fly ash for the purpose of landfilling and the like are prohibited in the CRZ area, and the concerned authority shall implement schemes for phasing out any existing practice, within a period of one year from date of commencement of the notification.

The project proponent, M/s Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai *vide* letter No. Ch.E./1142/SWM/Project dated 09/03/2022 has submitted an undertaking that they have not dumped any Municipal Solid Waste in the CRZ area (CRZ I A, CRZ I B and CRZ II) after regularisation of the CRZ Notification 1991.

The Committee also deliberated on the alternate alignments considered by the PP. It was informed that laying of the pipeline through the Deonar dumping ground was explored and found to be not viable. The Committee suggested that the pipeline shall be laid by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method at the crossing of water body/river/creek and mangroves, and along the road as proposed wherein it passes through the existing road network with necessary safety measures.

The Committee suggested that as per the recommendations in FC approval with and MCZMA recommendation, the project proponent shall ensure that 10 times the number of mangroves destroyed/cut during the construction process will be replanted in consultation with the Forest Department.

The Committee noted that laying of the pipeline is a permissible activity in the CRZ area as per the provisions contained in para 3(i)(a) and 4(ii)(d) of the CRZ Notification, 2011 requiring prior permission from the Ministry.

3. The Committee after detailed deliberations, considering the submissions made by the project proponent and recommendations of the Maharashtra CZMA, ***recommended the proposal for grant of CRZ clearance and desired to forward the recommendations to the SEIAA Maharashtra for grant of composite Clearance (EC+ CRZ)*** subject to following conditions:

- (i). All construction shall be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and as amended from time to time.
- (ii). The pipeline shall be laid by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method at the crossing of water body river/creek and mangrove areas.
- (iii). Prior clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of mangrove forests as may be applicable shall be obtained before the start of mangrove area and mangrove buffer.
- (iv). Prior approval of the High Court of Mumbai shall be obtained in view of the direction issued in connection with the felling of Mangrove and its conservation before execution of the project.
- (v). The project proponent shall ensure the natural flow of the Creek water in the project site.
- (vi). The project proponent shall ensure that no dumping shall be done in the CRZ area.
- (vii). No groundwater shall be extracted within the CRZ area to meet the water requirements during the construction and/or operation phase of the project.
- (viii). Excavated material during the construction shall not be dumped in water bodies or adjacent areas.
- (ix). The site shall be restored to its near original condition after completion of construction of work.
- (x). The project proponent shall not destroy the mud-flat area adjacent to the project site.
- (xi). Permanent labour camp, machinery and material storage shall not be set up in the CRZ area.
- (xii). Any temporary physical infrastructure set up during the construction period shall be removed simultaneously with the completion of laying of each segment of the project.
- (xiii). All the conditions stipulated by the Maharashtra CZMA vide letter dated 4th May 2021 and commitments made by the PP before the CZMA and EAC shall be followed in letter and spirit.
- (xiv). All necessary clearance from the concerned authority, as may be applicable should be obtained prior to commencement of project or activity.

Item No. 3.2

Proposal for development of 1 Mega Watt (MW) floating Solar Research Prototype for Power Generation research project in the Arabian Sea in Mangalore, by M/s Solarinblue Energy Private Limited

[IA/KA/CRZ/250330/2022] [F.NO.11/8/2022-IA.III]

“The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and no information has been suppressed in the EIA/EMP report. If any part of data/information submitted is found to be false/misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and Environmental and or CRZ Clearance given, if any, will be revoked at the risk and cost of the project proponent.”

1. The project proponent and their consultant made a detailed presentation of salient features of the project and informed that:

- (i). The proposal is for CRZ clearance to the project for Development of 1 MW Floating Solar Research Prototype for Power Generation research project in the Arabian Sea, Mangalore, Karnataka by M/s Solarinblue Energy Private Limited.
- (i). There shall be 90 Floating Solar Units with a water surface area of 200m x 200m. Sea bed perimeter (upto) is 800m x 800m. The solar panel will be installed by attaching floating buoys and anchored at the floor of the sea bed. The panels will be located 9 Km. from the coast at a depth of around 20 meters. The carpet effect ensures that the solar farm follows the wave slope. The solar panels will produce electricity which will be taken through cables and linked to the main grid.
- (ii). The underwater electrical cable shall pass through sea area, underground cable through sea shore and overhead transmission line in the land area. Transmission line/cable shall be laid in the existing pole over the bridge (clamped along with existing cables).
- (iii). The total cost of the project is ₹17.6 crores. The project will provide employment for 50 people.
- (iv). The details of the project in CRZ area is under: -

Project Description	Zonation	Length (m)	Total Length (m)
Overhead electrical line on existing poles	CRZ II	1843.22	6624.41
	CRZ IA (50m Mangrove buffer)	112.08	
	CRZ IV B	39.33	
	CRZ IB	6.34	
Outside CRZ	---	4623.44	

Underground electrical cable	CRZ IB	108.15	108.15
Underwater electrical cable	CRZ IVA	9388.87	9388.87
Proposed project location	CRZ IVA	Not Applicable	

- (v). The local Level CRZ Map for Implementation of Floating Solar project between proposed project location inside the Arabian Sea and Mulki substation *via* the Existing Electrical pole located at NIT Surathkal beach at Mangalore, Karnataka State was prepared by the Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai. The HTL, LTL, ecologically sensitive areas indicated in approved CZMP with setback lines as per CRZ Notification 2011 were superimposed onto the georeferenced cadastral map to prepare a local level CRZ map at 1:4000 scale. The project area falls in the CRZ IVA area and the electrical cable passes through CRZ-IA, CRZ-IB, CRZ-II and CRZ IVA as per approved CZMP as per CRZ Notification 2011 with remaining length outside CRZ.
- (vi). The project was recommended by the Karnataka CZMA *vide* letter no. FEE/249/CRZ/2021 dated 30/12/2021.

2. Deliberations in the EAC:

The Committee made a detailed deliberation on the proposal and noted that the proposed solar project through the Floating Solar Research Prototype for Power Generation pilot project is unique and first of in the country. The solar panel will be installed by attaching floating buoys and anchored and as such, there is no permanent structures shall be installed. The Committee desired that the prototype shall be developed taking into account safety and risk. It was also highlighted that there shall be a risk of collision/entanglement of larger migratory animals on the anchored panels. The Committee envisaged that the shelter provided by the floating panel could lead to an assemblage of marine biodiversity underneath these panels and thus proper documentation of the same will be useful for scientific fraternity as well as future development of floating solar projects. The Committee opined that the project proponent shall monitor in real time the underwater marine diversity through underwater camera /go promo camera set up in different locations. The project proponent shall take necessary measures to distinguish the area and not to affect trawling and traditional fishing.

The Committee noted that facilities for generating power by non-conventional energy sources is a permissible activity in the CRZ area as per the provisions contained in para 3(i)(c) and 4(ii)(d) & (h) of the CRZ Notification, 2011 requiring prior permission from the Ministry. The Committee also noted that the proposed project/activity is exempted from the requirement of prior environmental clearance as per the Ministry's OM dated 7th July 2017.

3. The Committee after detailed deliberations, considering the submissions made by the project proponent and recommendations of the Karnataka CZMA, **recommended the proposal for grant of CRZ clearance**, subject to the following conditions:

- (i). All construction shall be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and as amended from time to time.
- (ii). The project proponent shall study the underwater marine diversity through an underwater camera/go promo camera set up in different locations of the floating panel and the report including underwater recording shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry and to the Members of EAC along with the compliance report.
- (iii). No groundwater shall be extracted within the CRZ area to meet the water requirements during the construction and/or operation phase of the project.
- (iv). Any temporary physical infrastructure setup and excavated material, if any, during underground electrical cabling shall not be dumped in water bodies or adjacent areas and the site shall be restored to its original condition after completion of construction of work.
- (v). Permanent labour camp, machinery and material storage shall not be set up in the CRZ area.
- (vi). All the conditions stipulated by the Karnataka CZMA *vide* letter dated 30th December 2021 and commitments made by the PP before the CZMA and EAC shall be followed in letter and spirit.
- (vii). All necessary clearance from the concerned authority, as may be applicable should be obtained prior to commencement of project or activity.

4.0 Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ) Members participated during Video Conferencing (VC) Meeting held on 9th March 2022.

S. No.	Name of Members	Designation
1.	Dr. Deepak Arun Apte	Chairman
2.	Dr. Manoranjan Hota	Member
3.	Shri Manmohan Singh Negi	Member
4.	Shri Sham Wagh	Member
5.	Prof. Ashok Kumar Pachauri	Member
6.	Shri S. Jeyakrishnan	Member
7.	Prof. V.K Jain	Member
8.	Dr. M.V. Ramana Murthy	Member
9.	Shri. R.P.S Verma	Member
10.	Dr. Niraj Sharma	Member
11.	Dr. H. Kharkwal	Member Secretary
MoEF&CC		
11.	Dr. Abhilasha S. Mathuriya	Scientist 'D'
12.	Dr. Nobi E. P	Scientist 'B'