

## **MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THERMAL POWER PROJECTS HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2022**

The 31<sup>st</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 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 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. 31.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting**

The Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> EAC (Thermal Power) meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 were confirmed in the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. 31.2**

**Establishment of 7500 TCD Sugar unit, 30 MW Co-generation unit and 360 KLPD Multi feed Distillery Unit (Syrup/Molasses/Grain) by M/s Hampi Sugars Pvt. Ltd. – Terms of Reference (TOR) – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/KA/THE/401024/2022; F. No. J-13012/02/2022-IA.I (T)]**

**31.2.1** The project proponent did not attend the meeting; however, it was informed vide email dated 29.09.2022 that the proposed project Major activity is considered as Thermal 1(d) instead of Distilleries – 5(g) Cat “A” (IND2) due to errors in PARIVESH at that time and also there was no scope for uploading additional documents in the web portal. The PP has requested to withdraw the aforementioned proposal submitted on 22.09.2022.

The EAC however observed that the instant proposal is an integrated proposal and **TCD Sugar unit**, Distillery are the major activities; so, the present proposal should be considered under item no. 5(g) of the schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

*The proposal was **returned** in present form on above lines.*

### **Agenda Item No. 31.3:**

**4x135 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant (Phase-I & Phase-II) at Warora Growth Centre, MIDC, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) by M/s Sai Wardha Power Generation Private Limited – Amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/MH/THE/291912/2022; F. No. J-13011/23/2007-IA.II (T)]**

**31.3.1** The proposal is for grant of amendment in Environment Clearance for 4x135 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant (Phase-I & Phase-II) at Warora Growth Centre, MIDC, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) by M/s Sai Wardha Power Generation Private Limited.

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

i. Environmental Clearance (EC) has been granted by the Ministry vide letter no. J-13011/23/2007-IA-II(T), dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 to Phase-I (2x135 MW) and J-13011/46/2007-IA-II(T), dated 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007 to Phase-II (2x135 MW). The commissioning dates are as below:

- Unit 1 - 15.04.2010
- Unit 2 - 04.10.2010
- Unit 3 - 14.01.2011
- Unit 4 - 17.04.2011

ii. **Amendment sought:** M/s SWPGPL has proposed to install the pollution control equipment to meet the revised emissions norms for thermal power plants vide S.O. 3305(E) dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. It is proposed to:

- Install wet Limestone based Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system for all 4 units; and
- upgrade existing low NO<sub>x</sub> Burners to New Version Low NO<sub>x</sub> Burners for Boilers of all 4 units.

iii. **Justification:** SWPGPL is seeking the amendment in EC for the implementation of new emission norms classified as environmental protection measures, which includes installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system, and replacement of existing Low NO<sub>x</sub> burners with New Version Low NO<sub>x</sub> burners in Boiler.

iv. The cost of the project is Rs. 657 Crores for installation of FGD facilities and control systems for Oxides of Nitrogen for all 4 units. The expected time of completion of activity is approximately twenty-four to thirty months.

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

The proposal is for grant of amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 and 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007 for 4x135 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant (Phase-I & Phase-II) at Warora Growth Centre, MIDC, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) by M/s Sai Wardha Power Generation Private Limited.

The EAC noted that there is no proper plantation at periphery of plant boundary.

Further, EAC noted that PP has to abide with MoEF&CC Notification dated 05.09.2022 for installation air pollution controlled equipments.

**31.3.4** *The EAC, after detailed deliberations on the information submitted by the project proponent, accepted and **recommended** the amendments as requested by the PP subject to compliance of following additional conditions:*

- i. Green plantation of native and perennial plant species shall be carried out overall 33-35 % of the plant area including periphery of the plant boundary without aesthetic plants species with more than 90% survival rate of all plant species in the project boundary.
- ii. ETP sludge shall be periodically analyzed before using for gardening purpose and report shall be submitted in six-monthly compliance report. In case of appearance of hazardous substance/chemicals in sludge, appropriate measures for treatment of the same shall be adopted.
- iii. Continuous air quality monitoring systems shall be installed at all sensitive plant areas with connected server to CPCB. Demolition of any old component of plant will be taken up as per prescribed procedure.

**Agenda Item No. 31.4:**

**1x660MW Amarkantak Supercritical Thermal Power Project (Expansion) in place of existing Amarkantak Thermal Power Station (Phase – I & II: 290 MW) in area of 90.24ha, Chachai Village, District Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh by M/s M. P. Power Generating Company Ltd. – Reconsideration of Environment Clearance (EC) – reg.**

**[Proposal No. IA/MP/THE/10749/2003; F. No. J-13012/07/2019-IA.I (T)]**

**31.4.1** The proposal is for reconsideration for grant of Environment Clearance to 1x660MW Amarkantak Supercritical Thermal Power Project (Expansion) in place of existing Amarkantak Thermal Power Station (Phase – I & II: 290 MW) in area of 90.24ha, Chachai Village, District Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh by M/s M. P. Power Generating Company Ltd.

**31.4.2 Observation in Earlier EAC:**

- a) The proposal for grant of Environment Clearance was earlier considered by the EAC in its 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 07<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
- b) The project was deferred by the EAC seeking additional information which is reflected in the Minutes of meeting at Parivesh Portal.
- c) PP vide letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 submitted detailed response on additional information sought by EAC. PP submitted the following:

**Query 1: Re-orient CHP system location to avoid forest area and felling of trees due to proposed expansion.**

**Reply:** As suggested, our DPR consultant M/s. Desein Private Limited (DPL) was requested for exploring the possibility to re-orient part of the CHP system to avoid forest area (6.171 Hectare), within plant boundary. Possibility was also explored to accommodate the said CHP structures within the space available inside the plant boundary & in possession of MPPGCL. However, no adequate space was found in the plant boundary to accommodate the part of the CHP, as also confirmed by our consultant M/s Desein. M/s DPL, subsequently, vide its email dated 22.08.2022 informed that they have worked out to relocate the stockpile outside the plant boundary which is the only place available to avoid 6.171 Hectare forest area situated in plant premises. However, following constraints are identified in relocating the CHP structures: -

- i. To implement as per revised plant layout, about 18 Ha additional land will be required which includes private land, generally habitated and shall require R&R activities.
- ii. As per revised plot plan, on shifting of few CHP components beyond plant boundary, the conveyer structure shall pass over the existing Road & Rail line passing adjacent to plant boundary. This may require permission of State Govt. authorities & Railways.
- iii. Further, even if the said CHP components are shifted outside the plant boundary, MPPGCL will still have to acquire certain land corridors (in the forest land of 6.171 Ha) to accommodate the Trestles & Galleries of the conveyor system; to & from the Stacker Reclaimer.
- iv. The coal handling package cost will increase in addition to increase in auxiliary power consumption.

In view of enhancement in the Project cost due to increased Conveyor lengths & associated structure, increase in Aux. Power consumption and the time & cost involved in R&R activities etc for shifting the CHP components beyond plant boundary; the earlier proposed layout using forest land within PP's plant Boundary for CHP components appears to be the only feasible option for implementation. Needless to reiterate that this forest land is mostly having Eucalyptus plantation (518 out of a total of 580 trees in the said forest area), which are more than 10 years old.

**Query 2: PP need to submit document from the State Government stating that PP is not encroaching the lake area.**

**Reply:** The Chachai lake (Suthana Reservoir) is developed by MPPGCL as reservoir for storage of water for ATPS use and the entire Suthana Reservoir is under the possession of the PP. As advised, we have also secured certificates indicating no encroachment of Suthana

Reservoir (Chachai Lake); issued by Patwaries of respective villages i.e. Deori-Kholi, Kelhori and Mediaras.

Further consolidated Khasra Map of the villages in which the lake and plant area are situated. This includes the boundary of the land for Suthna reservoir and Power House premises, which is in the possession of the MPPGCL. Also, the Khasra map of project layout and Chachai lake super imposed on Google map.

**Query 3: Status of green belt across the periphery of the project boundary shall be provided (including video using drone and photographs), along with action plan for future plantation.**

**Reply:** Information regarding the greenbelt developed for existing 1x210 MW TPP and the greenbelt proposed to be developed for the upcoming 660 MW unit, has already been provided at Clause No 9.7 of the final EIA report submitted to MoEF. However, as desired, the greenbelt across the Plant Boundary has been indicated in the Map, submitted along with photographs.

The video using drone of the existing greenbelt has been submitted. The route followed for carrying out the Videography, has been indicated with alphabets A to M, for ease of understanding.

PP submitted that the plant boundary is common for both existing & proposed units. Presently, green belt is already available in the part of the plant boundary and additional plantation required along balance periphery, shall be developed as the project progresses.

**Query 4: MoU signed with State Water Resource Department is about supply of water to TPP from Son River; therefore, necessary clarification/permission about drawing of water from Chachai lake be submitted.**

**Reply:** As already submitted at Point No. (ii) above, the Chachai lake (Suthana Reservoir) is already in the possession/ ownership of MPPGCL and as such, no separate permission of drawing water from the reservoir is required.

**Query 5: Time-bound action plan along with the financial allocation for lake rejuvenation and proportion of tourism.**

**Reply:** There are no industries in the vicinity of lake, no sewage/chemical effluent discharged into the lake. As such no deterioration in the water quality affecting the aquatic Flora & Fauna is envisaged. Still, for taking up lake rejuvenation works, suitable amount shall be allotted which shall be carried out as part of CSR activities after obtaining administrative approval from competent authorities. The time bound action plan for lake rejuvenation.

**Query 6: Justification for observed non-compliance regarding use of coal with high**

## **Sulphur contents.**

**Reply:** To address the Air Pollution of the account of high Sulphur content in the coal, FGD is proposed to be installed inline with MoEF&CC Notification dated 07.12.2015, within the time lines given in recent notification dated 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. It can thus be seen that the Project is generally fulfilling all the conditions of the ToR issued by MoEF&CC. Most of the land is already available with the PP and does not involve any displacements/ R&R activities or acquisition of major forest land. The ecological balance of the area is also not getting effected due to the project, as all major necessities for developing & operating the project viz Road & Rail facilities and Water infrastructure are already available.

### **31.4.3** The EAC during deliberations noted the following:

The EAC was of the view that PP has not worked out properly to relocate the CHP facility to avoid 6.171 Ha of the forest land, though there is a scope for relocating the same. The EAC observed that the Consultant “Ramky Enviro Services Private Limited” has not provided proper guidance to the project proponent in finding the alternate solution of it. Further, EAC noted that periphery plantations were not maintained all along the plant boundary and as informed by the PP the overall survival rate is around 75 %.

*31.4.4 The EAC after detailed deliberations recommended that the additional information submitted by the project proponent is not satisfactory, therefore, EAC **deferred** the proposal seeking additional information from the project proponent:*

- 1. PP shall submit alternative site analysis for different land area within the project boundary or reduce CHP land requirement area to save 6.171 ha of the forest land.*
- 2. PP shall submit certified letter mentioning that PP will not encroach the lake/pond.*
- 3. PP shall submit time bound action plan for implementation of periphery green plantation with survival rate of more than 90% by adopting Scientific methodology.*
- 4. PP shall submit the letter including certified map from Patwari mentioning the khasra numbers of the land area is under possession of PP along with total area of Chachai lake (Suthana Reservoir).*

*The proposal was **deferred** on above lines.*

**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                                     | P                 |
| 4.           | Dr Santosh Kumar                    | Member                                     | P                 |
| 5.           | Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao<br>Kahalekar | Member                                     | P                 |
| 6.           | Shri K.B. Biswas                    | Member                                     | P                 |
| 7.           | Dr. Nandini. N                      | Member                                     | P                 |
| 8.           | Shri M.P. Singh                     | Member (Representative of<br>CEA)          | P                 |
| 9.           | Prof S. S. Rai                      | Member Representative of<br>IIT/ISMDhanbad | P                 |
| 10.          | Dr. Nazimuddin                      | Member - Representative of<br>CPCB         | P                 |
| 11.          | Shri Yogendra Pal Singh             | Member Secretary                           | P                 |

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## APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN

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**From:** [gpkundargi@gmail.com](mailto:gpkundargi@gmail.com)  
**To:** "Yogendra Pal Singh" <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 10:54:34 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Draft MOM of the EAC (Thermal) 31st meeting held on 11.10.2022-reg

Dear Dr Yogendra ji  
Draft minutes of 31st EAC meeting  
are fine with me & approved for further needful.  
Thank you  
G P Kundargi

On Wed, 19 Oct, 2022, 6:47 pm Yogendra Pal Singh, <[yogendra78@nic.in](mailto:yogendra78@nic.in)> wrote:

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the draft MOM of the EAC (Thermal) 31st meeting held on 11.10.2022, for perusal and comments, if any.

With Regards,

**Yogendra Pal Singh**  
**Scientist 'E'**  
**M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
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