

Dated: 19th November, 2013

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Time limit for validity of terms of reference (TORs) prescribed under Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 for undertaking EIA studies for developmental projects requiring environmental clearance - dispensation for 'Hydroelectric Power Projects' - Regarding.

The OM No.J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 22.3.2010 prescribes the time limit for validity of TORs issued under EIA Notification, 2006 for undertaking EIA studies requiring environment clearance.

2. Ministry of Power has brought to the notice of this Ministry that hydro power projects are site specific requiring detailed site investigations including surveying, geological investigations, hydrological studies, etc. Most of the hydro power project sites are located in difficult locations and at times with poor accessibility. Often, preparation of DPRs takes some time, which also results in delay in preparing EIA/EMP reports for want of requisite inputs from the DPRs. Further, three seasons data needs to be collected and analyzed for Hydroelectric power projects.

3. The matter has been further examined. Considering the factors brought out in Para above, it would appear that the Hydroelectric power projects require a relatively longer time frame for preparation of EIA/EMP reports. Thus, in respect of Hydroelectric power projects, the aforesaid OM of 22.3.2010 was modified vide dated 8th October, 2013, to the extent that w.e.f. the issuance of the OM, the prescribed TORs for such projects would be valid for a period of three years for submission of EIA/EMP reports.

4. Now, in partial modification of the above OM dated 8th October, 2013 it may be noted that the ToR validity period would be extendable by one year over and above the initial 3 years subject to reasonable and convincing justification of delay in submitting EIA/EMP reports and appraisal by designated Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of River Valley and Hydro Electric Power projects (RV&HEP).

5. The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid OM dated 22.3.2010 will continue to remain in force.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



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To,

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairman, CPCB
4. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

