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No.Z-11012/1/2013-IA-I(Part)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Dated: 12th December, 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' and River Valley Projects - Regarding.

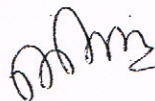
The OM No.J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 22.3.2010 prescribes the time limit for validity of TORs issued under EIA Notification, 2006 for undertaking EIA studies requiring environment clearance.

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 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. Accordingly, MoEF vide OMs dated 8.10.2013 and 19.11.2013 have enhanced the validity period of ToRs.

3. Now, in partial modification of the above OMs dated 8th October, 2013 and 19th November, 2013, it may be noted that the ToR validity period for Hydro -electric power projects & River Valley projects would be three years instead of two years. This would be extendable by one year over and above the initial 3 years period subject to reasonable and satisfactory 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).

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

5. This issues with the approval of the Secretary (E&F).


(B. B. Barman)

Director

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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