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F. NO, 22-19/2017-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-3

Dated: 1st November, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Revisiting of process of prior Environmental Clearance for Solid Waste Management Treatment and processing facilities - reg.

The request to revisit the process of prior environmental clearance for Solid Waste Management Treatment and Processing Facilities has been examined by the Expert Group constituted in the Ministry in its meeting held on 14.06.2017. The Expert Group has submitted its recommendations which have also been further examined in the Ministry.

2. The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 in the Schedule at item 7 (i) mentions Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (CMSWMF) as Category B project for which State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) is empowered to appraise the project for grant of prior environmental clearance.

3. The municipal solid waste management involves various steps like door to door collection, segregation, composting, refuse derived fuel (RDF) making, waste to energy generation through waste to energy plants and disposal in scientific landfills. The above activities, except landfill site, if proposed as standalone activities are not covered under item 7 (i) of EIA Notification, 2006, hence do not require prior environmental clearance. In case the activities of composting, RDF making and waste to energy plant (up to Capacity of 15 MW) are proposed at an existing landfill site, they do not attract the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

4. If the activities of incineration, RDF making and Waste to energy plant are proposed along with the new site of solid waste disposal, landfill, it is advisable to obtain an integrated prior environmental clearance for these projects.

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5. It has been seen that locating a landfill site or municipal Solid Waste disposal site is a contentious issue and there is a tendency to locate them far from the habitation but near forest, rivers, ponds, Wetlands and low lying areas etc., which are ecologically sensitive sites and require proper environmental management. Since, the forests, rivers, ponds, wetland and low lying areas are critical from environmental point of view, it may not be appropriate to exempt this activity of municipal solid waste disposal site or landfill site from the requirement of prior environmental clearance.

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


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Scientist-F / Director

1. All Principal Secretaries of States/UTs
2. All Member Secretaries of SEIAA's