

Brief Summary of Project

(1) Background:

THDC India Limited, a joint venture of Government of India and Uttar Pradesh has proposed to set up a 2x660MW capacity coal based thermal power project at Khurja in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh. MoU in this regard was signed between THDC India Limited and Govt. of U.P on 31/12/2010. The project is proposed to be accommodated in 1200.843 acre land already acquired by GoUP through UPSIDC. Entire land has also been muted in the name of UPSIDC for industrial use. MoU for transferring the possession of 1200.843 acres of land to THDCIL for implementation of Khurja STPP has been signed with UPSIDC on 14/12/2013. The proposed site is situated at 28°08'36.15" to 28°10'12.68" Northern Latitude and between 77°54'12.80" & 77°54'52.75" Eastern Longitude.

THDCIL had prepared Pre Feasibility Report in consultation with NTPC and submitted the same to MoEF in August, 2011 for grant of Terms of Reference for conducting Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environment Management Plan for the proposed Khurja Super Thermal Power Project. The proposal was considered during 32nd meeting of EAC(T) and Terms of References were prescribed by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India vide letter no. J-13012/100/2011-IA.II(T) dated 27/10/2011 for the preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environment Management Plan.

Initially, the validity period of the TOR was mentioned as two years (i.e upto 26/10/2013). The validity of TOR was extended by another one year (i.e upto 26/10/2014) vide MoEF letter No. J-13012/100/2011-IA.II(T) dated 03/12/2013.

(2) Status of the Project:

a) EIA/EMP study: Subsequent to the issuance of TOR, site specific meteorological data and AAQ data for one complete season (except monsoon season) have been collected and draft EIA/EMP reports, prepared associating the consultant accredited with QCI/NABET. Draft EIA/EMP reports have also

been submitted to the State Pollution Control Board, Lucknow for conducting Public Hearing.

b) Site Specific Studies: Following site specific studies have been conducted at the proposed project area.

- (i) Topography Survey,
- (ii) Soil and Geotechnical investigations,
- (iii) Coal Transport & Railway Siding Study,
- (iv) Site Specific Seismic Study,
- (v) Area Drainage Study, and
- (vi) Water Drawal Study
- (vii) Social Economic Study

c) Detailed Project Report: The Detailed Project Report of the Project has been prepared by NTPC consultancy.

d) Layout of the Project:

The project comprising of two units of 660 MW each is proposed to be accommodated in 1200.843 acre land already acquired by GoUP through UPSIDC. In addition, about 123 acres land shall be required for railway & pipe corridors outside the plant boundary. Details of land required is duly vetted by CEA vide letter dated 28/12/2012.

Earlier, while preparing of Pre Feasibility report, layout was planned considering National Highway passing through the plot. Accordingly, Terms of References (TOR) were prescribed by MoEF to accommodate the plant layout keeping 500m distances on either side of the National Highway. As per this condition about 370 acres of land was to be left unutilized. With a view to gainfully utilize the entire land for the project, the matter regarding re-routing of NH-91 was taken up with NHAI/MoRTH through the Ministry of Power. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) vide their letter dated 29/10/2013 has provided its in-principle consent for the re-routing of NH-91 around the eastern side of the site.

With the re-routing of NH-91, the acquired land will be available in one consolidated plot, thus land can be optimized by locating various plant components adjacent to each other. The consolidation of plot due to proposed re-routing shall also enable provision for additional unit at a later stage.

In view of above, Plant layout has been revised after getting “in-principle” approval of NHAI for re-routing of the National Highway. As per revised layout, Main plant, Switchyard, Coal Handling Plant, Water System facilities, Raw Water Reservoir & Township are proposed to be located on the eastern side, while, Ash Dyke & Railway Siding Facilities are envisaged to be on Western side of the plot.

(3) Approvals & Clearances:

a) Airport Authority of India has accorded clearance for the construction of 275m high chimney vide letter dated 18/07/2011.

b) Water Linkage:

Water Commitment letter for providing 53 cusecs water from upper Ganga Canal has been issued by Water Resources Department, GoUP vide letter dated 12/06/2014.

c) Availability of land:

A total of 1362 acres of land shall be required to implement 2x660MW Khurja Super Thermal Power Project. Details of land required is duly vetted by CEA vide letter dated 28/12/2012. 1200.843 acres of land is already acquired by the GoUP through Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC). Entire land acquired by UPSIDC has also been mutated in their name for industrial use.

MoU for transfer the possession of 1200.843 acres of land to THDCIL for implementation of Khurja STPP has been signed with UPSIDC on 14.12.2013. The transfer of land from UPSIDC to THDCIL is in advance stage of implementation.

d) Firm Long Term Coal Linkage:

Application for long term coal linkage along with requisite fee has been submitted on 25/05/2011. Ministry of Power vide their letter dated 27/05/2014 addressed to Chairperson, CEA has also recommended prioritization for allocation of coal linkage for Khurja STPP.

(4) Reason for non submission of EIA/EMP report for Environmental Clearance of MoEF.

As mentioned at point 2(a) above, THDCIL has prepared EIA/EMP reports as per the TOR prescribed by the MoEF. Considering the stipulation made in the para 5 of the TOR that the “Environmental Clearance shall be applied only after firm fuel and water linkages are obtained”, THDCIL shall apply for getting Environmental Clearance after Coal Linkage is allocated to Khurja STPP by Ministry of Coal.

(5) Request for issue of fresh TOR.

a) Office Memorandum No. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 22/03/2010 of MoEF prescribed an outer limit of three years for the validity of TORs with effect from 1/04/2010. As the extended validity of the Khurja STPP has expired on 26/10/2014 (three years from the date of issue of TOR i.e from 27/10/2011), fresh TORs are required to be issued.

b) EIA/EMP report was prepared and submitted to UP State Pollution Control Board, Lucknow for conducting Public hearing. Though, Public hearing could not be conducted as the process of final settlement of compensation to the land owners of already acquired land by UPSIDC was in advance stage. Also, it is relevant to mention that no significant polluting unit has been set up in the nearby area during last three years, which would affect the baseline data collected for the EIA study in last Qtr. 2012 (Oct-Dec'2012).

In view of the preparedness of the project as explained in above para, it is requested that Terms of References may be issued / extended with a further request for giving due cognizance to base line data already collected for the EIA /EMP study.