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भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

पर्यावरण भवन, सी. जी. ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स

PARYAVARAN BHAVAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX

लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003

LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

No.J-12011/56/2006-IA-I

04th April, 2007

Dr. B. M. Goswami, C E O
Madhya Bharat Power Corporation Ltd.
D.D.Sharma's Building (2nd floor),
Near Sikkim Computer.
Daragaon, Tadong
Gangtok - 737102

Subject - Rongnichu Hydro-electric project (96 MW) in Sikkim -
Environment
clearance regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. Nil dated 06.11.2006 and subsequent letter dated 11.12.2006 on the above subject.

2. The above referred proposal was considered by the Expert Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects at its meeting held on 15.11.2006 & 20.12.2006. The project envisages construction of a 14 m high (from river bed) barrage across the river Rongni Chu, near Namli village in East Sikkim district. Total land requirement is 59.9484 hectare, out of which 26.9323 ha. is forest land. No population will be displaced due to this project. However 63 families of seven villages will be affected due to acquisition of land Total cost of the project is Rs. 492.3245 crores.

3. The Environmental Management Plan submitted by Madhya Bharat Power Corporation. Ltd. has been examined. The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 & 2006, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:

Part A: Specific Conditions

i) Controlled blasting with very low charge and mild explosives should be used under close supervision. The quantity of explosive per delay to be used should be informed within one month from the date of issue of this letter. Besides conventional drilling & blasting method, excavation by TBM may also be considered at the time of finalization of construction methodology.

ii) Total 2071 ha.degraded catchment area has been identified and proposed for treatment in 3.5 years, however maintenance of plantations would continue upto 5th year... The plan is reproduced below:

Item of Work	Unit	Ist Year	IInd Year	IIIRD Year	IVth Year	Total
A. ENGINEERING MEASURES						
1. Gully Control						
a) Brushwood	Nos.	67	48	40	45	185
b) DRSM	Ha.	150	128	95	48	421
c) Crate wires	Ha.	115	75	40	26	256
2. Bench terracing	Ha.	263	143	84	39	529
B.BIOLOGICAL MEASURES						
1. Afforestation						
i) Creation	Ha.	182	164	116	-	462
ii) Maintenance	-	-	182	164	116	-
2. Assisted natural regeneration in existing forests						
i) Creation	Ha.	185	92	58	-	335
ii) Maintenance	-	-	185	277	335	-
3. NTFP Regeneration						
i) Creation	Ha.	48	10	10	-	68
ii) Maintenance		-	48	58	68	-


- iii) - No population will be displaced due to this project. However 63 families of seven villages will be affected due to land acquisition. The package proposed for the affected families in EMP should be followed in toto.
- iv) The hatchery for Catli and two fish farms for Snow Trout and Catli as proposed in the EMP for conservation of fishes should be implemented.
- v) Commitment made during public hearing should be fulfilled.
- vi) The Biodiversity Conservation & Management plan as proposed in the EMP shall be followed in toto.
- vii) Two primary health Centres at Namli and Namchey-Bung as proposed should be established. In addition to these one ambulance/mobile clinic shall also be stationed to provide emergency medical facilities. Initially all the running and maintenance cost would be borne by the project authorities for a period of 4 years. Thereafter it may be taken over by the Sikkim State Medical Directorate.
- (Viii) A study of site specific earthquake design parameters for the project needs to be conducted. The result of the site specific earthquake design parameters shall be forwarded for approval to the NCSDP (National Committee of Seismic Design Parameters, Central Water Commission, New Delhi) as a precaution. The approved design earthquake parameters need to be used for final design.
- (ix) All the equipment which are likely to generate high noise levels are to be fully mollified (noise reduction measures).
- (x) Consolidation and compilation of the muck should be carried-out in the muck dump sites and the dump sites should be above high flood level.

Part-B: General Conditions

- (i) Adequate free fuel arrangement should be made for the labour force engaged in the construction work at project cost so that indiscriminate felling of trees is prevented.
- (ii) Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide the fuel (kerosene/wood/LPG). Medical facilities as well as recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.

- (iii) All the labourers to be engaged for construction works should be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing them work permit.
 - (iv) Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials should be ensured by leveling, filling up of burrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.
 - (v) Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested safeguard measures.
 - vii) A Multidisciplinary committee should be constituted with representatives from various disciplines of forestry, ecology, wildlife, soil conservation, NGO etc. to oversee the effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures.
 - viii) Six monthly monitoring reports should be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office, Shillong for review.
4. Officials from Regional Office MOEF, Shillong who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards should be given full cooperation, facilities and documents / data by the project proponents during their inspection.
 5. ~~The~~ responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguards rests fully with the Madhya Bharat Power Corporation Ltd. & Government of Sikkim.
 6. In case of change in the scope of the project, project would require a fresh appraisal.
 7. The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary and to take action including revoking of the clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time-bound and satisfactory manner.
 8. This clearance letter is valid for a period of ten years from the date of issue of this letter.
 9. A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/ representation has been received while processing the proposal.

10. State Pollution Control Board / Committee should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Center and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
11. The project proponent should advertise within seven days at least in two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locally concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board / Committee and also at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>


(Dr. S. Bhowmik)
Additional Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti, Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001.
2. Secretary, Department of Power, Govt. of Sikkim, Secretariat, Gangtok.
3. Secretary, Deptt. of Forest, Govt. of Sikkim, Secretariat, Gangtok.
4. The Adviser (Power), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001.
5. The Chief Engineer, Project Appraisal Directorate, Central Electricity Authority, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.
6. The Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Shillong.
7. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife, Deprali, Gangtok - 737102
8. EI- Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi-110003.
9. Guard file.

(Dr. S. Bhowmik)
Additional Director