

**MINUTES OF THE 224<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO COASTAL REGULATION ZONE HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT INDIRA PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, NEW DELHI.**

The 224<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee for projects related to Coastal Regulation Zone was held on 24.09.2019 at Brahmaputra Conference Hall, Vayu Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The members present are:

1.	Dr. Deepak Arun Apte	-	Chairman
2.	Dr. M.V Ramana Murthy	-	Member
3.	Dr. Anil Kumar Singh	-	Member
4.	Dr. Mohan Singh Panwar	-	Member
5.	Dr. Manoranjan Hota	-	Member
6.	Dr. N.K.Verma	-	Member
7.	Ms. Bindhu Manghat	-	Member
8.	Shri W. Bharat Singh	-	Member Secretary

Shri Prabhakar Singh, Dr. Anuradha Shukla, Shri Narendra Surana, Shri N.K. Gupta, Dr. Prabhakar Singh and Shri Sanjay Singh were absent. Dr. V.K Jain and Dr. Rajesh Shah expressed their inability to attend owing to their prior commitments.

In attendance: Dr. Saranya P, Deputy Director and Dr. Bhawana Kapkoti Negi, Technical Officer, MoEFCC. The deliberations held and the decisions taken are as under:

## **2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

The Committee having noted that the Minutes of the 221<sup>st</sup> meeting are in order, confirmed the same with suggestions that in case any typographical/grammatical errors are noticed in due course, the same may be corrected suitably.

## **3.0 FRESH PROPOSALS:**

### **3.1 Proposal for extending the disposal pipe line in Savitri River/Bankot Creek from Owale Village, Taluka Mahad, District Raigad, Maharashtra by M/s Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)- [IA/MH/CRZ/111337/2019] [F.No.11-31/2019-IA-III]- CRZ Clearance**

The proposal of M/s Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is for extending the disposal pipe line in Savitri River/Bankot Creek at Owale Village, Taluka Mahad, District Raigad, in Maharashtra. The project proponent made a presentation and provided the following information:

- (i) The Mahad Industrial area was established during 1981-1982 and later the Additional Mahad Industrial area was established during 1995-1996.
- (ii) The proposal is for extension of existing disposal HDPE pipeline of length 2.20 km from Owale to Gomendi, for disposal of Treated Effluent from Mahad MIDC area to Savitri Creek in order to sustain the water management in the area and provide proper dispersion

of treated effluent in deep saline water under the Clean Environment Campaign of Government of India.

- (iii) It proposed pipeline will carry treated industrial effluent from MIDC CETP into the Savitri Creek extending by 2.20 Km into the Creek and conforming to the rules and regulations pertaining to CRZ and quality of treated effluent.
- (iv) The capacity of disposal pipeline is 24 MLD and at present treated effluent of 7.5 MLD is being pumped in three shifts of 8 hours.
- (v) The extension pipeline is of 630 mm dia. HDPE pipeline and will be laid 1m below the bed with anchors at 1m centre to centre.
- (vi) The proposed pipeline falls in CRZ II.
- (vii) There are no mangroves in the proposed alignment of the pipeline.
- (viii) Fresh water of 5 KLD will be required during construction phase. The source of water during construction phase will be MIDC / Tanker water.
- (ix) Power shall be sourced from D.G Set of 300 kVA capacity single/three phase 230/415 Volts, 50 Hz A.C.
- (x) The total cost of the project will be Rs. 11.69 crores
- (xi) The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the above proposal for clearance vide their letter No. CRZ 2018/CR 360/TC 4, dated 14.02.2019.

2. The Committee was informed by the project proponent that the Mahad Industrial area came into existence in later part of 1980's and it was decided to set up a CETP during 1989-1999 and the CETP became operational in June 2005. There is therefore no environmental clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006.

3. The Committee was also informed that local people had approached the High Court of Bombay to direct MIDC to shift the effluent discharge point. It has been stated that the Hon'ble High Court has asked MIDC to get opinion of NIO in the matter. Accordingly, MIDC had approached the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in 1991 to suggest an outfall location to release their effluents generated by CETP at Mahad Industrial Complex. The NIO suggested a location near Ambet which is about 8 km downstream from Ovale. It was stated that MIDC could not lay a pipeline to the Ambet location due to uneven topography of the area. The Committee was also informed that at present, the CETP has been releasing their effluent into the Savitri estuary through open channel near Ovale, Mahad, Raigadh.

4. The Committee was further informed by the project proponent that NIO have suggested the revised outfall location in the Creek where depth of 5 m CD is available and 2.2 km downstream from the present release location in 2013. The Committee also noted that the present state of affairs of the functioning of the CETP seems very poor and perpetual pollution of Savitri river cannot be allowed to continue. It was agreed that MIDC requires to take proactive and stringent action against members of the CETP.

5. The Committee during the course of its deliberation agreed that an independent assessment of the treated effluent quality is required. It was further agreed that the names and type of industries along with details of effluent quantity and characteristics from each member industry shall be collated, compiled and furnished to the Committee for its perusal by MIDC. The Committee also decided that the study carried out by NIO is old with data collected in 2013 and therefore decided that the project proponent shall submit revised water quality assessment report (pre-monsoon & post monsoon data) along the downstream from the present release location. The Committee also agreed that the downstream villages may object to the

proposed location point and therefore decided that the project proponent shall consult villagers downstream of the discharge point.

6. The Committee observed that purpose and effectiveness of CETP installed by MIDC is to make it operational in any circumstances and release treated water in water course in conformity with the standards prescribed by CPCB/SPCB and as per the set guidelines as may be available. In doing so, MIDC may set example for others by way of ensuring a truly efficient functioning of CETP, abates only source of pollution and rejuvenates Savitri River. Based on the deliberations held, the Committee therefore decided that the project is premature for consideration for recommendation of CRZ clearance in its present form and decided that the proponent shall submit information /documents on the following:

- i) Effluent water quality data / report carried out by nationally reputed institute and endorsed/certified by the State PCB shall be submitted.
- ii) Marine EIA report including data of water quality of the receiving water body/Creek and likely impact on fishery downstream of the discharge point.
- iii) Revised water quality assessment report including biological and physicochemical characteristics (pre-monsoon & post monsoon data) along the downstream from the present release location
- iv) The project proponent shall conduct consultation with villagers downstream of the point of discharge of the CETP effluent.
- v) The project proponent shall submit an in-built mechanism for ensuring that the member of the industries is to be held accountable for lapses (if any) for eventuality of non-conformity of the CETP discharge with the standards prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.

Accordingly, the proposal was deferred for reconsideration at a later stage once the above information/documents/actions are taken by MIDC.

### **3.2 Proposal for erection of transmission tower and transmission line for 400 KV and 765 KV power evacuation lines by M/s Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Ltd (TANTRANSCO) - [IA/TN/CRZ/116364/2019] [F.No. 11-33/2019-IA III] - CRZ Clearance**

The proposal of M/s Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Ltd (TANTRANSCO) is for erection of transmission tower and transmission lines for 400 KV Power evacuation line from SEZ to Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project; Ennore SEZ to North Chennai Pooling Station; ETPS expansion project to NC Pooling Station and 765 KV Power evacuation line from North Chennai Thermal Power Station Stage-III (NCTPS-III) to NC Pooling Station at Ennore, Tamil Nadu. The project proponent made a presentation and provided the following information:

- (i) The proposed project involves erection of overhead transmission tower and transmission lines for 400 KV Power evacuation line from SEZ to Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project; Ennore SEZ to North Chennai Pooling Station; ETPS expansion project to NC Pooling Station and 765 KV Power evacuation line from North Chennai Thermal Power Station Stage-III (NCTPS-III) to NC Pooling Station at Ennore, Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) The transmission line (overhead) having total length of 39068.38 m out of which 27244.11m will fall under CRZ. The activity comprises of setting up of 124 nos. of overhead towers, out of which 71 nos. of towers falls under CRZ. The transmission line

consists of two lines 400 kV transmission line and 765 kV transmission line respectively.

(a) The total length of 400 kV transmission line is 31,673.78 m out of which 22,597.75 m is proposed under CRZ area. The details are given below:

S.No.	Description	CRZ- Classification	Length in Meter(m)	No. of Towers
1	Proposed 400 KV Transmission Line	CRZ-I A	5,383.90	-
2		CRZ-I B	7,589.89	25
3		CRZ-II	5,322.52	23
4		CRZ-IV B	2,109.57	3
5		No Development Zone (CRZ-III)	2,191.87	7
	Total	CRZ Area (A)	22,597.75	58
6		Non- CRZ Area(B)	9,076.03	43
		<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>	<b>31,673.78</b>	<b>101</b>

(b) The total length of 765 kV transmission line is 31,673.78 m out of which 22,597.75 m is proposed under CRZ area. The details are given below:

S.No.	Description	CRZ- Classification	Length in Meter (m)	No. of Towers
1	Proposed 765 KV Transmission Line	CRZ-I A	2,591.83	-
2		CRZ-I B	220.66	1
3		CRZ-II	974.97	7
4		CRZ-IV B	858.90	5
	Total	CRZ Area (A)	4646.36	13
5		Non- CRZ Area (B)	2,748.24	10
		<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>	<b>7,394.60</b>	<b>23</b>

Transmission Line (Overhead)	Length in (m)
CRZ area	27,244.11
Non CRZ Area	11,824.27
<b>Total Length (400 kV &amp; 765 kV)</b>	<b>39,068.38</b>

Transmission Tower	Nos.
CRZ area	71
Non CRZ Area	53
<b>Total (400 kV &amp; 765 kV)</b>	<b>124</b>

- (iii) The project activity passes through CRZ IA, CRZ IB (The area between LTL and HTL), CRZ II (Developed Areas), CRZ III – NDZ (Areas up to 200 m from HTL), CRZ IV B (Tidal influenced water body).
- (iv) The span length i.e. distance between each tower is increased and the design of towers is considered based on increased span length in order to avoid tower locations in the CRZ 1A areas.
- (v) In CRZ II & CRZ III zones, the location of towers is proposed away from human settlements.

## (vi) Tower Location and Overhead Line Crossing

CRZ	Tower Location	Overhead Line Crossing	Tower Details	
			400 kV Line	765 kV Line
IA	X	√	-	-
IB	√	√	AP6, 6A, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 (SEZ to NCPS), AP6, 6A, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 (SEZ to ETPS)	AP 12,
II	√	√	AP 5, 8 (ETPS to NCPS), AP17, 19, 41, 42 (SEZ to NCPS), AP22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 (SEZ to ETPS)	AP 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18
III (NDZ)	√	√	AP8, 11 (SEZ to NCPS), AP11, 12, 15, 16, 17 (SEZ to ETPS)	-
IV B	√	√	AP25 (SEZ to NCPS), AP32, 33 (SEZ to ETPS),	AP11, 16, 17, 19, 20

- (vii) The fresh water of about 3-5 KLD will be required during the peak construction phase and it will be sourced through private tankers.
- (viii) 80% of the mangroves were less than 2m height, the height of *Avicennia marina* varies from 1 to 8 m. Trees >5m height were observed along the Southern end of the creek.
- (ix) Mangroves falling under the support pillars (of the steel bridge) will be removed and replanted in the ratio of 1:6.

Tower Location	Access Platform (L x W)	Number of Plants to be Removed	Number of Plants to be Trimmed
Tower no AP29	Access through platform	Tower no. AP20	Clearing of sparsely distributed shrubs (20 m)
Tower no AP30	Access through platform	Tower no. AP19	Clearing of sparsely distributed shrubs (25 m)
Tower no AP19	20 m X 3 m	8 -10 nos.	25 – 30 nos.
Tower no AP20	20 m X 3 m	8 -10 nos.	25 – 30 nos.
Tower no AP35	12 m X 3 m	10 -12 nos.	35 – 40 nos.

Tower Location	Access Platform (L x W)	Number of Plants to be Removed	Number of Plants to be Trimmed
Tower no AP36	10 m X 3 m	8 -10 nos.	25 – 30 nos.
Tower no AP37	Access through platform	Tower no AP36	Clearing of sparsely distributed Prosopis (394 m)
Tower no AP38	15 m X 3 m	12 -15 nos.	70 – 80 nos.
Tower no AP8	Access through platform	Tower no AP38	Clearing of sparsely distributed shrubs (60 m)

- (x) One of the ways to avoid the bird collisions is to improve their visibility. For this purpose, various means are used, like marking the wires with special spirals or bird diverters. Diverter can be used to alert the birds while crossing/passing through to avoid collision.

- (xi) Total project cost is estimated to be 419.76 crores wherein the cost of the project in CRZ is Rs. 337.44 crores.
- (xii) Total employment generated will be 300-500 Numbers
- (xiii) The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the above proposal for clearance vide their letter No. 13524/EC.3/2019-1, dated: 19.08.2019.

2. The project proponent informed the Committee that no towers are being proposed in mangroves area and that bird diversion mechanism is already in practice for the transmission lines erected by TANTRANSO. It was also informed that the ground clearance will be 9m with sagging and the magnetic field will be well above the mangrove canopy. It was further stated that land based ROW will pass through mudflats and other CRZ-IA areas and therefore the proposed alignment has been so designed with least impact to CRZ characteristics of the area. It was further stated that the transmission line will pass through only sparsely and stunted mangrove areas.

3. The Committee deliberated the proposal and the likely implications to CRZ characteristics involved and agreed that the project is a necessity in public interest and the damages to the CRZ characteristics may be temporary in nature compared to the need for the project activity. Based on the deliberations held and submissions made, the Committee therefore recommended the proposal for CRZ clearance subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Necessary clearances under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of mangroves for obtaining ROW for the transmission line shall be obtained.
- (ii) A revised and robust conservation, plantation of native mangroves and management plan for immediate implementation in consultation with the concerned agency in the State shall be submitted within six months to the concerned agency in the State Government and to the Ministry for records.
- (iii) Any physical infrastructure setup during construction period shall be removed simultaneously with completion of laying of each segment of the erection project.
- (iv) As per the Ministry's Office Memorandum F.No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018, and proposed by the project proponent, an amount of Rs. 5.06 crores i.e @1.5% of project Cost) shall be earmarked under Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) for the activities such as support to local government, schools, sanitation and health including construction of public toilets in the surrounding villages, as per need based assessment carried out. The activities proposed under CER shall be restricted to the affected area around the project. The report of compliance of this to be submitted to the regional office of MoEF&CC within one year.
- (v) As an abundant precaution, the project proponent shall get a detailed bird collision prevention plan prepared in consultation with a reputed institute known for their work on migratory species. Appropriate implementation of the recommendation should be done in time bound manner and prior to the operationalization of the transmission. The details of the institute roped in for the task shall be furnished to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry within six months from the grant of clearance. If necessary, adequate financial provision be made for deploying bird diverters or any such measures recommended in the proposed study.

**3.3 Proposal for release of treated wastewater from fish meal and fish oil manufacturing plant at Kius, Taluka Vengurla, District Sindhudurg, in Maharashtra by M/s Akash Fish Meal & Fish Oil Pvt. Ltd. [IA/MH/CRZ/10735/2019] [F.No. 11-29/2019-IA III]- CRZ Clearance.**

The proposal of M/s Akash Fish Meal & Fish Oil Pvt. Ltd is for release of treated wastewater from fish meal and fish oil manufacturing plant at Kius, Taluka Vengurla District Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. The project proponent made a presentation and provided the following information:

- (i) The proposal is for release of 400 CMD treated wastewaters into the coastal waters off Kelus-Khavan-Nevti, Taluka Vengurla, District Sindhudurg, in Maharashtra due to future production capacity enhancement within installed capacity.
- (ii) The treated wastewater will be released through underground HDPE pipes (2 nos.) having diameter of 110 mm and 90 mm diameter (second one as standby) wherein, the distance from the ETP to the Land fall Point (LFP) is about 2.024 km and that of disposal point 6.1 km from LFP.

S. N.	Aspect	Remarks	Classification of zones
1.	Fish Processing Plant	Located beyond 500 m of CRZ boundary	Does not attracts CRZ legislation
2.	Part of Effluent Carrying Pipeline	Within 500 m CRZ boundary	CRZ III
3.	Part of Effluent Carrying Pipeline – Land Fall Point to Out Fall Point	--	CRZ IB & CRZ IV

- (iii) Coastal area Khavne-Kelus-Nevti is a traditional fishing zone and supports moderate demersal fishery.
- (iv) The fresh water requirement is estimated to be 275 CMD and sourced from bore wells within company premises & from nearby villages.
- (v) The total effluent generated is about 400 CMD. Full-fledged in house ETP of 400 CMD designed for Carbon plus Nitrogen removal, four stages in aeration tank to ensure BOD reduction, Nitrification & Denitrification process.
- (vi) The total cost of the project would be Rs.50 Crores.
- (vii) Total employment generated will be 250 direct and 500 indirect (mostly fishermen).
- (viii) The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority has recommended the above proposal for clearance vide their letter No. CRZ 2018/CR 302/TC 4, dated 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.

2. The Committee was informed by the project proponent that the proposed disposal point has been suggested by NIO and at present, the unit is recycling and reusing the effluent generated after treatment in their in-house ETP and the unit is operational since 2016.

3. The Committee noted that the instant proposal for release treated wastewater via underground HDPE pipes having sizes of 110 mm and 90 mm diameter to the sea may not be feasible because of small diameter pipes may lead to perpetual clogging of pipes. The Committee also pointed out that over a course of time the ammonical nitrogen released from

the CETP into the sea may lead to changes in the characteristics of the sea water and thus impact the local marine flora & fauna.

5. In view of the above, the Committee desired that a site visit shall be carried out by a Sub-Committee comprising of Dr. N K Verma, Member (EAC), representative of the Ministry / CPCB and representative of the MPCB or MCZMA and submit a report at an early date. The Committee felt that the said sub-Committee shall decide on the need or otherwise of a rapid marine EIA study.

The Committee decided that once the site visit report/ documents is received then based on the report the item can be placed for reconsideration at a later stage. Accordingly, the proposal was deferred.

### AMENDMENT IN CRZ CLEARANCE

#### 3.4 Versova – Bandra Sea Link Project (VBSLP), Maharashtra by M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) -[IA/MH/CRZ/115777/2019] [F.No. 11-84/2011-IA III]- Amendment in CRZ clearance.

The present proposal by M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is for an amendment of CRZ clearance accorded for the project 'Versova - Bandra Sea Link Project (VBSLP), Maharashtra' vide letter No.11-84/2011-IA.III, dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

M/s MSRDC has now informed about few discrepancies in the CRZ clearance issued and has sought an amendment as follows:

S.N.	Item	Details as per the CRZ clearance	Amendment required	Remarks
1.	Specific condition (i) of the clearance.	.....There would be permanent loss of about 150 sq.m mangroves and 50 sq.m temporary loss during construction....	..... The area of mangroves to be affected will be 2.9907 ha.	Forest clearance (Stage-I) has been granted by MoEFCC on 20.12.2018 for diversion of the 2.9907 ha of forest land.

2. The project proponent informed the Committee that there would be no cutting or diversion of mangroves per say except in respect of 150 sq.m and 50 sq.m (to be read as 1500 sq.m) as mentioned in the clearance, but the work will involve road on stilt or bridge in some mangrove areas. It was therefore stated that diversion of forest area or mangroves of 2.9997 ha is required.

3. The Committee called for the original file maintained in the Ministry wherein CRZ clearance was issued vide letter No.11-84/2011-IA.III, dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 and noted that the EIA Report (August 2011) at chapter 2.6: Project Overview, page no.11 of the report, mentions of 1500 sq.m of mangroves to be affected in various alignments envisaged. The Committee therefore agreed that perhaps the minutes of the meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee had erroneously recorded as 150 sq.m instead of 1500 sq.m and accordingly, the CRZ clearance issued by the Ministry had carried the same.

4. The Committee also discussed the order dated 20.09.2019 of the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in the matter of Notice of motion No. 190 of 2019 in W.P. No. 535 of 2019 and observed that had the project proponent submitted the clarification as given in para no.2 above, perhaps the concern of the Hon'ble High Court could have been addressed on the day the matter came up on 20.09.2019. The Committee therefore decided that the project proponent shall give a written undertaking that cutting of mangroves shall only be 1500 sq.m in total and the diversion of remaining mangrove/forest area is only in respect of right of way for construction of road on stilt or bridge as the case may be. The Committee finally decided that on receipt of the above said undertaking from MSRDC and required information as stated above, necessary amendment may be carried out in the CRZ clearance appropriately by the Ministry.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **3.5 Laying of water supply pipeline crossing of Kaman river on NH-8, near Juchundra village by water pipeline under Surya Integrated Water Supply for Western Sub Region of Mumbai Metropolitan Region by M/s Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority - [F.No. 11-34/2017 IA III]**

This item was chaired by Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, as Dr. Apte recused himself on principle that BNHS advises MMRDA on important issues of environment and also receive financial assistance and may not be appropriate for him to chair the meeting for the item.

M/s Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) was accorded CRZ clearances for the project 'Laying of water supply pipeline under Surya Integrated Water Supply for Western Sub Region of Mumbai Metropolitan Region' which entails crossing of the pipelines on Kaman river on NH-8, near Juchundra village vide letter No.11-34/2017-IA.III, dated 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 and at Sasunavghar, Versova and Ghodbunder villages, Mumbai vide letter No.21-95/2015-IA.III, dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

2. The project proponent informed the Committee that in compliance to the specific condition no. (v) of the CRZ Clearance issued by the Ministry's dated 09.02.2015, requiring permission of Hon'ble High Court for construction activity in mangrove area or its 50 m buffer zone area, MMRDA had approached Hon'ble High Court of Bombay. The Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 20.08.2019 granted permission for start of construction, provided Union of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change certifies that the said construction is not likely to adversely affect the existing mangroves. It was also stated by the project proponent that the drilling work would be carried out 15-30 m depth below the surface.

3. The Committee discussed the likely implications of the project in the context of the said order of the Hon'ble High Court and agreed that with adequate precaution a public utility project such as this pipeline network should not cause adverse impact to mangrove. The Committee also observed that drilling works should be carried out with safety measures in place and shall not be carried out during 10 pm to 6 am under any circumstances.

4. The Committee however observed that while it agrees that prima facie there should not be any impact on the mangroves per se, the project proponent has no material data at hand such as soil characteristics, drilling techniques etc., to satisfy the Committee on this front. The Committee therefore decided that the project proponent shall provide precise information on all issues of vibration including its impact on the surrounding/Mangroves before a go ahead for proceeding is given. On submission of the same the item can be placed for reconsideration.

**3.6 Proposal for shifting the location of the Chennai Beach Manhole (BMH) at Santhome beach by about 48 meters in respect of CANI (Chennai - Andaman & Nicobar Islands) submarine cable system project by M/s Universa' Service Obligation Fund**  
[F.No. 11-28/2018- IA III] – reg.

M/s Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was accorded CRZ clearance for the project 'Laying of Chennai-Andaman Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable System' vide letter No.11-28/2018-IA.III, dated 21.12.2018 & 26.07.2019. M/s USOF has requested for a corrigendum in respect of shifting the location of the Chennai Beach Manhole (BMH) at Santhome beach by about 48 meters for the CANI (Chennai - Andaman & Nicobar Islands) submarine cable system project.

Latitude and Longitude of original approved BMH location	13° 01' 479" N 80° 16' 723" E
Latitude and Longitude of revised BMH location	13° 01' 505" N 80° 16' 725" E

2. The Committee was informed by the project proponent that the distance between the approved BMH of CANI and Airtel BMH is 15 m and that the stratum gets disturbed which might affect the working of Airtel's SMW4 cable systems as the Ocean Ground Bed electrodes have been buried for a distance of about 40 m North from the available BMH. It was therefore desired that permission may be given for shifting of BMH by about 48 m parallel to the coast from the earlier proposed location.

3. The Committee discussed the matter and agreed that the shifting of the location of the Chennai BMH at Santhome beach by about 48 meters will not alter the characteristics of the area vis-à-vis the characteristics of the location as earlier stated by the project proponent. The Committee however noted that the CRZ clearance issued does not find mention about the location of BMH, and therefore there may be no requirement for issuing an amendment to the clearance and only an acknowledgement to the changes desired may be issued and kept on record.

**3.7 Representations on proposed Development of Rail Corridor at Kattupalli Port at Katupalli Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s MIDPL**  
[IA/TN/CRZ/110252/2019] [F.No.11-22/2019-IA.III]- reg.

The proposal of Marine Infrastructure Developer Pvt. Ltd (MIDPL) for Development of Rail Corridor at Kattupalli Port at Katupalli Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu was earlier considered in the 219<sup>th</sup> and 221<sup>st</sup> meetings of the EAC (CRZ) held on 25.07.2019 and 19.08.2019 respectively and the proposal was recommended for CRZ clearance subject to certain conditions.

2. Meanwhile, the Ministry have received representations from few individuals and therefore decided that the project proponent may submit written submissions to the issues flagged in the representations received and refer the same to the Committee for its perusal and observation. The project proponent informed the Committee that the proposed railway project is for the present operational requirement of the port and not a part of the masterplan project and that the proposed rail development project was conceptualized in January, 2017 much before the master plan proposal of M/s MIDPL.

3. The Committee was informed that rail connectivity is a necessity not only from the project proponents benefit but also from environmental perspective and irrespective of the expansion of port project, the rail connectivity is envisaged. The Committee also noted the concerns raised and the reply submitted by the project proponent and agreed that there seem to be no justifiable reason for withholding the project, which is of public importance in the context of the representations placed before the Committee. The Committee also observed that it cannot be unmindful of the benefit of rail transportation vis-à-vis road transportation from environmental perspective and the instant representations does not seem to warrant keeping the project in abeyance. The Committee however decided that the project proponent shall ensure that the project is developed as a role model with minimal adverse impact on the surrounding environment of the route during the course of its construction stage and accordingly shall submit for record to the TNCZMA and the regional office of the Ministry a detailed strategy for work initiated additionally for mitigation of environment impact likely to be caused by the project during construction phase. The Committee reiterated its stand along with recommendation for CRZ clearance made in the last meetings held on 25.07.2019 & 19.08.2019.

#### 4.0 Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

#### 4.1 Laying of 220 kV underground electric cable in CRZ area at Versova, Mumbai Maharashtra by M/s The Tata Power Company Ltd - [F.No. 11-13/2016-IA III] - Amendment in CRZ Clearance

M/s The Tata Power Company Ltd was accorded CRZ clearance for the project 'Laying of 220 kV underground electric cable in CRZ area at Versova, Mumbai Maharashtra' vide letter No.11-13/2016-IA.III, dated 16.08.2018. M/s The Tata Power Company Ltd has now informed of few discrepancies in the clearance issued as follows:

S.N.	Item	Details as per the CRZ clearance	Amendment requested	Remarks
1.	2(v)	The total cost of the project will be Rs. 87.92 crores	The total cost of the project will be Rs. 87.92 crores including the cost of the project in CRZ area i.e. Rs. 43.96 crores.	As mentioned in Form-1
2.	Specific condition (iv)	The project proponent shall regenerate mangroves in consultation with the State Department of Environment/Forest. the areas and extent of regeneration of mangroves shall be decided by the concerned department.	To be deleted.	As there is no mangrove displacement involved and the underground cable project just passes through the permanent road in Mangrove Buffer Zone the condition is not required.

2. The Committee noted that request of M/s The Tata Power Company Limited and agreed that in so far as cost of the project written in the CRZ clearance is concerned, the same may be suitably amended after proper verification in the details given in the Form-I and other

documents submitted by project proponent. Regarding, specific condition no. (iv) of the CRZ clearance, the Ministry may subject to its satisfaction make an amendment appropriately as requested.

There being no agenda item left, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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