

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN BENCH, PUNE
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 73 of 2021

IN THE MATTER OF:

BRACKISH WATER RESEARCH CENTREAPPLICANT (S)

VERSUS

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
 CLIMATE CHANGE & ORS**RESPONDENTS (S)

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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**WESTERN BENCH, PUNE****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 73 of 2021****IN THE MATTER OF:****BRACKISH WATER RESEARCH CENTREAPPLICANT (S)****VERSUS****MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
CLIMATE CHANGE & ORS ...RESPONDENTS (S)****AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.****MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

I, E. Thirunavukkarasu S/o Shri M. Elangovan, aged about 55 years, currently working as Scientist 'E' in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) at Nagpur, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. That I, in my official capacity of Scientist 'E' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, RO Nagpur, in the above mentioned matter, am authorized by the Competent Authority in the Ministry to swear this affidavit on behalf of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

2. That this affidavit is being filed by the Ministry in pursuance of the Order dated 19.12.2022 and 17.04.2023 whereby the Hon'ble Tribunal had mentioned



indicative timelines i.e. ten months for completion of the study by CSIR-NIO, and the order was communicated to all the stakeholders for implementation.

3. That it is humbly submitted that MoEF&CC issued an order on 01.12.2022 regarding the allocation of sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹8.17 lakhs as the first instalment, out of total ₹15.76 lakhs. CSIR-NIO was expected to submit the report in 12 months, and another 12 months were kept for additional residuary work by the CSIR-NIO consortium on the matter, after the submission of the first set of recommendations to the Hon'ble NGT. The sanction order dated 01.12.2022 is marked and annexed as **Annexure-1**.

4. That vide mail dated 17.01.2023, CPCB informed CSIR-NIO that the sanctioned amount of ₹8.17 lakhs has been transferred as the first instalment. A copy of the mail dated 17.01.2023 is marked and annexed as **Annexure-2**.

5. That vide OM dated 26.05.2023, the MoEF&CC communicated the direction passed by the Hon'ble NGT order dated 17.04.2023 to CSIR-NIO and CPCB, that the study to be completed within 10 months (from 01.12.2022), and also authorized CPCB for re-allocation of the amount for the financial year 2023-2024. A copy of the letter dated 26.05.2023 is marked and annexed as **Annexure-3**.

6. That vide letter dated 29.05.2023, CSIR-NIO has represented before this Ministry that the amount from CPCB is transferred on 10.01.2023, which is



after 40 days of the project sanction date, and as such the activities can be commenced only after the receipt of funds. Hence, the project initiation date may be reconsidered as 10.01.2023 giving additional 40 days for undertaking the work. A copy of the letter dated 29.05.2023 is marked and annexed as **Annexure-4.**

7. That, in view of the above submission of CSIR-NIO, it is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly consider the project initiation date as 10.01.2023 and pass such order(s) as may deem fit & proper in the facts and circumstances of this case.

(मुद्रित नाम) (E)
(MAGSIA) (MAGSIA)
E
प्रकार, (MAGSIA)
संस्था, (MAGSIA)
पता, (MAGSIA)
100001



Deponent
(ई. थिरुनावुक्करसु)
(E. Thirunavukkarasu)
वैज्ञानिक-ई/Scientist-E
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नागपुर-४४०००९
Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur-440001



VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct on the basis of official record maintained by the Ministry in daily course of its business, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Nagpur on this 19th day of July, 2023.

Deponent

(ई. थिरुनावुक्करसु)
(E. Thirunavukkarasu)
वैज्ञानिक-ई/Scientist-E
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत प्रशासनिक इकाई, नागपुर-४४०००९
Integrated Administrative Unit, Nagpur-440001

(ई. थिरुनावुक्करसु)
(E. Thirunavukkarasu)
वैज्ञानिक-ई/Scientist-E
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत प्रशासनिक इकाई, नागपुर-४४०००९
Integrated Administrative Unit, Nagpur-440001

NOTARIAL REG
ENTRY No. 24014
DATE 19/7/2023

SEAL OF NOTARY
Mrs. KHURANA
NAGPUR
DISTT. (M.B.)
REG. No. 6386
GOVT. OF INDIA

SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 19th
DAY OF July 2023 AT NAGPUR BY
SHRI / SMT./ Ku E. Thirunavukkarasu
R/o NAGPUR, WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY
SHRI / SMT. Arundhati Roy, Adx.
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR

NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
NAGPUR (M.S.) INDIA

NOTARY
Mrs. CHANCHAL KHURANA
Nagpur Dist.
(M.S.) INDIA
Regd. No. 6386
GOVT. OF INDIA

NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL

Annexure-1

File No. 11/22/2022 (Part)-HSMD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
HSM Division

Jal Block, Level-I
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 1st December, 2022

To,

The Pay and Accounts Officer,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Central Financial Assistance for Study on "Formation of tarballs along the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa coasts: Constraints on possible sources and mitigation measures" to be conducted by CSIR-NIO-reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the project proposal forwarded by CSIR-NIO vide letter dated 12th August, 2022 for conducting a study "Formation of tarballs along the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa coasts: Constraints on possible sources and mitigation measures".

2. In this regard, I am directed to convey the sanction of the President for an amount of Rs.15.76 lakhs for a period of 2 years for conducting a study to understand various possible sources of oil spills, which leads the formation of tar balls all along the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa shorelines. Based on the results of this study, the suggestions for possible mitigation measures and the standard operating procedures concerning the different identified oil spill sources would be formulated aligning with the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plans (NOSDCPs).

3. The TOR of the study was identified during the meeting of technical sub-committee constituted by MoEF&CC and it was decided that objectives of the study should comply with the TOR as identified below;

- Identification of various sources of tar balls covering all possible scenarios like operation of off-shore oil fields, ship leakages/ discharges, oil spill events etc.
- Review the current mechanism of addressing tar-ball problem at Indian coasts/ beaches and identification of gaps
- Suggest preventive measures required at source in respect of all scenarios like operation of off-shore oil fields, ship leakages/ discharges, oil spill events etc. to minimize leakage of oil/ petroleum materials that eventually lead to formation of tar-balls
- Study of global best practices on prevention of tar balls formation and measures taken to contain tar ball pollution
- Suggest viable mechanisms to arrest tar-balls at Sea, based on global practices

Page 1 of 4

- Suggest introducing administrative and technical frameworks for monitoring/ under relevant statutes, in line with the Allocation of Business Rules of various nodal agencies
- Prepare detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for typical tar-ball sources like offshore Oil field operators, Passenger Ships/ Cargo Vessels, Oil Spill events etc., in alignment with the National Oil-Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP).

4. The Central financial assistance will be released in 3 instalments to **CSIR-NIO** in the following pattern:

S.No.	1 st Instalment	2 nd and Final Instalment
1.	Rs. 8.17 lakh – along with Sanction order.	Rs. 7.59 Lakh- after 1 year of providing support along with progress report and UC of 1st release.

5. The Grant -in-aid General will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules, 2017 as amended from time-to-time, read with the Government of India's decisions incorporated below:

- The relevant provision of GFR 2017 and guidelines for GeM should be strictly followed for purchase of two Apple iMac computers and three Windows laptops. These items will be property of the M/o EF&CC and proper inventory records shall be maintained by HSM Division/ GA Section.
- The digital content shall be uploaded and kept at Ministry's website.
- Social media team will support activities of HSM Division for the period of 2 years.
- The pattern of Assistance of rules governing such Grants-in Aid have received the approval of the Ministry of Finance, as required under Government of India Decision No. 1 under DFPR-Rules 20.
- The accounts of CSIR-NIO which is beneficiary as per the proposal, shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry or Department whenever it is called upon to do so.
- CSIR-NIO may furnish their performance -cum-achievement report to the sanctioning authority.
- CSIR-NIO will spend amount exclusively for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned.

- h. CSIR-NIO will submit the audited utilization certificate, Expenditure Statement for the unspent balance and the amount being released.
- i. Grants-in-Aid shall be utilized before the end of the current financial year and unspent balance, if any, will be refunded to the Govt. of India or will be carry over to next year.
- j. CSIR-NIO would maintain a separate register and accounts for the sub-programme to facilitate proper audit.
- k. CSIR-NIO will maintain and will present their annual accounts in the standard format as required under GFR 209 (xiii).
- l. Payments towards wages/remuneration as well as other contractual obligations will made through bank accounts of recipients
- m. Evidence of deposit of TDS/ Service Tax in case of contract payments and CST in case of purchase of leviable goods.
- n. The fixed assets created out of this grant shall not be disposed off without concurrence of this Ministry. The equipment should be purchased as per GFR norms.
- o. A separate bank account shall be opened for the purpose and the account shall be open for audit by C&AG.
- p. Copy of purchase of permanent equipment may be furnished.
- q. All measurable parameters are to be adhered to.
6. The Drawing and Disbursing Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is hereby authorized to prepare and submit the bill for **Rs. 8.17 lakh i.e. first instalment** to Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to make payment electronically i.e. through CBS/RTGS to Central Pollution Control Board, the designated Central Nodal Agency of the Central Sector Scheme of HSM Division which shall further transfer the funds to CSIR-NIO, in terms of the provisions of the DoE OM dated 9.3.2022. The bank account details of the Central Nodal Agency and Sub-agency are as follows:

CPCB-Central Nodal Agency of Central Sector Scheme of HSM Division

Saving Account Number	110053858404
Account Title	CPCB CNA HSM 2402
Name of the Bank & Branch	Canara Bank, Karkardooma Branch, Delhi-110092
Beneficiary's Name	CPCB
IFSC Code	CNRB0003333
MICR Code	110015195

Sub-Agency –CSIR-NIO

Saving Account Number	110087005645
Account Title	CSIR NIO HSM
Name of the Bank & Branch	Canara Bank, Panaji Branch, Mathias Plaza, 18th June Road, PANAJI
Beneficiary's Name	CSIR NIO HSM
IFSC Code	CNRB0000308
MICR Code	403015002

7. It is certified that this is the first release under the project and no earlier Utilization Certificate is pending against CSIR-NIO for this project.

8. The amount of Rs. 8.17 lakh will be debitible to HSMD budget head 3435.03.104.12.05.31-Grant-in-Aid General under Demand No. 27 for FY 2022-23 of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change during the current Financial Year 2022-23 (Plan).

9. It has been mentioned at Sl. No. 7 in the Expenditure Register under Major Head 3435.03.104.12.05.31- Grant-in-Aid General.

10. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority and with concurrence of the AS&FA (IFD) vide their Dy. E-187632 dated 13.10.2022.

Yours faithfully,


(Ved Prakash Mishra)
Director

Copy to:-

- i. Cash Section (2 copies), MoEF&CC
- ii. Mr. G. Thirumurthy, Divisional Head, PCP Division, CPCB
- iii. CSIR-NIO
- iv. The Director of Audit, CW&M-II, AGCR Building, New Delhi 110002
- v. IFD, MoEF&CC
- vi. B&A Division, MoEF&CC
- vii. PPS to AS(NPG)
- viii. Guard File/Sanction Folder/Budget File.


(Ved Prakash Mishra)
Director

90884/2022/HSM
808628/2022/HSM
Sanction Letter

575

No. 11/22/2022(Part)-HSMD
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF 079-ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS

DATED: 01/12/2022

To,
The Principal Accounts Officer
079-ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS

Sub: Release of Grants-in-aid under 2402-Hazardous Substances Management (HSM) to the state of Govt. of

Agency Name
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

for the year 2023.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the sanction of the President of India to the payment of Rs 817000 (Rupees eight lakh(s) seventeen thousand only) to the State Government of

Agency Name	Amount
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD	817000

towards first/second installment of grants under 2402-Hazardous Substances Management (HSM) for _____ during the year 2023.

- This grant is towards plan expenditure and should be utilized on the programme as per approved guidelines of 2402-Hazardous Substances Management (HSM) and no deviation from the provisions of guidelines is permissible.
- The State Government should release its share immediately on the receipt of this Central share for this programme as per guidelines of this scheme.
- The State government will furnish the certificate of actual utilization of this grant within twelve months of the closure of accounts. In respect of expenditure by the state government through local bodies or private institutes the utilization certificate is required to be furnished by the state government.
- The above expenditure is debitable to the following head of accounts in the financial year 2023.
Demand No 028-Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Major Head 3435
Sub-Major Head 03
Minor Head 104
Sub-Head 12
Detailed Head 05
Object Head 31-GRANTS-IN-AID GENERAL (PLAN)

6. No utilization is pending against

Agency Name	Amount
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD	817000

under the scheme.

7. Principal Accounts Office may issue an advice to Reserve Bank of India, Central Accounts Section, Nagpur for affording credit of Rs 817000 (Rupees eight lakh(s) seventeen thousand only) to the State Government of

Agency Name
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

with copies endorsed to Accountant General and Finance Department of State Government of

Agency Name	Amount
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD	817000

8. The pattern of assistance or rules governing such grants-in-aid have received the approval of Ministry of Finance as required under Govt. of India Decision(1) below Rule 20 of Delegation of Financial Powers.

9. This issues with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division vide their Diary No E-187632/IFD(AS&FA) dated 13/10/2022

Yours faithfully,
()
DY.SECRETARY/DIRECTOR/UNDER SECRETARY/DESK OFFICER



Annexure-2

Sadhana Mishra <mishra.sadh@gmail.com>

Fwd: Allocation of funds / drawing limit to Sub-Agency (CSIR-NIO) under Central Sector Scheme- HSM – 2402 – Reg.

2 messages

Dinesh Runiwal <d.runiwal@gov.in>
To: mishra sadh <mishra.sadh@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 10:16 AM

with regards,

Dinesh Runiwal
Scientist-E/ Addl. Director
Hazardous Substances Management Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

From: "PCP , CPCB" <pcp.cpcb@gov.in>
To: "Director NIO" <director@nio.org>, "Dr. Suneel Vasimalla" <suneel@nio.org>, "Kishan Kunkolikar" <kishan@nio.org>
Cc: "Member Secretary CPCB" <mscb.cpcb@gov.in>, "G Thirumurthy, CPCB" <thiru.cpcb@nic.in>, "anamika cpcb" <anamika.cpcb@gmail.com>, "Abu Huzaifa" <abuhuzaifa.cpcb@supportgov.in>, "diganta kalita" <dkalita.cpcb@nic.in>, "Ved Prakash Mishra" <mishra.vp@gov.in>, "Dinesh Runiwal" <d.runiwal@gov.in>, "N Subrahmanyam" <n.subrahmanyam@gov.in>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:11:07 AM
Subject: Allocation of funds / drawing limit to Sub-Agency (CSIR-NIO) under Central Sector Scheme- HSM – 2402 – Reg.

Sir / Madam,

In accordance with the Department of Expenditure (DoE) OM dated 09.03.2022, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has nominated Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for Central Sector Scheme (CSS) - **Hazardous Substance Management** (HSM – 2402) and all the beneficiaries/implementing agencies are considered as Sub-Agencies (SAs). Copy of designation letter dated 28.06.2022 with OM dated 09.03.2022 is attached.

2. Further, MoEF&CC has nominated / authorized Canara Bank as an authorised banker for Central Nodal Agency associated with the Central Sector Scheme of HSM. The funds for the projects/activities sanctioned under CSS-HSM by MoEF&CC is being transferred to implementing agencies that are designated as Sub-Agencies through CPCB.

3. CPCB has **allocated the sanctioned funds / drawing limits i.e. Rs. 8.17 lakhs** as first instalment out of Rs. 15.76 lakhs for 2 years to the following bank account as per MoEF&CC sanction order dated 01.12.2022 for CSIR-NIO in relation to the Hon'ble NGT matter of Brackish Water Research Centre Vs GPCB & Ors. (OA No.73 of 2021) under the scheme "**HSM-2402**" for study on "formation of Tar-balls along the coast of Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra: constraints on possible sources and mitigation measures". Copy of letter dated 10.01.2023 issued to Bank for allocation of fund is attached.

Sub-Agency / Beneficiary Account Name	Account Number	IFSC Code	Sanctioned funds / Drawing limits
CSIR NIO HSM	110087005645	CNRB0000308	Rs. 8.17 lakhs as first instalment out of Rs. 15.76 lakhs for 2 years

In view of the above, it is requested that kindly acknowledge the receipt of the payment / allocated funds by return mail. It is also requested that kindly ensure that funds are utilized as per terms and conditions of

MoEF&CC sanctioned order and **expenditure should be made through PFMS system** only. Copy of sanction order is also attached for kind reference please.

With Regards

G. Thirumurthy
Additional Director &
DH-PCP Division,
Central Pollution Control Board,
Delhi - 110032
Phone: 011-43102336,



3 attachments

- Letter to Bank for allocation of drawing limit_Mizoram SPCB and CSIR NIO -HSM-2402.pdf**
397K
- CSIR NIO Sanction Order_HSM-2402.pdf**
179K
- Designation of CNA_HSM 2402 .pdf**
3900K

Sadhana Mishra <mishra.sadh@gmail.com>
To: rahul.garg@mgklegal.com

Mon, Jan 30, 2023 at 3:52 PM

Sir,

As discussed, please find attached the requisite documents for kind information and perusal.

Thanks & Regards
Sadhana Mishra
Associate (Legal)
MoEF&CC, GoI.
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

- Letter to Bank for allocation of drawing limit_Mizoram SPCB and CSIR NIO -HSM-2402.pdf**
397K
- CSIR NIO Sanction Order_HSM-2402.pdf**
179K

 **Designation of CNA_HSM 2402 .pdf**
3900K

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

HSM Division

Jal Block, Level-II
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 26th May, 2023**OFFICE MEMORENDUM**

Sub: Central Financial Assistance for Study on “Formation of tarballs along the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa coasts: Constraints on possible sources and mitigation measures” to be conducted by CSIR-NIO-reg.

**Ref: 1) CSIR-NIO letter dated: 19th May, 2023
2) MoEFCC Sanction Order dated: 1st December, 2022**

In pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No.73 of 2021-Brackish water Research Centre Vs Gujarat Pollution Control Board and Ors, the MoEFCC had awarded a study to a consortium of CSIR-NIO, CPCB and MoPNG, on “Formation of tarballs along the Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa coasts: Constraints on possible sources and mitigation measures” wherein, CSIR-NIO was the lead agency, while Central Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas were co-lead agencies. The project amount was ₹15.76 Lakhs with 2 years of duration.

2. To enable CSIR-NIO to initiate the study, an amount of ₹8.17 Lakhs was transferred in the FY-2022-2023 as first instalment. However, CSIR-NIO informed that, funds were not utilised in the FY-2022-2023 and the same were lapsed on 31st March, 2023 due to financial closure. Thereafter, CSIR-NIO vide letter dated 19th May, 2023 has requested for re-allocation of the amount for the FY-2023-2024 so that study objectives and activities be completed.

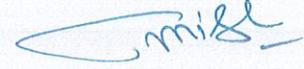
3. The matter was examined in the Ministry and it was noted that the proposal already had the approval of the Competent Authority, IFD concurrence and do not entail fresh disbursement through MoEF&CC for the first installment. Accordingly, CPCB is requested to transfer the funds again to CSIR-NIO to the tune of ₹8.17 Lakhs so that project related activities may be initiated without any delay.

4. Further, as per latest order of Hon'ble NGT dated 17th May, 2023, the study is to be completed within 10 months (*from 01-12-2022*), hence, CSIR-NIO, CPCB and MoPNG are

requested to expedite the project related work, and ensure that a report is submitted to MoEFCC by 15th September, 2023, enabling its perusal at the level of Joint Committee and Technical Sub-Committee constituted in the matter. Additionally, as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT, the aspect of requirement of a corpus fund for undertaking shore clean-up activities in the affected states may also be examined, and appropriate recommendations may be made. The next day of the hearing of the case is 03.11.2023.

Enclosure: As above.

Yours faithfully,



(Ved Prakash Mishra)

Director

To,

The Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar
New Delhi-110032

Copy to:

1. Mr. G. Thirumurthy,
Divisional Head, PCP Division, CPCB
2. Dr. Suneel Vasimalla,
Senior Scientist, CSIR-NIO,
Dona Paula, Goa-403 004



सी एस आई आर - राष्ट्रीय समुद्र विज्ञान संस्थान
(वैज्ञानिक एवं औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद)
दोना पावला, गोवा 403 004 भारत
CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
DONA PAULA, GOA - 403 004, India



Date: 29.05.2023

To

The Director
HSM Division (2402)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi -110003

Sub: Project Initiation date regarding

Dear Sir,

Please refer to the OM issued by the MoEF&CC, HSM Division, dated 26.05.2023 (File No. 11/22/2022 (part)-HSMD. Point no. 4 indicates that the study is to be conducted within ten months from 01.12.2022. Also, please refer to the Hon'ble NGT hearing order dated 17.04.2023. Point No. 3 indicates that the timeline should be strictly followed from 01.12.2022. In this context, I would like to inform you that although the project sanction order was issued on 01.12.2022, funds were released only on 10 January 2023. Please refer to the letter issued by CPCB to the Bank dated 10 January 2023, No. AC/CP/Bank/2022-23 (attached here). Thus, the project activities were started only after 10 January 2023, which is after 40 days of the project sanction date.

Further, the total released funds became nil on 31 March 2023 and have not yet been reallocated. Thus, the funds were with NIO only for 80 days. Therefore, I request that you kindly consider the project initiation date as 10.01.2023.

Yours sincerely

(Dr.Suneel Vasimalla)

PL of the Project

Copy to: Mr G. Thirumurthy, Divisional Head, PCP Division, CPCB,

Mr. Dinesh Runiwal, Hazardous Substances Management (HSM), MoEF&CC