

By E- mail

**Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department**

No. FE-ENVI-CASE-0026-2021/ 22659 / FE&CC, Date. 23 /12/2021

From

Sri Madhusudan Dash, OAS(SAG)
Additional Secretary to Government

To

Sri Shakti Prasad Panda, Addl. Govt. Advocate,
O/o the Advocate General, Cuttack

Sub: Regarding submission of six copies of counter affidavit before Hon'ble NGT
in Appeal No. 02/2021(EZ) titled as Prafulla Samantaray Vs. UoI & Others.

Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith six copies of counter affidavit before Hon'ble NGT in
Appeal No. 02/2021(EZ) titled as Prafulla Samantaray Vs. UoI & Others for the same filing
before Hon'ble NGT.

This is for your information & necessary action.

Enclosed-As above

Yours faithfully,


23.12.21
Additional Secretary to Govt.

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA.**

Appeal No.02 of 2021(EZ)

In the matter of:

Prafulla Samantaray. Appellant

-Versus-

Union of India and Others. Respondents

I N D E X

Sl. No.	Description of documents.	Pages
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- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Affidavit filed on behalf of Respondent no. 2. | 1- 3 |
| 2. | <u>Annexure-1.</u>
True copy of Extract of EIA Notification, 2006. | 4 -14 |
-

Cuttack.

Dt. 23.12.2021

Shashi Sundar
Advocate for the Respondent No. 2.

NDA
ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE
B.C.E.No-G-07/1993
Mobile-8847811581



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL EASTERN
ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA.**

Appeal No. 02 of 2021(EZ)

In the matter of:

Prafulla Samantaray.

..... Appellant

-Versus-

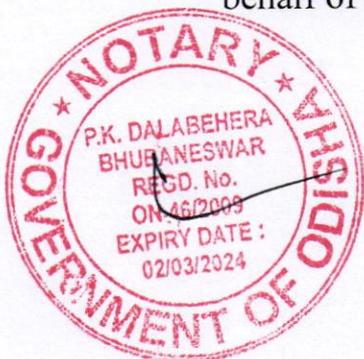
Union of India and Others.

..... Respondents

AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2

I, Shri Madhusudan Dash, aged about 55 years, Son of Maguni Charan Dash, at present serving as Additional Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha, At: Kharvela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I have been duly authorized by the Respondent No. 2 (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha) to file necessary affidavit in this case. I have gone through the case records and well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of this case and swearing this affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 2.



Madhusudan Dash

x

h
PRAFULLA PANDA
ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE
B.C.E.No-0-07/1993
Mobile-8847811581

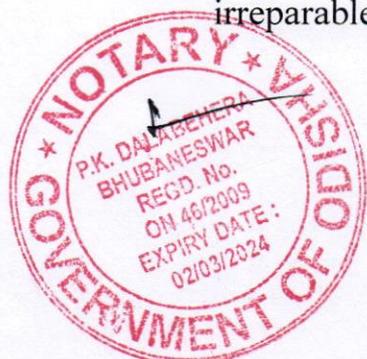
2. That the Appellant has filed the aforesaid Appeal before the Hon'ble Bench under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 against the grant of Environmental Clearance dated 02.02.2021 granted by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi to M/s NLCIL, and praying for quashing of the same along with other consequential relief.

3. That it is respectfully submitted that the appellant has made State of Odisha as Respondent No. 2 in the aforesaid case. However, it is pertinent to mention here that as per EIA Notification, 2006, grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) for category "A" Projects does not come under the purview of the State Government and has no role to play. In the premises aforesaid, the name of State- Respondent No. 2 may kindly be deleted from the Cause Title in the aforesaid case as the Respondent No.2 is neither a necessary nor a proper party. True copy of EIA Notification, 2006 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-1**.

Dash
P. K. Dasgupta

4. That in the interest of justice, the name of the State –Respondent No.2 may kindly be deleted from the Cause Title. Unless, the aforesaid order is passed, the State-Respondent No.2 shall suffer irreparable injury and substantial loss.

SHAKTI PRASAD PANDA
ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE
B.C.E.No-O-07/1993
Mobile-8847811581



5. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and based on official records.

Identified by:

✓
* *Madhusudan Dash*
23.12.21
Deponent

AFFIDAVIT.

I, Sri Madhusudan Dash, aged about 55 years, Son of Maguni Charan Dash at present serving as Additional Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha, At: Kharvela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows :-

1. That I have been duly authorised by the Respondent No. 2 (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha) to swear this affidavit on his behalf. I am well acquainted with the facts of the case.
2. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief based on official record.

Identified by: *ME* He above named deponent being identified by *P.K.*
ADV BBSR appears before me and state at
on *23/12/21* at about *2.20* AM/PM
that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of
my knowledge

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC
BHUBANESWAR

✓
* *Madhusudan Dash*
Deponent 23.12.21

VERIFICATION

I, Sri Madhusudan Dash, aged about 55 years, Son of Maguni Charan Dash, at present serving as Additional Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha, At/P.O.- Kharvela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda, do hereby verify and state that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and based on Official records and I signed this verification on this 23rd day of December, 2021 at Cuttack.

hwr
SHAKTI PRASAD PANDA
ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE
B.C.E.No.-O-07/1993
Mobile-8847811581

* *Madhusudan Dash*
Verificant 23.12.21





भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1067]
No. 1067]

नई दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, सितम्बर 14, 2006/भाद्र 23, 1928
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006/BHADRA 23, 1928

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 14 सितम्बर, 2006

का.आ. 1533(अ).—केंद्रीय सरकार या केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा राज्य सरकार या संबंधित संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासन के परामर्श से गठित किए जाने वाले राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण द्वारा इस अधिसूचना के प्रयोजन के लिए पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन संघ मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा 18 मई, 2006 को अनुमोदित राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण नीति और अधिसूचना में विनिर्दिष्ट प्रक्रिया के उद्देश्यों के अनुसार जब तक पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति अभिलिखित नहीं हो जाती है, भारत के किसी भाग में, नई परियोजनाओं या क्रियाकलापों पर या इस अधिसूचना की अनुसूची में यथा उपवर्णित उनके सक्षम पर्यावरणीय समाघातों पर विद्यमान परियोजनाओं या क्रियाकलापों के विस्तार या आधुनिकीकरण पर कतिपय निर्बंधन और प्रतिषेध अधिरोपित करने के लिए, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियम, 1986 के नियम 5 के उपनियम (3) के अधीन एक प्रारूप अधिसूचना भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग 2, खंड 3, उपखंड (ii) में, का०आ० सं० 1324(अ), तारीख 15 सितंबर, 2005 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गई थी जिसमें उन सभी व्यक्तियों से, जिनके उनसे प्रभावित होने की संभावना है, उस तारीख से, जिसको उक्त अधिसूचना को अंतर्विष्ट करने वाले राजपत्र की प्रतियां जनता को उपलब्ध करा दी गई थीं, साठ दिन की अवधि के भीतर आक्षेप और सुझाव आमंत्रित किए गए थे ;

और उक्त अधिसूचना की प्रतियां 15 सितंबर, 2005 को जनता को उपलब्ध करा दी गई थीं ;

और ऊपर उल्लिखित प्रारूप अधिसूचना के उत्तर में प्राप्त सभी आपेक्षों और सुझावों पर केन्द्रीय सरकार ने सम्यक् रूप से विचार कर लिया है ।

2900 GI/2006

(1)

True copy attested

SB
Dish
23.12.2021

Section Officer
Forest, Env. & Climate Change Deptt.

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 14th September, 2006

S.O. 1533(E).—Whereas, a draft notification under Sub-rule (3) of Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 for imposing certain restrictions and prohibitions on new projects or activities, or on the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities based on their potential environmental impacts as indicated in the Schedule to the notification, being undertaken in any part of India¹, unless prior environmental clearance has been accorded in accordance with the objectives of National Environment Policy as approved by the Union Cabinet on 18th May, 2006 and the procedure specified in the notification, by the Central Government or the State or Union Territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), to be constituted by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government or the Union Territory Administration concerned under Sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of this notification, was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 1324(E), dated the 15th September, 2005 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on 15th September, 2005;

And whereas, all objections and suggestions received in response to the above mentioned draft notification have been duly considered by the Central Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and in supersession of the notification number S.O. 60 (E) dated the 27th January, 1994, except in respect of things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that on and from the date of its publication the required construction of new projects or activities or the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification entailing capacity addition with change in process and or technology shall be undertaken in any part of India only after the prior environmental clearance from the Central Government or as the case may be, by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, duly constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, in accordance with the procedure specified hereinafter in this notification.

¹Includes the territorial waters

2. Requirements of prior Environmental Clearance (EC):- The following projects or activities shall require prior environmental clearance from the concerned regulatory authority, which shall hereinafter referred to be as the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for matters falling under Category 'A' in the Schedule and at State level the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for matters falling under Category 'B' in the said Schedule, before any construction work, or preparation of land by the project management except for securing the land, is started on the project or activity:

- (i) All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;
- (ii) Expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization;

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[Signature]
23.12.2021

**Section Officer
Forest, Env. & Climate Change Deptt.**

(iii) Any change in product - mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range.

3. State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority:- (1) A State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority hereinafter referred to as the SEIAA shall be constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 comprising of three Members including a Chairman and a Member – Secretary to be nominated by the State Government or the Union territory Administration concerned.

- (2) The Member-Secretary shall be a serving officer of the concerned State Government or Union territory administration familiar with environmental laws.
- (3) The other two Members shall be either a professional or expert fulfilling the eligibility criteria given in Appendix VI to this notification.
- (4) One of the specified Members in sub-paragraph (3) above who is an expert in the Environmental Impact Assessment process shall be the Chairman of the SEIAA.
- (5) The State Government or Union territory Administration shall forward the names of the Members and the Chairman referred in sub- paragraph 3 to 4 above to the Central Government and the Central Government shall constitute the SEIAA as an authority for the purposes of this notification within thirty days of the date of receipt of the names.
- (6) The non-official Member and the Chairman shall have a fixed term of three years (from the date of the publication of the notification by the Central Government constituting the authority).
- (7) All decisions of the SEIAA shall be unanimous and taken in a meeting.

4. Categorization of projects and activities:-

(i) All projects and activities are broadly categorized in to two categories - Category A and Category B, based on the spatial extent of potential impacts and potential impacts on human health and natural and man made resources.

(ii) All projects or activities included as Category 'A' in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities and change in product mix, shall require prior environmental clearance from the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on the recommendations of an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to be constituted by the Central Government for the purposes of this notification;

(iii) All projects or activities included as Category 'B' in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities as specified in sub paragraph (ii) of paragraph 2, or change in product mix as specified in sub paragraph (iii) of paragraph 2, but excluding those which fulfill the General Conditions (GC) stipulated in the Schedule, will require prior environmental clearance from the State/Union territory Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The SEIAA shall base its decision on the recommendations of a State or Union territory level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as to be constituted for in this notification. In the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA or SEAC, a Category 'B' project shall be treated as a Category 'A' project;

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23.12.2021

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5. Screening, Scoping and Appraisal Committees:-

The same Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) at the Central Government and SEACs (hereinafter referred to as the (EAC) and (SEAC) at the State or the Union territory level shall screen, scope and appraise projects or activities in Category 'A' and Category 'B' respectively. EAC and SEAC's shall meet at least once every month.

- (a) The composition of the EAC shall be as given in Appendix VI. The SEAC at the State or the Union territory level shall be constituted by the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government or the Union territory Administration with identical composition;
- (b) The Central Government may, with the prior concurrence of the concerned State Governments or the Union territory Administrations, constitute one SEAC for more than one State or Union territory for reasons of administrative convenience and cost;
- (c) The EAC and SEAC shall be reconstituted after every three years;
- (d) The authorised members of the EAC and SEAC, concerned, may inspect any site(s) connected with the project or activity in respect of which the prior environmental clearance is sought, for the purposes of screening or scoping or appraisal, with prior notice of at least seven days to the applicant, who shall provide necessary facilities for the inspection;
- (e) The EAC and SEACs shall function on the principle of collective responsibility. The Chairperson shall endeavour to reach a consensus in each case, and if consensus cannot be reached, the view of the majority shall prevail.

6. Application for Prior Environmental Clearance (EC):-

An application seeking prior environmental clearance in all cases shall be made in the prescribed Form 1 annexed herewith and Supplementary Form 1A, if applicable, as given in Appendix II, after the identification of prospective site(s) for the project and/or activities to which the application relates, before commencing any construction activity, or preparation of land, at the site by the applicant. The applicant shall furnish, along with the application, a copy of the pre-feasibility project report except that, in case of construction projects or activities (item 8 of the Schedule) in addition to Form 1 and the Supplementary Form 1A, a copy of the conceptual plan shall be provided, instead of the pre-feasibility report.

7. Stages in the Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) Process for New Projects:-

7(i) The environmental clearance process for new projects will comprise of a maximum of four stages, all of which may not apply to particular cases as set forth below in this notification. These four stages in sequential order are:-

- Stage (1) Screening (Only for Category 'B' projects and activities)
- Stage (2) Scoping
- Stage (3) Public Consultation
- Stage (4) Appraisal

1. Stage (1) - Screening:

In case of Category 'B' projects or activities, this stage will entail the scrutiny of an application seeking prior environmental clearance made in Form 1 by the concerned State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for determining whether or not the project or activity

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Datta
23.12.2021

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Forest, Env. & Climate Change Deptt.

requires further environmental studies for preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its appraisal prior to the grant of environmental clearance depending up on the nature and location specificity of the project . The projects requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be termed Category 'B1' and remaining projects shall be termed Category 'B2' and will not require an Environment Impact Assessment report. For categorization of projects into B1 or B2 except item 8 (b), the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall issue appropriate guidelines from time to time.

II. Stage (2) - Scoping:

(i) "Scoping": refers to the process by which the Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'A' projects or activities, and State level Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'B1' projects or activities, including applications for expansion and/or modernization and/or change in product mix of existing projects or activities, determine detailed and comprehensive Terms Of Reference (TOR) addressing all relevant environmental concerns for the preparation of an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in respect of the project or activity for which prior environmental clearance is sought. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall determine the Terms of Reference on the basis of the information furnished in the prescribed application Form I/Form 1A including Terms of Reference proposed by the applicant, a site visit by a sub- group of Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned only if considered necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant if furnished and other information that may be available with the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. All projects and activities listed as Category 'B' in Item 8 of the Schedule (Construction/Township/Commercial Complexes /Housing) shall not require Scoping and will be appraised on the basis of Form I/ Form 1A and the conceptual plan.

(ii) The Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be conveyed to the applicant by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee as concerned within sixty days of the receipt of Form I. In the case of Category A Hydroelectric projects Item 1(c) (i) of the Schedule the Terms of Reference shall be conveyed along with the clearance for pre-construction activities. If the Terms of Reference are not finalized and conveyed to the applicant within sixty days of the receipt of Form I, the Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant shall be deemed as the final Terms of Reference approved for the EIA studies. The approved Terms of Reference shall be displayed on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the concerned State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

(iii) Applications for prior environmental clearance may be rejected by the regulatory authority concerned on the recommendation of the EAC or SEAC concerned at this stage itself. In case of such rejection, the decision together with reasons for the same shall be communicated to the applicant in writing within sixty days of the receipt of the application.

III. Stage (3) - Public Consultation:

(i) "Public Consultation" refers to the process by which the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to taking into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate. All Category 'A' and Category B1 projects or activities shall undertake Public Consultation, except the following:-

- (a) modernization of irrigation projects (item 1(c) (ii) of the Schedule).

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 Section Officer
 Forest, Env. & Climate Change Deptt.

- 9 -
- (b) all projects or activities located within industrial estates or parks (item 7(c) of the Schedule) approved by the concerned authorities, and which are not disallowed in such approvals.
- (c) expansion of Roads and Highways (item 7 (f) of the Schedule) which do not involve any further acquisition of land.
- (d) all Building /Construction projects/Area Development projects and Townships (item 8).
- (e) all Category 'B2' projects and activities.
- (f) all projects or activities concerning national defence and security or involving other strategic considerations as determined by the Central Government.
- (ii) The Public Consultation shall ordinarily have two components comprising of:-
- (a) a public hearing at the site or in its close proximity- district wise, to be carried out in the manner prescribed in Appendix IV, for ascertaining concerns of local affected persons;
- (b) obtain responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity.
- (iii) the public hearing at, or in close proximity to, the site(s) in all cases shall be conducted by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) concerned in the specified manner and forward the proceedings to the regulatory authority concerned within 45(forty five) of a request to the effect from the applicant.
- (iv) in case the State Pollution Control Board or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee concerned does not undertake and complete the public hearing within the specified period, and/or does not convey the proceedings of the public hearing within the prescribed period directly to the regulatory authority concerned as above, the regulatory authority shall engage another public agency or authority which is not subordinate to the regulatory authority, to complete the process within a further period of forty five days.
- (v) If the public agency or authority nominated under the sub paragraph (iii) above reports to the regulatory authority concerned that owing to the local situation, it is not possible to conduct the public hearing in a manner which will enable the views of the concerned local persons to be freely expressed, it shall report the facts in detail to the concerned regulatory authority, which may, after due consideration of the report and other reliable information that it may have, decide that the public consultation in the case need not include the public hearing.
- (vi) For obtaining responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity, the concerned regulatory authority and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) shall invite responses from such concerned persons by placing on their website the Summary EIA report prepared in the format given in Appendix IIIA by the applicant along with a copy of the application in the prescribed form, within seven days of the receipt of a written request for arranging the public hearing. Confidential information including non-disclosable or legally privileged information involving Intellectual Property Right, source specified in the application shall not be placed on the web site. The regulatory authority concerned may also use

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 23.12.2021
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other appropriate media for ensuring wide publicity about the project or activity. The regulatory authority shall, however, make available on a written request from any concerned person the Draft EIA report for inspection at a notified place during normal office hours till the date of the public hearing. All the responses received as part of this public consultation process shall be forwarded to the applicant through the quickest available means.

(vii) After completion of the public consultation, the applicant shall address all the material environmental concerns expressed during this process, and make appropriate changes in the draft EIA and EMP. The final EIA report, so prepared, shall be submitted by the applicant to the concerned regulatory authority for appraisal. The applicant may alternatively submit a supplementary report to draft EIA and EMP addressing all the concerns expressed during the public consultation.

IV. Stage (4) - Appraisal:

(i) Appraisal means the detailed scrutiny by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee of the application and other documents like the Final EIA report, outcome of the public consultations including public hearing proceedings, submitted by the applicant to the regulatory authority concerned for grant of environmental clearance. This appraisal shall be made by Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned in a transparent manner in a proceeding to which the applicant shall be invited for furnishing necessary clarifications in person or through an authorized representative. On conclusion of this proceeding, the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall make categorical recommendations to the regulatory authority concerned either for grant of prior environmental clearance on stipulated terms and conditions, or rejection of the application for prior environmental clearance, together with reasons for the same.

(ii) The appraisal of all projects or activities which are not required to undergo public consultation, or submit an Environment Impact Assessment report, shall be carried out on the basis of the prescribed application Form I and Form IA as applicable, any other relevant validated information available and the site visit wherever the same is considered as necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned.

(iii) The appraisal of an application shall be completed by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within sixty days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment report and other documents or the receipt of Form I and Form IA, where public consultation is not necessary and the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee shall be placed before the competent authority for a final decision within the next fifteen days. The prescribed procedure for appraisal is given in Appendix V ;

7(ii). Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) process for Expansion or Modernization or Change of product mix in existing projects:

All applications seeking prior environmental clearance for expansion with increase in the production capacity beyond the capacity for which prior environmental clearance has been granted under this notification or with increase in either lease area or production capacity in the case of mining projects or for the modernization of an existing unit with increase in the total production capacity beyond the threshold limit prescribed in the Schedule to this notification through change in process and or technology or involving a change in the product -mix shall be made in Form I and they shall be considered by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee within sixty days, who will decide on the due diligence

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necessary including preparation of EIA and public consultations and the application shall be appraised accordingly for grant of environmental clearance.

8. Grant or Rejection of Prior Environmental Clearance (EC):

(i) The regulatory authority shall consider the recommendations of the EAC or SEAC concerned and convey its decision to the applicant within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned or in other words within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment Report, and where Environment Impact Assessment is not required, within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the complete application with requisite documents, except as provided below.

(ii) The regulatory authority shall normally accept the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. In cases where it disagrees with the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, the regulatory authority shall request reconsideration by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned while stating the reasons for the disagreement. An intimation of this decision shall be simultaneously conveyed to the applicant. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, in turn, shall consider the observations of the regulatory authority and furnish its views on the same within a further period of sixty days. The decision of the regulatory authority after considering the views of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be final and conveyed to the applicant by the regulatory authority concerned within the next thirty days.

(iii) In the event that the decision of the regulatory authority is not communicated to the applicant within the period specified in sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii) above, as applicable, the applicant may proceed as if the environment clearance sought for has been granted or denied by the regulatory authority in terms of the final recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned.

(iv) On expiry of the period specified for decision by the regulatory authority under paragraph (i) and (ii) above, as applicable, the decision of the regulatory authority, and the final recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be public documents.

(v) Clearances from other regulatory bodies or authorities shall not be required prior to receipt of applications for prior environmental clearance of projects or activities, or screening, or scoping, or appraisal, or decision by the regulatory authority concerned, unless any of these is sequentially dependent on such clearance either due to a requirement of law, or for necessary technical reasons.

(vi) Deliberate concealment and/or submission of false or misleading information or data which is material to screening or scoping or appraisal or decision on the application shall make the application liable for rejection, and cancellation of prior environmental clearance granted on that basis. Rejection of an application or cancellation of a prior environmental clearance already granted, on such ground, shall be decided by the regulatory authority, after giving a personal hearing to the applicant, and following the principles of natural justice.

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9. Validity of Environmental Clearance (EC):

The "Validity of Environmental Clearance" is meant the period from which a prior environmental clearance is granted by the regulatory authority, or may be presumed by the applicant to have been granted under sub paragraph (iv) of paragraph 7 above, to the start of production operations by the project or activity, or completion of all construction operations in case of construction projects (item 8 of the Schedule), to which the application for prior environmental clearance refers. The prior environmental clearance granted for a project or activity shall be valid for a period of ten years in the case of River Valley projects (item 1(c) of the Schedule), project life as estimated by Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee subject to a maximum of thirty years for mining projects and five years in the case of all other projects and activities. However, in the case of Area Development projects and Townships [item 8(b)], the validity period shall be limited only to such activities as may be the responsibility of the applicant as a developer. This period of validity may be extended by the regulatory authority concerned by a maximum period of five years provided an application is made to the regulatory authority by the applicant - within the validity period, together with an updated Form 1, and Supplementary Form 1A, for Construction projects or activities (item 8 of the Schedule). In this regard the regulatory authority may also consult the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee as the case may be.

10. Post Environmental Clearance Monitoring:

(i) It shall be mandatory for the project management to submit half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the stipulated prior environmental clearance terms and conditions in hard and soft copies to the regulatory authority concerned, on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year.

(ii) All such compliance reports submitted by the project management shall be public documents. Copies of the same shall be given to any person on application to the concerned regulatory authority. The latest such compliance report shall also be displayed on the web site of the concerned regulatory authority.

11. Transferability of Environmental Clearance (EC):

A prior environmental clearance granted for a specific project or activity to an applicant may be transferred during its validity to another legal person entitled to undertake the project or activity on application by the transferor, or by the transferee with a written "no objection" by the transferor, to, and by the regulatory authority concerned, on the same terms and conditions under which the prior environmental clearance was initially granted, and for the same validity period. No reference to the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned is necessary in such cases.

12. Operation of EIA Notification, 1994, till disposal of pending cases:

From the date of final publication of this notification the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification number S.O.60 (E) dated 27th January, 1994 is hereby superseded, except in suppression of the things done or omitted to be done before such suppression to the extent that in case of all or some types of applications made for prior environmental clearance and pending on the date of final publication of this notification, the Central Government may relax any one or all provisions of this notification except the list of the projects or activities requiring prior environmental clearance in Schedule I, or continue operation of some or all provisions of the said notification, for a period not exceeding one year from the date of issue of this notification.

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SCHEDULE

(See paragraph 2 and 7)

LIST OF PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Project or Activity	Category with threshold limit		Conditions if any	
	A	B		
1	Mining, extraction of natural resources and power generation (for a specified production capacity)			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
I(a)	Mining of minerals	≥ 50 ha. of mining lease area Asbestos mining irrespective of mining area	<50 ha ≥ 5 ha .of mining lease area.	General Condition shall apply <u>Note</u> Mineral prospecting (not involving drilling) are exempted provided the concession areas have got previous clearance for physical survey
I(b)	Offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development & production	All projects		<u>Note</u> Exploration Surveys (not involving drilling) are exempted provided the concession areas have got previous clearance for physical survey
I(c)	River Valley projects	(i) ≥ 50 MW hydroelectric power generation; (ii) ≥ 10,000 ha. of culturable command area	(i) < 50 MW ≥ 25 MW hydroelectric power generation; (ii) < 10,000 ha. of culturable command area	General Condition shall apply
I(d)	Thermal Power Plants	≥ 500 MW (coal/lignite/naphtha & gas based); ≥ 50 MW (Pet coke diesel and all other fuels -)	< 500 MW (coal/lignite/naphtha & gas based); <50 MW ≥ 5MW (Pet coke ,diesel and all other fuels)	General Condition shall apply

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1(e)	Nuclear power projects and processing of nuclear fuel	All projects		
2		Primary Processing		
2(a)	Coal washeries	≥ 1 million ton/annum throughput of coal	< 1 million ton/annum throughput of coal	General Condition shall apply (If located within mining area the proposal shall be appraised together with the mining proposal)
2(b)	Mineral beneficiation	≥ 0.1 million ton/annum mineral throughput	< 0.1 million ton/annum mineral throughput	General Condition shall apply (Mining proposal with Mineral beneficiation shall be appraised together for grant of clearance)

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