

**F. No. J-13012/8/2009-IA.II (T) [E-167634]**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Impact Assessment Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:       Amendment in Environment Clearance for change in coal source by Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) - reg.**

The Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum (O.M.) of even no. dated 11/11/2020, facilitating the change in coal source for Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) subject to compliance of relevant notifications as mentioned therein and a procedure to be followed as described therein. Subsequently, the Ministry issued an amendment on 06/12/2023, whereby Para no 7 of the OM dated 11/11/2020 was amended, limiting the grant of exemption from requirement of amendment in Environmental Clearance for change in coal source to only those TPPs which falls in the following category of change in coal source:

- a. from domestic to domestic,
- b. from domestic to domestic (blended with imported coal up to 30% content of imported coal)
- c. from imported to imported (blended with domestic coal up to 10% content of domestic coal)
- d. from imported to domestic (where the GCV of the domestic coal is of the same grade as of imported coal)

All the Thermal Power Plants (including Captive Power Plants) having Prior Environmental Clearance and going in for change in the coal source other than those falling in the aforementioned category of change in coal source shall approach the Ministry for amendment in environmental clearance along with a study on additional impact assessment and revised EMP based on the change in source of coal.

2. And whereas, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) Chennai thereafter vide its orders dated 12/08/2024 and 23/09/2024 in Original Application No. 74 of 2021 titled K. Saravanan, Chennai vs Union of India directed the Ministry to examine the technical aspects in order to sustain the Office Memorandum dated 11/11/2020 & 06/12/2023 regarding amendment in EC for change in coal source by TPPs or resort to the original procedure.



3. And whereas, all the technical aspects inter-alia the observations of Hon'ble NGT (Southern Zone) Chennai and the environmental impacts on account of change of coal source have been deliberated upon by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 02/01/2025. After deliberations, the EAC recommended for partial modification in the existing O.Ms dated 11/11/2020 and 06/12/2023.

4. The aforesaid matter has been examined in the Ministry. Based on the recommendations of EAC and subsequent approval of Competent Authority, the Ministry hereby make the following amendment in O.M dated 11/11/2020 and 06/12/2023:

- i. Condition no. (b) mentioned in Para 7 of the O.M. dated 11/11/2020 shall stand substituted as follows:

The applicable flue gas emissions standards for Particulate Matter (PM), Sulphur Dioxide, Oxides of Nitrogen and Mercury shall be complied in line with Ministry's Notification vide S.O. 3305(E) dated 7/12/2015 and its subsequent amendments from time to time, by installation/upgradation of requisite pollution control systems, as may be required. A progress of implementation and its compliance shall be submitted as part of compliance report.

- ii. Condition no. (d) mentioned in Para 7 of the O.M. dated 06/12/2023 shall stand substituted as follows:

Additional ash pond shall not be permitted on account of increase in ash content in the raw Coal due to change in coal source including lignite other than the ash pond permitted and specified in the Prior Environmental Clearance. 100% ash utilization shall be achieved in accordance with the ash utilization notification dated 31/12/2021 and its subsequent amendments from time to time.


- iii. Condition no. (f) mentioned in Para 7 of the O.M. dated 11/11/2020 shall stand substituted as follows:

Every coal or lignite based thermal power plant shall ensure that loading, unloading, transport, storage and disposal of ash is done in an environmentally sound manner and that all precautions to prevent air and water pollution are taken and status in this regard shall be reported to the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC) as per the Annexure attached to ash utilization notification dated 31/12/2021 and its subsequent amendments from time to time.

Subsequent to the condition no (f) mentioned in Para 7 of the O.M. dated 11/11/2020, the project proponent shall comply with the following environmental conditions:

- g. For controlling fugitive dust, regular sprinkling of water in the coal handling area and other vulnerable areas of the plant shall be ensured.
- h. Project proponent shall comply with the specific water consumption for the Thermal Power Plants as per Ministry's Notification S.O. 3305(E) dated 7/12/2015 and G.S.R.593 (E) dated 28/6/2018 as amended from time to time.

5. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Sundar Ramanathan)  
Scientist 'F'

To,

1. All the Thermal Power Plants
2. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. The Chairman /Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs /SEACs
4. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs
5. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) of all ROs of MoEF&CC
6. All the Officers of I.A. Division

**Copy for information to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS (NPG)/AS(AG)
5. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, GoI
6. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, GoI
7. Website of MoEF&CC/ Guard file