

F. No - J-11013-1-2013-IA-I-Pt [E-26988]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh, New Delhi – 110003
Date: 3rd January, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification on requirement of Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study (CIA&CCS) for expansion of existing Hydro-electric Projects (HEPs) in River Basin-reg.

The Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum dated 28th May 2013 (copy enclosed), delineating the guidelines for streamlining of process of Environmental Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance (FC) cases by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) & Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) respectively for Hydropower and River Valley Projects (HEP & RVP), which *inter-alia* states that "...*(iii) Cumulative Impact Study: Cumulative Impact study of a basin would reflect the cumulative impact of commissioned/up-coming hydro-power projects in the basin on environmental flow, biodiversity, muck disposal sites, traffic flow in the region, R&R issues, etc. While the first project in a basin could come up without insisting on cumulative study, for all subsequent hydro-power projects in the basin, it should be incumbent on the developer of the second/other project(s) to incorporate all possible and potential impact of other project(s) in the basin to get a cumulative impact assessment done. This condition shall be stipulated, at the ToRs stage itself during the EC process. Once such a cumulative impact study has been done, the same could be shared by EAC with FAC. The Cumulative impact study in respect of biodiversity component may be separately got done by one of the specialized institutes as stated at (ii) above. While making recommendation on EC/FC for such projects, the EAC/FAC will take into account the results of such cumulative studies.....*"

2. The Ministry has received representation from the Ministry of Power, Government of India regarding exemption from CIA&CCS for the expansion proposal of existing HEPs in a given river basin.

3. The matter has been examined in consultation with the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), River Valley & Hydro-electric Projects and accordingly, it is clarified that Expansion proposals of existing HEPs, which do not result in any change in reservoir capacity (FRL + Dam height), environmental flow and modification in key components like Spillway, Intake Gates, may be carried out after joint appraisal of the EIA/EMP of existing HEPs as well as the EIA/EMP of the proposed expansion project rather than undertaking a fresh CIA/CSS study.

4. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

P. J. Sr.
3.1.2025
(Yogendra Pal Singh)
Scientist 'F'

To:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001
2. Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001

Copy (for information) to:

1. PPS to Secretary, MoEF&CC
2. PPS to DGF, MoEF&CC
3. PPS to AS (AG)