

MOST URGENT
Speed Post

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division-Compliance & Monitoring Division)

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Dated: 30th October, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification regarding the appraisal process for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) for Category B projects under the EIA Notification, 2006-reg.

With reference to the above cited subject, undersigned is directed to draw reference to following provisions under EIA Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time:

- i. As per para 5 of the Notification, EACs at the Central level and State Environment Appraisal Committee (SEACs) at the State or Union territory Level shall screen, scope and appraise the project(s) or activity(ies) in Category A and Category B projects, respectively.
 - ii. As per para 5 (d) of the Notification, the authorized members of EAC and SEAC may inspect any site connected with the project or activity in respect of which the prior environmental clearance is sought for the purpose of screening or scoping or appraisal.
 - iii. The detailed mechanism for screening, scoping and appraisal has been elaborated at para 7 of the Notification. The appraisal is carried out by the respective EACs/SEACs, which, *inter-alia*, includes a proceeding to which the project proponent shall be invited for furnishing necessary clarifications in person or through an authorized representative. On conclusion of this proceeding, the EAC/SEAC concerned shall make categorical recommendations to the regulatory authority concerned either for grant or rejection of prior EC.
2. State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) are constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to function as regulatory authorities at the State level, for consideration and grant of Environmental Clearances to category B projects, as per para 2 of the Notification. Sub para (7) of para 3 of the EIA Notification 2006, *inter-alia*, states that "*All decisions of the SEIAA shall be taken in a meeting and shall ordinarily be unanimous...*"



3. It has been brought to notice that in view of the above mentioned provision, the SEIAAs are conducting meetings for taking decisions on the recommendations of the respective SEACs, during which the concerned project proponents are also directed to make a presentation of their project proposal.

4. In this regard, it is hereby clarified that the provision of Sub para (7) of para 3 of the EIA Notification 2006 mentioned above does not mandate the project proponent to make a presentation before the SEIAA. The provision mentioned above for convening a meeting is only to facilitate the collective decision making at the SEIAA level on the recommendations of SEAC.

5. The project proponent being directed to make a separate presentation before the SEIAA is not in line with the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and it leads to duplication of effort and unnecessary delay in the overall timeline for the grant of EC.

6. In this context, it is reiterated that the EIA Notification, 2006 does not mandate the project proponent to make a separate presentation before the SEIAA once the SEAC has completed its appraisal. SEIAAs are therefore advised to take decisions based on the official record of the case and the recommendations of the SEAC. SEIAA is empowered to resort to the provisions of paras 8(i) and 8(ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended, to arrive at its final decision. This would ensure uniformity in decision making at the level of SEIAA and also ensure timely processing of proposals as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(Dr. Shruti Rai Bhardwaj)
Director/Scientist 'F'

To,

1. Chairman and Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs