



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division
(Thermal Projects)



Minutes of 01ST MEETING OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) meeting Thermal Projects held from 16/10/2023 to 16/10/2023

Date: 31/10/2023

MoM ID: EC/MOM/EAC/790817/10/2023
Agenda ID: EC/AGENDA/EAC/790817/10/2023
Meeting Venue: MOEF&CC, INDIRA PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI
Meeting Mode: Physical
Date & Time:

16/10/2023	11:00 AM	05:30 PM
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1. Opening remarks

The 1st Meeting of the re-constituted EAC (Thermal Power) organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi was held on 16th October, 2023 at Indus Hall, Jal Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan (MoEF&CC) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sharad Singh Negi.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the 46th EAC (Thermal Power) meeting held on 4th September, 2023 were confirmed in the meeting.

3. Details of proposals considered by the committee

Day 1 -16/10/2023

3.1. Agenda Item No 1:

3.1.1. Details of the proposal

EC & CRZ Amendment for the revised route alignment of seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system (Conveyance Corridor) of 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power project at Voyalur village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nādu by TANGEDCO located at THIRUVALLUR,TAMIL NADU			
Proposal For		Amendment in EC	
Proposal No	File No	Submission Date	Activity (Schedule Item)

IA/TN/THE/444763/2023	J-13011/36/2010-IA.II(T)	17/09/2023	Thermal Power Plants (1(d))
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3.1.2. Project Salient Features

Para of ToR /EC issued by MoEF & CC	Details as per the ToR /EC	To be revised / read as	Justification / reasons
Para 2 of the CRZ Clearance accorded	The project area is falling in RS. No. 1, 2, 47/1 of Ennore village, RS. No. 143 of Puzhuthivakkum village, RS.No. 2042 of Vayalur village	The project area is falling in RS. No. 1, 3, 5, 252pt, 255pt of Ennore village, RS. No. 143 of Puzhuthivakkum village, RS.No. 2042 of Vayalur village and 354/1pt of Athipattu Village.	TANGEDCO seeks approval for a change in the alignment of the previously approved conveyance corridor, including the coal Pipe conveyor and cooling water system, for the 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ Coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power Plant. The previous alignment faced technical challenges and abundant growth of mangroves during the construction period, leading to a dispute by fishermen and hence that was halted following NGT recommendations. The pile Structures in the Kosasthalaiyar River water crossing were removed till bed level to ensure the free flow of water. TANGEDCO now proposes an alternate route with minimal ecological impact, in the Kosathalayar area.

The project/activity is covered under category A of item 1(d) 'Thermal Power Plants' of the Schedule to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and requires appraisal at Central level by the sectoral EAC in the Ministry.

The Hon'ble NGT in the matter Original Application No.122 of 2021 (SZ) with Original Application No.162 of 2021 (SZ) directed to stop the construction activities of route alignment of seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system (Conveyance Corridor) and directed to obtain amendment in the EC and CRZ from MoEF&CC to resume the work.

3.1.3. Deliberations by the EAC in previous meetings

N/A

3.1.4. Deliberations by the EAC in current meetings

The proposal is therefore **returned in present form** on the above line.

3.1.5. Recommendation of EAC

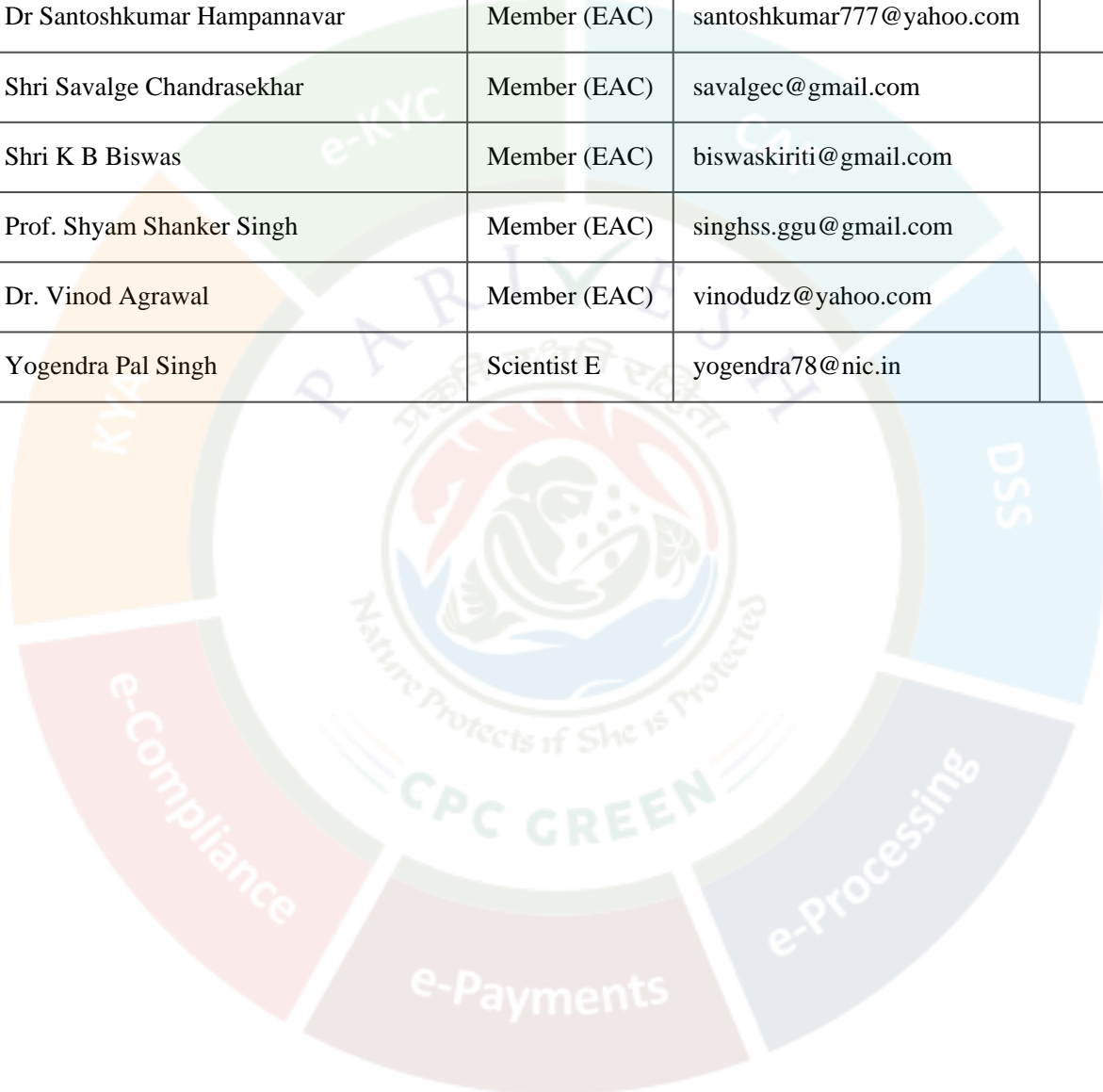
Returned in present form

4. Any Other Item(s)

N/A

5. List of Attendees

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Email ID	Remarks
1	Dr. Sharad Singh Negi (I.F.S. Retd.)	Chairman	sharadnegi1957@gmail.com	
2	Shri Inder Pal Singh Matharu, IFS (Retd.)	Member (EAC)	matharu0204@gmail.com	
3	Shri Lalit Kapur	Member (EAC)	lkapoor2000@yahoo.com	
4	Dr Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member (EAC)	ukahalekar@rediffmail.com	
5	Dr Santoshkumar Hampannavar	Member (EAC)	santoshkumar777@yahoo.com	
6	Shri Savalge Chandrasekhar	Member (EAC)	savalgec@gmail.com	
7	Shri K B Biswas	Member (EAC)	biswaskiriti@gmail.com	
8	Prof. Shyam Shanker Singh	Member (EAC)	singhss.ggu@gmail.com	
9	Dr. Vinod Agrawal	Member (EAC)	vinodudz@yahoo.com	
10	Yogendra Pal Singh	Scientist E	yogendra78@nic.in	



MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THERMAL POWER PROJECTS HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER, 2023

The 1st Meeting of the re-constituted EAC (Thermal Power) organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi was held on 16th October, 2023 at Indus Hall, Jal Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan (MoEF&CC) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sharad Singh Negi. The list of Members participated in the meeting is at **Annexure**.

Agenda Item No.1.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th EAC meeting

The Minutes of the 46th EAC (Thermal Power) meeting held on 4th September, 2023 were confirmed in the meeting.

Agenda Item No.1.2

2x660 MW Ennore SEZ Supercritical Imported Coal based Thermal Power Plant by M/s TANGEDCO at Village Vayalur, in Ponneri Taluk, in District Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu - Amendment in Environmental Clearance (EC) & CRZ - reg.

[Proposal No. IA/TN/THE/444763/2023; F. No.J-13011/36/2010-IA.II(T)]

1.2.1 The proposal is for grant of amendment in EC to the project for 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ Supercritical Imported Coal based Thermal Power Plant by M/s TANGEDCO at Village Vayalur, in Ponneri Taluk, in District Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu.

1.2.2 The Project Proponent made a detailed presentation on the salient features of the project and informed that:

- i. The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) has applied for a change in alignment of the conveyance corridor containing the coal conveyor system and cooling water system for the 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ Coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power Plant (STPP) at Voyalur Village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu.
- ii. The Environmental clearance accorded by MoEF&CC letter no. J-13012/36/2010-IA.II (T) dated 07.01.2014 for the 2x800MW MW Ennore SEZ Coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power Plant.
- iii. CRZ Clearance for coal pipe conveyor, cooling water and discharge pipelines under CRZ Notification, 2011, was granted by the Ministry on 1.1.2014 based on the TNCZMA recommendations dated 4.10.2011.
- iv. Subsequently, amendment dated 14.08 2018 for change in project capacity i.e. from 2X800MW to 2X 660MW was obtained and EC validity Extension up to 31.12.2023 was accorded by MoEF&CC vide letter dated 09.04.2021.
- v. This proposal is with respect to the change in the alignment of conveyance corridor from the previously approved alignment as the previously approved alignment cannot be executed due to technical feasibilities.

- vi. M/s TANGEDCO had constructed the conveyance corridor in an different route which was not approved and during the construction of which, an original application No 162 of 2021 (SZ) was filed in Hon'ble NGT (SZ) against the same for stopping the construction activities. Hence the constructions activities as per NGT recommendations have been stopped and the constructed structures in the water crossing of (Kosasthalaiyar River) have been removed upto bed level. Post this TANGEDCO has decided to adopt an alternate route with minimal ecological and environmental footprint for the section of the Kosasthalaiyar River and its buffer starting from Transfer House I (TH 1) to Pier 51 (P-51), avoiding the existing constructed curved route and demolish all the construction in this section; there is no change in the remaining constructed route alignment.
- vii. The current proposal is for seeking amendment in the existing granted EC and CRZ Clearance of the 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ STPP for the revised route alignment of the pipe conveyor system and cooling water system (Conveyance Corridor). The alignment falls within the CRZ areas; hence the proposed activity requires final Environmental & CRZ clearance from MoEF&CC with CRZ clearance from District Coastal Zone Management Authority (DCZMA) and Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA).
- viii. The proposed facility is an elevated corridor whose construction had been undertaken earlier completing about 50%. Currently the work is stopped to avail clearance for the revised alignment.
- ix. From Coal berth 3 to Transfer house (TH 1) the coal conveyor system is a closed belt conveyor system and from TH 1 to crusher unit it is a decked system as pipe conveyor (TH 1 is the transfer point where the coal belt conveyor transfers the coal to the pipe conveyor system). The elevated conveyance corridor is built over a system of 129 Piers. The lower deck consists of three pipelines, 2 intake water pipelines and one outfall water pipeline. The upper deck consists of 4 coal pipe conveyors as shown in the following figure. The approved route could not be constructed due to technical feasibility, hence the construction was carried out in a different route however, based on the NGT direction all the construction activities in the route was topped. Post this TANGEDCO has decided to revise the route alignment by revising a section of the conveyance corridor from TH 1 to Pier 50 by adopting a straight route with minimal ecological and environmental footprint. The structures constructed in this section will be demolished.
- x. For the revised portion/section of the conveyance corridor a total of 50 piers and 50 pile caps will be developed. The dimension of the pile caps are 15.5m*9.9m for the on land section. There are 5 pile caps which will be developed for the mangrove and river crossing section with a dimension of 22mx10m. Of the 5 pile caps, a total of 2 pile caps will be laid in the water course of Kosasthalaiyar River at a depth of 0.5m below the bed level to ensure no hinderance to flow of water.
- xi. The Conveyance corridor consisting of the Pipe conveyor and Cooling water pipelines crosses CRZ-I, CRZ-IA (50m Mangrove Buffer), CRZ-IB, CRZ-II, CRZ-III(NDZ), CRZ-IVA, CRZIVB, and Non-CRZ Areas which is permissible are per the following clauses of CRZ Notification; Clause 4. (ii). (d) and 8.I.(i).(b), which states that "*The following activities shall require clearance from MoEF&CC, namely - laying of Pipelines, conveying systems, transmission lines*" and "*No new construction shall be permitted in CRZ-I except - Pipelines, conveying systems including transmission lines*" respectively.

xii. Land ownership of the revised route falls in 1. Kamarajar Port Ltd. 2.PWD (water crossing area), 3. TIDCO (TPIPL) and 4. TANGEDCO. The current status of construction are as follows:

- Cooling water Pipe Line Corridor up to Stage-II Compound Wall – 50.15% of work Completed.
- Belt conveyor system from Coal Berth to Crusher house, 50% of the work is completed.

xiii. The timeline for the proposed development of conveyance corridor after obtaining all necessary regulatory clearance is 15 months.

xiv. Total estimated cost of the construction of the conveyance corridor in the revised alignment is approximately Rs 950 Crores.

xv. A suo moto case (No.162/2021) has been registered by the Tribunal against NCTPS Stage-I, Stage-II, NCTPP Stage-III, and Ennore SEZ TPP project based on the news item published in the Newspaper, Times of India, Chennai Edition dt.1.7.21. The Hon'ble NGT(SZ) has also constituted a Committee and instructed the Committee to look into the issues and submit a report. Accordingly, the NGT Committee submitted their report which states under the heading "Findings of the Committee"

"It is inferred that the NCTPS Stage-III has not obtained CRZ clearance for laying of ash slurry pipeline or for laying new ash pipeline corridor in the CRZ area."

Also, under heading "Recommendation of the Committee," in par.8, it has been mentioned as "The TANGEDCO shall resume the activities pertaining to NCTPS Stage-III and Ennore SEZ power plants within CRZ area in Kosasthalaiyar River/Buckingham Canal/Backwaters only after obtaining amendment to the existing CRZ clearance from MoEF&CC".

xvi. Amendment sought:

Para of ToR /EC issued by MoEF & CC	Details as per the ToR /EC	To be revised / read as	Justification / reasons
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Para 2 of the CRZ Clearance accorded	The project area is falling in RS. No. 1, 2, 47/1 of Ennore village, RS. No. 143 of Puzhuthivakkum village, RS.No. 2042 of Vayalur village	The project area is falling in RS. No. 1, 3, 5, 252pt, 255pt of Ennore village, RS. No. 143 of Puzhuthivakkum village, RS.No. 2042 of Vayalur village and 354/1pt of Athipattu Village.	TANGEDCO seeks approval for a change in the alignment of the previously approved conveyance corridor, including the coal Pipe conveyor and cooling water system, for the 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ Coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power Plant. The previous alignment faced technical challenges and abundant growth of mangroves during the construction period, leading to a dispute by fishermen and hence that was halted following NGT recommendations. The pile Structures in the Kosasthalaiyar River water crossing were removed till bed level to ensure the free flow of water. TANGEDCO now proposes an alternate route with minimal ecological impact, in the Kosathalayar area.
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1.2.3 The EAC during deliberations noted the following:

The proposal is for grant of EC & CRZ Amendment for the revised route alignment of seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system (Conveyance Corridor) of 2x660 MW Ennore SEZ coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power project at Voyalur village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s TANGEDCO.

The project/activity is covered under category A of item 1(d) 'Thermal Power Plants' of the Schedule to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and requires appraisal at Central level by the sectoral EAC in the Ministry.

The Environmental Clearance accorded by MoEF&CC vide letter no. J-13012/36/2010-IA.II (T) dated 07.01.2014 for the 2x800MW MW Ennore SEZ Coal-based Supercritical Thermal Power Plant. The CRZ Clearance for coal pipe conveyor, cooling water and discharge pipelines under CRZ Notification, 2011, was granted by the Ministry on 1.1.2014 based on the TNCZMA recommendations dated 4.10.2011. Subsequently, amendment dated 14.08 2018 for change in project capacity i.e. from 2X800MW to 2X 660MW was obtained and EC validity Extension up to 31.12.2023 was accorded by MoEF&CC vide letter dated 09.04.2021.

The EAC noted that PP has changed seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system without obtaining necessary clearance/ amendments from the Ministry and started construction since 2017. Till date 50% of pipelines have been completed.

The Hon'ble NGT in the matter Original Application No.122 of 2021 (SZ) with Original Application No.162 of 2021 (SZ) directed to stop the construction activities of route alignment

of seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system (Conveyance Corridor) and directed to obtain amendment in the EC and CRZ from MoEF&CC to resume the work.

1.2.4 The EAC, after detailed deliberations observed that project proponent has changed the pipeline route and started construction of seawater pipelines and coal pipe conveyance system without taking prior approval as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and CRZ Notification, 2019, the same may be treated as violation of the EIA Notification, 2006 and CRZ Notification, 2019.

Accordingly, the EAC suggested the project proponent to submit proposal for ToR under violation category and the same may be considered as per the SOP issued vide dated 7.7.2021 for handling of Violation cases under EIA Notification, 2006.

The proposal is therefore ***returned in present form*** on the above line.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

ATTENDANCE

**1ST MEETING OF RE-CONSTITUTED EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC)
THERMAL POWER PROJECTS**

DATE : 16.10.2023
TIME : 11.00 AM onwards
VENUE : Indus Hall, Jal Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

Sl.No.	Name of Member	Role	Signature
1.	Dr. Sharad Singh Negi	Chairman	
2.	Shri Inder Pal Singh Matharu	Member	
3.	Shri Lalit Kapur	Member	
4.	Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member	Joined through VC
5.	Dr. Santosh Kumar Hampannavar	Member	16/10/23
6.	Shri Savalge Chandrasekhar	Member	16/10/23
7.	Shri K. B. Biswas	Member	16/10/23
8.	Prof. Shyam Shanker Singh	Member	16.10.2023
9.	Dr. Vinod Agrawal	Member	
10.	Representative of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)	Member	AB -
11.	Representative of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) <i>Mahi Pal Singh</i>	Member	
12.	Representative of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)	Member	AB -
13.	Prof. R M Bhattacharjee	Member	Joined through VC
14.	Shri Yogendra Pal Singh	Scientist - E and Member Secretary (Thermal Power Projects), MoEF&CC	Joined through VC

APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN

From: sharadnegi1957@gmail.com

To: "Yogendra Pal Singh" <yogendra78@nic.in>

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 1:51:53 AM

Subject: Re: Draft MOM of the 1st meeting of the EAC (Thermal) held on 16.10.2023-REG.

The draft MoM is approved .

Dr S S Negi

Vice Chairman, Rural Development and Migration Commission, Uttarakhand

former Director General Forest and Special Secretary Govt of India

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