

Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects held on 27.11.2018 at Teesta Meeting Hall, First Floor, Vayu Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-3.

The 20th meeting of the re-constituted EAC for River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects was held on 27.11.2018 with the Chairmanship (Acting) Dr. D.K. More in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at Teesta Meeting Hall, First Floor, Vayu Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-3. The following members were present:

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| 1. Dr. D.M. More | - Chairman (Acting) |
| 2. Shri Sharvan Kumar | - Representative of CEA |
| 3. Shri N.N. Rai | - Representative of CWC |
| 4. Dr. J.A. Johnson | - Representative of WII |
| 5. Shri T.P. Singh | - Member |
| 6. Prof. S.R. Yadav | - Member |
| 7. Dr. S. Kerketta | - Member Secretary |

Dr. S.K. Jain, Shri Chetan Pandit, Dr. A.K. Sahoo, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Prof. S.K. Kohli and Dr. (Mrs.) Poonam Kumria could not be present due to pre-occupation.

The deliberations held and the decisions taken are as under:

Item No. 20.0 Confirmation of minutes of 19th EAC meeting.

The Minutes of the 19th EAC (River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects) meeting held on 26.10.2018 were confirmed.

Item No. 20.1 Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study of Beas River Basin, Himachal Pradesh- Reconsideration of the study report before the EAC

Further to discussion on Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study of Beas River Basin, Himachal Pradesh in 19th EAC meeting, where Directorate of Energy, Government of Himachal Pradesh had made a presentation on the pending concerns of EAC. EAC deliberated in detailed and sought further information from Directorate of Energy to which they made presentation before EAC on the pending issues. As per the presentation including the facts presented by the Director of Energy, the Committee discussed the following:

Jobrie HEP (12 MW) – Govt. of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) confirmed that as recommended by EAC, the HEPs will be developed as per the applicable norms and restrictions of project development in protected areas and Eco-sensitive Zones.

Manalsu HEP (21.9 MW) - A newly identified project falls within Manali WLS and was therefore recommended for dropping. However, on representation by the PP, EAC had asked State Govt. to submit the details of the locations of the project features of the Manalsu HEP *vis-a-vis* the boundary of the Manali WLS for further consideration of the EAC. Government of Himachal Pradesh submitted that

Accordingly, the CWC revised the DPR and submitted it to J&K Govt. in December, 2017. As per revised DPR, the Maximum Water Level (MWL) is 609.5 m, Full Reservoir Level (FRL) is 608.00 m. The area under submergence has decreased to 34.50 km² from 41 km² and number of families affected due to submergence decreased to 1698 from 2235. The total cost of the project as envisaged in DPR is Rs 4750 crores and B.C. ratio is 1.062.

The Govt. has approved the implementation of Ujh MPP as per revised DPR.

The EAC after the detailed presentation by the PP observed that earlier Ujh MPP proposal for accord of TOR was appraised in Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley & Hydro Electric Power Project (RV&HEP) in its meeting held on 11-12th December, 2014. TOR was issued vide No. J-12011/39/2014-IA-I dated 30.01.2015 with validity of 3 years up to 29.01.2018. Project Proponent informed to the Ministry that EIA studies could not be initiated due to direction for reducing the submergence caused by the reservoir of the project. A fresh DPR has been prepared by Monitoring & Appraisal Directorate, Central Water Commission, Jammu and was submitted to J&K Government in December, 2017. FRL has now been reduced from 614.0 m to 608.00m and reduction in submergence area from 41.00 km² to 34.5 km². Accordingly, PP has made application a fresh for the ToR.

The EAC in its present meeting (20th) after detailed deliberations, recommended for the grant of ToR of the project with the additional conditions covered in TOR issued vide No. J-12011/39/2014-IA-I dated 30.01.2015.

Item No. 20.7 Construction of Thana Plaun HEP (191 MW) Project in Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh by M/s Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd – for Fresh Environment Clearance- reg. F. No. J- 12011/12/2011-IA.I, Proposal No. IA/HP/RIV/75041/2013.

The proposed Thana Plaun HEP (191 MW) is a storage scheme and the water conductor system of the project is on the left bank of river Beas. The project envisages the construction of concrete gravity dam across river Beas in the Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh, with a live storage capacity of 44.93 MCM to enhance the peaking benefits during the lean months. The entire catchment comprises mountainous terrain with steep hill slopes and is very thinly populated. For construction of the project, about 444.29 hectare land, out of which forest land (forest land, Govt. (Deemed Forest Land) and private (Deemed Forest Kismvani land) altogether constituted 406.79 ha.

The Terms of Reference for carrying out the EIA studies and preparation of EMP as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 and subsequent Notification in 2009 was approved and permission for pre-construction activities was accorded vide letter No. J-12011/12/2011-IA-I dated 29.11.2012 for Thana Plaun HEP with installed capacity of 141 MW of Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh by M/s. HPPCL.

M/s HPPCL submitted application dated 12.09.2013 for revalidation of

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MW to revised installed capacity of 191 MW which entailed change in layout also. EAC noted that the capacity of the project has been enhanced from 141 MW to 191 MW and it is not a case of merely extension of the validity of TOR. The scope of the project has been changed as the capacity has been substantially revised to 191 MW. Therefore, the project will be reconsidered by the EAC.


The project proponent submitted Form-1 afresh and the same has been presented before the EAC at its meeting held during 20-21 February, 2014. The EAC recommended for a fresh TOR for Thana-Plaun HEP (191 MW) as per MoEF& CC norms and also recommended to use already collected base line data for the purpose of EIA/EMP studies subject to the condition that the data should not be older than 3 years and with some additional TOR conditions. The ToR was accorded on 05.06.2014 for a period of 3 years, which was further extended for one year. Hence, the validity of the ToR was up to 04.06.2018. Public Hearing for the proposed project has been conducted by the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Himachal Pradesh at villages Mahan, Khalanu, Kotli and Kadakalayan, Tarnosh, Kotli and Gram Panchayat Office at Barhi, Dharampur, Mandi during on 22-23 March, 2018.

PP has submitted the application for EC online on 19.05.2018. However, the base line data collected for the EIA / EMP studies is from 1st March 2013 to 31st December, 2013. EAC noted that the data collected for the study is more than three years old and hence could not be considered for appraisal of the project. After detailed deliberation, considering all the facts as presented by the project, EAC in its 15th meeting recommended that PP should collect baseline data for one more season afresh and resubmit the EC application. The following more additional information were also sought:

- I. Recommendation of E-flow and maintenance of free flow stretches between two HEPs as per the CIA and CC of Beas River Basin studies to be followed.
- II. Resultant pollution loads of all the environmental parameters be derived again for all the possible pollution sources. Based on the findings, mitigative measures be suggested including allocation of capital budgets for different heads.

PP has submitted the details sought in the 15th EAC meeting held on 28.06.2018 to the Ministry, accordingly the proposal has been considered in the present meeting wherein PP has informed to EAC that base line studies were conducted within 10km radius during monsoon season in the months of July-August-September 2018. Project Proponent committed that, E-flows have to be followed as per recommendation under CIA & CCS of Beas River Basin studies under consideration with MoEF&CC, GOI. Provisions finally approved in respect of environmental flow will be adhered by the project authorities of Thana Plaun HEP. PP also presented before the Expert Appraisal Committee impacts of the proposed project on environmental attributes such as water, air, noise, land & biological environment and social-economic environment along with mitigation measures.

S. No.	Name of the EMPs	Proposed cost (Rs. In Lacs)
1	Catchment Area Treatment Plan	5560.00
2	Compensatory Afforestation Plan	1011.27
3	Green Belt Development Plan	20.00
4	Biodiversity Management Plan	160.00
5	Fisheries Management Plan	117.00
6	Reservoir Rim Treatment	200.00
7	Muck Management Plan	176.00
8	Restoration Plan for Quarry Sites and Landscaping	35.00
9	Plan for Public Health Delivery System	100.00
10	Energy Conservation Plan	130.00
11	Solid Waste Management Plan	160.00
12	Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan	3522.00
13	Local Area Development Plan*	3335.00*
14	Plan for Air, Water & Noise Quality Management	50.00
15	Disaster Management Plan & Risk Assessment	80.00
16	Environment Monitoring Plan	249.00
17	Road Management Plan	21.00
Total		11591.57 say 11592.00


General Manager
TM & TP HEPs HPPCL
Kotli, Distt. Mandi (H.P.)

*Cost already included in the project establishment cost

After detailed deliberations, the EAC in its present meeting (20th) recommended for grant of Environmental Clearance to the proposed project subject to the following additional conditions:

1. Environment Clearance in respect of Thana Plaun HEP (191 MW) subject to adhering with the conditions/recommendations under CIA & CCS of Beas River Basin studies under consideration with MoEF&CC, GOI.
2. Submission of FC stage I Clearance to the Ministry.