

F.No.10-89/2010-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA-III Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003,

Dated: 17th November, 2011

To
Chief General Manager (LA),
National Highways Authority of India,
G- 5&6, Sector-10, Dwarka,
New Delhi - 110 075.

Subject: Environmental Clearance for widening and rehabilitation of existing 4 to 4/6 laning of Pune - Solapur section on NH-9, Maharashtra by M/s NHAI - Reg.

This has reference to your letter No. 11013/1/2k/Env./102 dated 13.09.2011 seeking Environmental Clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. The proposal has been appraised as per prescribed procedure in the light of provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 on the basis of the mandatory documents enclosed with the application viz., the Form-I, EIA, EMP, Public Hearing proceedings and the additional clarifications furnished in response to the observations of the Expert Appraisal Committee constituted by the competent authority in its meetings held on 18th - 20th January, 2011 and 21st - 23rd September, 2011.

2. It is interalia, noted that the proposal involves widening and rehabilitation of existing 4 to 4/6 laning of Pune - Solapur section on NH-9, Maharashtra. The proposed road 4/6 Laning of Pune Solapur Section Package II (From Km: 144+400 to Km: 249+000) of existing NH-9 in the State of Maharashtra on DBFOT basis under NHDP Phase III. The terrain along the project road is partly rolling and partly Plain Terrain. Total length of existing project road is 104.6 km and the length of proposed road is 101.30Km. The project road passes through Solapur district in Maharashtra State. Existing ROW varies from 24 to 40 m. The proposed ROW is of 60.0 m. 270 Ha additional land is proposed to be acquired and there is no diversion of forest land in the proposed Acquisition. The project alignment traverses along the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary. The NBWL has accepted and has endorsed the recommendations of Sawarkar Committee appointed on the instructions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, for rationalization of area of GIB Sanctuary, thereby reducing GIBS area considerably to 1222.61 sq.km from existing 8496.44 sq.km including exclusion of 50m wide strip of land on either side of National Highway. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted the above recommendations on 22nd July 2011, which excludes the entire Project Highway from the Sanctuary limits. There are about 16147 No. of trees in the proposed ROW and about 70% of these trees are to be cut for the proposed widening activity. At 4 locations, realignment has been proposed due to poor



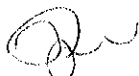
geometrics. However no new bypasses are proposed. There are 7 nos. of existing major bridges out of which 3 Nos shall be reconstructed as 6 lane bridge where as the balance 4 Nos shall be widened and rehabilitated to 6 lane configuration. Existing 21 minor bridges will be widened or repaired. Existing 195 culverts are in the project road which will be widened or repaired and 2 new culverts will be constructed on the project road. One existing ROB is proposed to be widened and a new 6 Lane ROB is proposed at the existing Level Crossing Location. In the widening of the project road, 12 vehicular underpasses and 12 pedestrian/cattle underpasses have been provided. In the project road, one flyover (Grade Separator) has been proposed. The service roads have been provided in the length of 83.05 Km (both side). at 11 locations. 15 Nos of Bus Bays, 47 Nos of Bus Stops, 3 Truck Lay Bys and 2 Rest Areas are proposed. Toll plaza is proposed at 2 locations. All junctions (total 28 Nos) will be improved. There are about 481 properties/structures are affected (283 Nos fully affected and 198 Nos partially affected) due to the widening of the existing road. Out of the total number of properties that are likely to be affected, 449 are private properties; there are 3 Schools 12 religious structures and 17 government properties. Affected families will be compensated as per NHAI Policy. There is no provision of Fly ash as there is no Thermal Power Plant within 100 Km of the Project Road. 852 KL of water per day is proposed to be extracted from surface sources (70%) and ground water (30%). The budget for environment management is approximately Rs. 8.73 Crores. The estimated cost for Land Acquisition, Resettlement & Rehabilitation is approximately Rs. 27.35 Crores. The estimated total project cost (TPC) is Rs. 835 Crores.

3. The project was considered by the EAC in its meeting held on 18th – 20th January, 2011 and finalized ToR including conduct of public Hearing. The Public Hearing was conducted on 26th August, 2011 at District Collectorate, Solapur.

4. The Expert Appraisal Committee, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and additional clarifications furnished in response to its observations, have recommended for the grant of Environmental Clearance for the project. Accordingly, the Ministry hereby accords necessary Environment Clearance for the above project as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:


5. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- (i) The project indicates cutting of about 15000 trees for the widening of the road. Necessary prior permission shall be obtained for cutting of trees from the competent authority. Compensatory afforestation shall be carried out as per stipulated conditions of MoEF and State Forest Division.
- (ii) Rain water harvesting including oil and grease trap shall be provided. Water harvesting structures shall be located at every 500 mts along the road. Vertical drain type rainwater harvesting



structures shall be set up to minimize surface runoff losses of rainwater.

- (iii) R&R shall be as per the guidelines of State/Central Government.
- (iv) IRC guidelines shall be followed for widening & up-gradation of road.
- (v) The responses/commitments made during public hearing shall be complied with letter and spirit.
- (vi) All the recommendation of the EMP shall be complied with letter and spirit.
- (vii) Green belt development shall be undertaken as suggested in EMP.
- (viii) Rain water harvesting including oil and grease trap shall be provided. Water harvesting structures shall be located at every 500 mts along the road. Vertical drain type rainwater harvesting structures shall be set up to minimize surface runoff losses of rainwater.
- (ix) The seismic nature of the area shall be taken into account while designing the project.
- (x) No ground water shall be used for the project. The project proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the State Irrigation Department before drawing water from the river sources for the purpose of the proposed construction activity.
- (xi) Sidewalk shall be provided along the bridges.
- (xii) The drain shall be at least 1 m. away from the toe of the embankment of the road adopting IRC guidelines.
- (xiii) Longitudinal drains shall be provided all along the project road to ensure proper drainage of the area. In addition, adequate number of under passes and culverts to act as cross drainage structures shall also be provided.
- (xiv) The solid waste generated shall be used for rehabilitating the borrow areas.
- (xv) For providing safety to the crossing animals and avoid road accidents speed breakers/rumpled strips shall be constructed at the identified locations of the animal movements. Enough hoardings and signages shall also be put up for the public and vehicles convenience.
- (xvi) Minimum of three times the number of trees to be cut shall be planted. It shall be ensured that the trees planted as a part of the afforestation shall be looked after by NHAI. Tree plantation shall be of the same species/local species and survival shall be monitored. Transplantation of trees shall be carried out wherever



possible. The tree plantation shall be taken up on the extreme end of the road.

- (xvii) Necessary permission for tree felling from the concerned department shall be obtained before commencement of the project work and copies of the same shall be submitted to this Ministry.
- (xviii) Adequate number of underpasses shall be provided in the habitation areas. The details of such underpasses shall be provided to the Ministry within 6 months from the date of issue of this letter.
- (xix) Necessary clearance from the State Government shall be obtained for extraction of sand from the rivers.
- (xx) Proper signage shall be installed at appropriate locations for the convenience of the traffic movement.
- (xxi) The embankments/slopes and the slopes left after cutting shall be provided with vegetative turning to avoid soil erosion.
- (xxii) The hot mix plant shall be located at least 500 mts. Away from habitation and on the barren land to avoid its adverse impact on the human population.
- (xxiii) Rehabilitation and payment of compensation to the project affected people (PAPs) shall be made as per the policy of the State Government.
- (xxiv) Noise barriers shall be provided at appropriate locations particularly in the areas where the alignment passes through inhabited areas so as to ensure that the noise levels do not exceed the prescribed standards.
- (xxv) For road safety, IRC guidelines in respect of road signages, service roads, bus bays, inter-sections, pedestrians crossings, etc. shall be strictly adhered to.

6. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- (i) Adequate provision for infrastructure facilities including water supply, fuel and sanitation must be ensured for construction workers during the construction phase of the project to avoid any damage to the environment.
- (ii) Appropriate measures must be taken while undertaking digging activities to avoid any likely degradation of water quality.
- (iii) Borrow sites for each quarry sites for road construction material and dump sites must be identified keeping in view the following:



- (a) No excavation or dumping on private property is carried out without written consent of the owner.
- (b) No excavation or dumping shall be allowed on wetlands, forest areas or other ecologically valuable or sensitive locations.
- (c) Excavation work shall be done in close consultation with the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Agencies working in the area, and
- (d) Construction spoils including bituminous material and other hazardous materials must not be allowed to contaminate water courses and the dump sites for such materials must be secured so that they shall not leach into the ground water.
- (iv) The construction material shall be obtained only from approved quarries. In case new quarries are to be opened, specific approvals from the competent authority shall be obtained in this regard.
- (v) Adequate precautions shall be taken during transportation of the construction material so that it does not affect the environment adversely.
- (vi) Borrow pits and other scars created during the road construction shall be properly levelled and treated.
- (vii) Adequate financial provision must be made in the project to implement the aforesaid safeguards.
- (viii) The project proponent will set up separate environmental management cell for effective implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards under the supervision of a Senior Executive.
- (ix) Full support shall be extended to the officers of this Ministry/ Regional Office at Bhopal by the project proponent during inspection of the project for monitoring purposes by furnishing full details and action plan including action taken reports in respect of mitigation measures and other environmental protection activities.
- (x) A six-Monthly monitoring report shall need to be submitted by the project proponents to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Bhopal regarding the implementation of the stipulated conditions.
- (xi) Ministry of Environment & Forests or any other competent authority may stipulate any additional conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary in the interest of environment and the same shall be complied with.



- (xii) The Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with the satisfaction of the Ministry.
- (xiii) In the event of a change in project profile or change in the implementation agency, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (xiv) The project proponents shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xv) A copy of the clearance letter shall be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been made received while processing the proposal.
- (xvi) Safety provision such as bus bays, service roads intersection improvement etc., will be carried out by the project proponent. The project proponent shall provide adequate facilities as per IRC norms/ guidelines.
- (xvii) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Center and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's office for 30 days.

7. These stipulations would be enforced among others under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991 and EIA Notification 2006, including the amendments and rules made thereafter.

8. All other statutory clearances such as the approvals for storage of diesel from Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Department, Civil Aviation Department, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. shall be obtained, as applicable by project proponents from the respective competent authorities.

9. The project proponent shall advertise in at least two local Newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. The advertisement should be made within 10 days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional office of this Ministry at Bhopal.

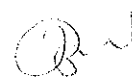
10. Environmental clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.



11. Status of compliance to the various stipulated environmental conditions and environmental safeguards will be uploaded by the project proponent in its website.

12. The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.

13. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of EC conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF by e-mail.



(E. Thirunavukkarasu)
Deputy Director (IA-III)

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.
2. The Chairman, CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32.
3. The Chairman, Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority, Room No.217 (Annexe), Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.
4. The Chairman, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Points, 3rd & 4th floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle, Sion (E) Mumbai - 400 022.
5. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional Office, Western Region, Kendriya Paryavaran Bhavan, Link, Road No. 3, Ravishankar Nagar, Bhopal - 462016(M.P.)
6. Guard File.
7. Monitoring Cell.



(E. Thirunavukkarasu)
Deputy Director (IA-III)