



EAC Thermal to consider 10 proposals on 23 January 2019

Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) on Thermal Power Projects of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in meeting scheduled for 23 January 2019 is considering 10 proposals. Six proposals to be considered are for amendment in EC while 2 projects are for temporary permission for road transportation of coal. Of the remaining two, one project is for amendment of ToR, and one is for expansion of cogeneration power plant from 6 MW to 18 MW at a Starch plant in Belagavi, Karnataka.

One proposal of concern is amendment of EC for 'change in water source' sought in 2x800 MW imported coal based Godda Thermal Power project by Adani Power wherein the water source has been changed from Chir river to Ganga river.

As per the EC, the project has been given permission to annually draw 36 million cubic metres of water from river Chir. At the time of appraisal, EIA Resource and Response Centre (ERC) raised the issue of availability of water in the Chir river and building a reservoir would be impractical. Project Proponent had failed to submit details on the river's flow pattern and catchment areas etc. Later, the EC was challenged in the National Green Tribunal. The proponent is now changing the water source from Chir to Ganga quoting shallowness of river and pumping difficulties which makes us wonder why rightful assessment of the source was not done during the earlier EIA process. It also raises question, has the EC been wrongfully obtained.

Other Amendment of EC Proposals

Change in coal source

Project	Location	Seeks amendment for	Features
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2X600 MW and 3X660 MW coal based TPP	Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu by IL&FS Tamil Nadu Power Company Ltd.	Use of indigenous coal (sourced from lignite mines of NLC India Limited, Neyveli) upto 25% along with imported coal.	Coal source at 25 km (aerial distance) from the site. Road transportation is preferred as an interim arrangement with trucks moving at frequency of 6 – 7 trucks per hours.
2X660 MW of Malwa TPP	Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh by M.P. Power Generating Co. Ltd.	Re-appropriated the allocation of Coal and name change	Coal transportation details are not given.
1X500 MW Vindhyaachal Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-V	Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh by NTPC Ltd.	Change in coal source from Pakri Bawardih coal block to Northern Coalfield Limited	Coal shall be transported through existing Merry go round system.
4000 MW Imported coal based Cheyyur Ultra Mega power Project (UMPP)	Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu by NTPC Ltd.	Change from imported coal to domestic coal based UMPP	Coal ash content will get increase, lead to increase in project area for ash dyke

Diversion bund for fly ash disposal

Construction of temporary diversion bund for fly ash disposal is proposed in 2X800 MN Sri Damodaran Sanjeevaiah TPP at Nellore, Andhara Pradesh by APPDC wherein the present ash pond is undergoing modification for raising dyke height.

Coal transportation by road

Two projects sought temporary permission for road transportation of coal - (i) 1X600 Coal based TPP in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh by Jhabua Power Ltd. which seeks extension of time for transportation of coal by covered trucks from Binaiki railway siding to the plant for a further period of one year i.e. till 14.02.2020, and (ii) 2X660 MW Khargone Super Critical TPP at Khargone, Madhya Pradesh by NTPC Ltd. seeking road transportation as the construction of railway line/MGR from Pakri Bawardih Captive coal block is delayed.

Transportation of coal by road is polluting in nature as regular movement of trucks will not only generate fugitive dust emission but also increases vehicle pollution in

the areas. It will lead to noise pollution. Furthermore, the transportation roads may pass through areas of high population density and cause difficulties with traffic.

Review by

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