

F. No.2-30/2012-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(IA-III Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi -110 003
Dated: 18th Dec, 2012

Office Memorandum

Sub: Rationalization of procedure for Environmental Clearance for Highway Projects involving borrow areas for soil and earth-Reg.

NHAI/other agencies/concessionaires executing Highway projects procure soil/earth from the borrow areas of the local farmers along the alignment of such projects. It has been felt that instead of processing Environmental Clearance (EC) for individual borrow areas, it would be more practical and workable, if the project proponent applying for EC for Highway project also combines the issues of borrow mining of soil/earth in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) report of the project.

2. It has been accordingly decided to streamline the procedures relating to grant of Environmental Clearance to the highway projects involving borrow areas for soil/earth under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and put the following framework in place:-

- (i) Separate environment clearances for mining of soil/earth from borrow areas, which are part of a highway project, are not required.
- (ii) The construction/widening of highways along with the mining of soil/earth from borrow areas to be considered as a single project for appraisal under EIA Notification, 2006. The NHAI/other agencies implementing the Highway projects while submitting the proposal for Terms of Reference (ToR) / EC will submit the following additional details. While appraising such projects, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure may also invite appropriate Member(s) from the EAC for Non-coal Mining.

a. At the stage of submitting the proposal for ToRs

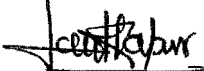
1. Details of borrow areas along with the coordinates and quantity to be extracted should be mentioned in Form-I.
2. Pre-feasibility report on the mining of soil/earth providing details of location, physical features such as land use, water bodies etc. should also be provided along with.
3. Likely impact on environment due to proposed mining of soil/earth for the project.

b. At the stage of submitting the proposal for EC

1. Details of mining methodology/techniques proposed to be adopted in the borrow areas.
2. A copy of the approved mining plan from the State Government.
3. An NOC from the Gram Panchayat / Local body.
4. A separate chapter on the details on mining of soil/ earth from borrow areas along with the EMP to be included in the EIA Report.

3. It is clarified that:-

- i) The aforesaid framework will be limited only for Highway projects involving mining of soil/earth from the borrow areas for use in such projects.
- ii) All conditionalities as mentioned above are to be met by the proponent i.e NHAI/other agencies implementing the Highway projects.


(Lalit Kapur)
Director (IA-III)

To

- i) All the Officers of IA Division
- ii) Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/ SEACs
- iii) Chairman CPCB
- iv) Chairpersons /Member Secretaries of all SPCBs / UTPCCs

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- i) PS to MEF
- ii) PPS to Secretary (E&F)
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- v) Website MoEF.