



सत्यमेव जयते

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA Division
(River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects)**



**Minutes of 51ST MEETING OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE Expert
Appraisal Committee meeting River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects held from **Date:** 03/10/2023
12/09/2023 to 12/09/2023**

MoM ID: EC/MOM/EAC/370591/9/2023

Agenda ID: EC/AGENDA/EAC/370591/9/2023

Meeting Venue: MoEF&CC

Meeting Mode: Physical

Date & Time:

12/09/2023	10:30 AM	05:30 PM
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1. Opening remarks

The 51st meeting of the re-constituted EAC for River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi, was held on 12th September, 2023 through physical mode, under the Chairmanship of Dr. K Gopakumar.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

The EAC confirmed the minutes of 50th EAC meeting held on 11th August, 2023.

3. Details of proposals considered by the committee

Day 1 -12/09/2023

3.1. Agenda Item No 1:

3.1.1. Details of the proposal

Raiwada Pumped Storage Project by ADANI GREEN ENERGY LIMITED located at ANAKAPALLI,ANDHRA PRADESH			
Proposal For		Fresh ToR	
Proposal No	File No	Submission Date	Activity (Schedule Item)
IA/AP/RIV/438787/2023	J-12011/45/2023-IA.I (R)	04/08/2023	River Valley/Irrigation projects (1(c))

51.7.1 The Member Secretary informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project for Kurha Vadhoda Islampur Lift Irrigation Scheme of Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 32372 Ha at Village Rigaon, Tehsil Muktainagar District Jalgaon (Maharashtra) by M/s Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

The proposal was earlier considered by the EAC in its 45th meeting held on 26th April, 2023, wherein the EAC recommended the proposal for grant of environmental clearance.

The recommendation of the EAC was processed in the Ministry and it has been emerged that the due process has not been followed by the project proponent during Public Consultation as prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended. Accordingly, the proposal referred back to EAC for re-consideration by the EAC.

51.7.3: The EAC during deliberations noted that the proposal was earlier recommended for grant of EC, as the project is being constructed in drought prone area of Jalgaon District of Maharashtra and is of immense importance for local public. The EAC further noted that as the public consultation process has not been done as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, the EAC suggested the project proponent to conduct public consultation as per procedure prescribed.

Additional Agenda Item No. 51.2

Consideration of Site Visit Report the EAC (Sub-Committee) Visit for Kodayar Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project of capacity 1500 MW located at Village Pechiparai, Taluk Thiruvattar, District Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) by M/s Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO)- Terms of Reference (TOR).

The EAC noted that:

1. The proposal is under consideration for grant of Terms of Reference to the project for Kodayar Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project of capacity 1500 MW in an area of 40.72 ha located at Village Pechiparai, Taluk Thiruvattar, District Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) by M/s Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) was submitted on 17.02.2023.
2. The proposal was considered by the EAC (River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects) in 43rd meeting held on 7th March, 2023.
3. After detailed deliberations the EAC observed that the project location is sensitive in terms of dense forest cover, Tiger reserve, Wildlife sanctuary and biodiversity. Therefore, the EAC deferred the proposal and decided to conduct site-visit by EAC sub-committee members before making any recommendations on proposal.
4. Accordingly, sub-committee of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) comprising of the following 4 members visited the proposed for Kodayar Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project site from 28.05.2023 to 31.05.2023. The detailed site visit report is annexed.

1. Dr. A.K. Malhotra
2. Shri Ashok Kumar Kharya
3. Dr. Anthony Jhonson
4. Shri Yogendra Pal Singh

6. The officials visited the lower intake reservoir and the location of upper reservoir. The locations inspected in the lower reaches are detailed below.

1. Pechiparai Dam top.
2. Ferry point
3. Lower intake location through ferry.
4. Tachamalai Kanikudi.
5. Kallar river and interaction with WRD official.
6. Road leading to Kalaparai Kannikudi from Mothiramalai.
7. Kuttiyar river & Rubber plantation area.
8. Power house location proposed for PSP.
9. Tail race area.
10. The Terrain of MAT.

7. The areas inspections at Upper intake area are detailed below:

- a. The Kodayar dam I U/S – D/S Viewed from dam top.
- b. The road leading to saddle 7 of Kodayar dam I
- c. Proposed intake of Kodayar dam I (Upper intake)
- d. Chinnakuttiyar dam.
- e. Water spread area of Kodayar dam I

Observations of Sub-committee

1. The extent of the project falls within the Wildlife sanctuary and Tiger reserves. The entire road falls within the KWLS bounds. Movement of heavy dumpers for Muck dumping within the forest roads was a major concern and needs to be restricted.
2. Eutrophication is occurring in the Upper reservoir. It was requested to TANGEDCO to take action for cutting and disposal of the existing withered trees in the water spread area of Kodayar Dam-I.
3. The committee is of the opinion that the project area falls within the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) as well as Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. Scientific studies reveal that the area is of high ecological importance and habitat for various critical and endangered wildlife species including Tigers, Guars, Elephants and many endemic plant species. Though the main components of the projects viz. inlet tunnel and the power house are proposed underground, there will be a high probability of disturbance in various ecological attributes which may ultimately affect the wildlife habitat. Hence, it is appropriate to take opinion of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) before taking any decision on the proposal. Accordingly, the project proponent may be requested to obtain necessary consent of NBWL for construction of project at proposed location.

The EAC after detailed examination of the site visit report recommended that the PP should submit the following information for further consideration of the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference:

1. Permission of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for construction of the project at proposed location.

2. Valid document indicating that proposed project is the permissible activity on permissible activity inside the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) as well as Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu.

Additional Agenda item No. 51.2

Consideration of Site Visit Report the EAC (Sub-Committee) of Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project 600 MW (4x150 MW) in an area of 164 Ha located at Village Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District (Odisha) by M/s Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited

The EAC noted that:

1. The proposal is under consideration for grant of Terms of Reference to the project for Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project 600 MW (4x150 MW) in an area of 164 Ha located at Village Mukhiguda, Kalahandi District (Odisha) by M/s Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited submitted on 13.03.2023.
2. The proposal was considered by the EAC (River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects) in in 44th meeting held on 27th – 28th March, 2023
3. After detailed deliberations the EAC observed that the PP informed that some construction activities (sub-surface exploration) have already been started, so, the EAC desired to verify the status of construction activities at site. Therefore, the EAC deferred the proposal and decided to conduct site-visit by EAC sub-committee members before making any recommendations on proposal.
4. Accordingly, a sub-committee of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) comprising of the following 4 members visited the proposed Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project 600 MW (4x150 MW) site from 17th August 2023 to 20th August 2023.

1. Dr. A.K Malhotra
2. Dr. Uday Kumar R.Y
3. Dr. J. A. Johnson
4. Shri Yogendra Pal Singh, Scientist 'E'

5. Observations of Sub-committee

- i. The proposed Head race Tunnel is underground and falls within forest area. It was suggested to the Project Proponent that the Muck disposal area should be kept outside the Forest area to the extent possible. Also, necessary steps may be taken for plantation of fodder crops on the Muck disposal area during the time of construction stage.
- ii. The material proposed to be excavated from the Lower reservoir, and other project components during construction of the project should be utilized as construction material to the extent possible and possibilities may be worked out for avoiding the use of existing approved identified rock quarry coming under the Forest.