

No. J-12011/26/2006-IA.I
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 4th August, 2006

Sh. Y. N. Apparao,
M/s Teesta Urja Limited,
119, Jor Bagh ,
New Delhi – 110003.

**Subject: Teesta Hydroelectric Project Stage-III (1200 MW) in North
District, Sikkim – Environmental Clearance reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. TUL/MoEF/060617, dated 17.06.2005 and subsequent letters No. TUL-VII/MoEF/060714, TUL/MoEF/060714, TUL/MoEF/060719 dated 14.07.2006 & 19.07.2006 respectively on the subject.

2. The above referred proposal was considered by the Expert Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects at its meeting held on 28.06.2006 & reconsidered on 19.07.2006.

3. The Teesta Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW) envisages construction of a concrete face rock fill dam of 60m height across Teesta river at about 400m downstream of confluence of river Lachen chu and Lachung chu near village Chungthang and the underground power house at 800m upstream of confluence of the river Teesta and Talung chu near village Sanklan, North Sikkim district, Sikkim. Total land requirement is 196.967 ha. Out of which 80.288 ha. is forest land. Forest Clearance is yet to be obtained. No human population will be displaced. However, 156 families are likely to lose their land partially in nine project affected villages. R&R package has been prepared based on NPRR-2003. Public hearing was held on 8th June, 2006. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5705.55 crores.

4. The Environmental Management Plan submitted by M/s Teesta Urja Limited has been examined. The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, subject to strict compliance of the terms and conditions as follows:

Part A: Specific Conditions

i) 1953.3 ha. degraded catchment area needs to be treated. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan as has been proposed should be completed in four years. The plan is reproduced below:

Treatment Measures	Units	Year -I	Year -II	Year-III	Year -IV
Afforestation	ha.	263	263	113	113
Plantation (Medicinal / bamboo)	ha.	145	145	63	63
Pasture Development	ha.	188	188	81	81
Social Forestry	ha.	14	14	6	6
Fuel wood and fodder grass	ha.	56	56	24	24
Nursery development	No.	4	4	2	-
Barbed wire fencing	Km	3	3	2	2
Step drain / catch water drains	m	175	175	75	75
1:2:4 Stone masonry	m ³	25	25	13	12
Contour bunding	ha.	17	17	8	7

ii) Considering the landslide prone areas, the tunneling should be done, with great care under close supervision.

iii) Clearance from National Committee of Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) of CWC should be obtained.

iv) Total 156 families from nine villages will be affected due to acquisition of land & affected families should be rehabilitated as per NPPR-2003.

v) A monitoring committee should be constituted which must include representatives of project affected persons from SC/ST category and a women beneficiary.

vi) All the assurances/ commitments given by the project authority in the Public Hearing must be honoured in letter and spirit.

- vii) The Khangchendzonga National Park is one km away from the project site. The Wildlife Conservation Plan proposed for protection of Wildlife in protected area on page 10-1 to 10-13 of EMP, should be followed in toto.
- viii) Forest Clearance should be obtained for acquiring 80.288 hectare forest land & submitted.
- ix) The implementation of Fish Management Plan including provision of fish ladder should be carried out in consultation with the Fisheries Department, State Government of Sikkim and submitted to MOEF within three months from date of issue of this letter.
- x) During the lean season minimum 3 cumecs water should be released downstream of the dam for sustenance of aquatic life.
- xi) Any other clearance from any other organization if required should be obtained.

Part-B: General Conditions

- (i) Adequate free fuel arrangement should be made for the labour force engaged in the construction work at project cost so that indiscriminate felling of trees is prevented.
- (ii) Fuel depot may be opened at the site to provide the fuel (kerosene/wood/LPG). Medical facilities as well as recreational facilities should also be provided to the labourers.
- (iii) All the labourers to be engaged for construction works should be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing them work permit.
- (iv) Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials should be ensured by leveling, filling up of burrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.
- (v) Financial provision should be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested safeguard measures.
- vi) A Monitoring Committee for R & R should be constituted which must include representatives of project-affected persons from a woman beneficiary.

- vii) A Multidisciplinary committee should be constituted with representatives from various disciplines of forestry, ecology, wildlife, soil conservation, NGO etc. to oversee the effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures.
- viii) Six monthly monitoring reports should be submitted to the Ministry and its Regional Office, Shillong for review.
4. Officials from Regional Office MOEF, Shillong who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards should be given full cooperation, facilities and documents / data by the project proponents during their inspection.
5. The responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguards rests fully with the M/s Teesta Urja Limited & Government of Sikkim.
6. In case of change in the scope of the project, project would require a fresh appraisal.
7. The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary and to take action including revoking of the clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time-bound and satisfactory manner.
8. This clearance letter is valid for a period of five years from the date of issue of this letter for commencement of construction work.
9. A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/ representation has been received while processing the proposal.
10. State Pollution Control Board / Committee should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Center and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
11. The project proponent should advertise within seven days from the date

of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board / Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>

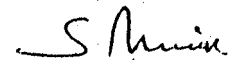


(Dr. S. Bhowmik)

Additional Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti, Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001.
2. Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary, Energy & Power department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim- 737102
3. The Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Deorali – Gangtok-737102..
4. The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Adviser (Power), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001.
6. The Chief Engineer, Project Appraisal Directorate, Central Electricity Authority, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.
7. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office Sillong, Sikkim.
8. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management, Deorali – Gangtok-737102.
9. EI- Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi-110003.
10. Guard file.



(Dr. S. Bhowmik)

Additional Director