

**MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF  
THE STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC)  
CONVENED ON 23.01.2017 AT 3.00 P.M. IN  
THE CONFERENCE HALL, PHB BUILDING, PUDUCHERRY**

The list of members attended is enclosed as Annexure - I.

**Agenda Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SEAC convened on 26.09.2016 and 27.09.2016.**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 2: Examination of Project proposals under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments for onward appraisal to the SEIAA for further examination to consider issue of Prior Environmental Clearance (PEC):**

**1. Public Works Department, Government of Puducherry seeking CRZ Clearance for proposed construction of one near shore reef, one offshore reef and Beach Nourishment for restoration of Puducherry Beach.**

The committee discussed the proposal in detail with the project proponent. The following were present on behalf of the project proponent and made a presentation on the salient features of the project:

- i) Thiru. K. Jeevadayan, Executive Engineer, PWD, Puducherry
- ii) Thiru. V. Anbarasan, Junior Engineer, PWD, Puducherry
- iii) Thiru. K. Mullaivendan, Scientist-D, NIOT, Chennai
- iv) Thiru. R. Suresh, Scientific Assistant Grade C, NIOT, Chennai
- v) Tmt. Shyamala Varthini, Scientist – C, NIOT, Chennai
- vi) Thiru. Satya Kiran Raju Alluri, Scientist –C, NIOT, Chennai.

The committee inter-alia noted that the project involves carrying out coastal protection measures along the Puducherry Beach near Gandhi Statue to solve the severe coastal erosion problem and restore the beach. Significant erosion has occurred in Puducherry over the last 3 decades, which has threatened development and resulted in substantial protection works. As on date, 8 km length of the coastline is protected by seawall and groyne field. The beautiful historical beach in front of the town has disappeared, leaving only the rock wall which prevents access to the seaside, and is out of harmony with the city's tourism aspirations. Restoration of the beaches is a top priority for the Puducherry government.

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To evolve an integrated long-term solution for protection of coast and restoration of natural beach that was lost along Puducherry Town, PWD has taken up studies through NIOT under the project "Demonstration of Shore Protection Measures through Pilot project", with financial support from Ministry of Earth Sciences. NIOT has monitored the coastal processes responsible for shoreline changes from 2012 and has prepared the Shoreline Management Plan for Puducherry in May 2015. Further, based on the detailed Hydrodynamic and Coastal process studies carried out, NIOT has designed the present project for restoration of beach and ecological functions of the coast.

The proposed solution involves

- Construction of one Nearshore Wedge reef opposite to the Chief Secretariat on the north end of Pondicherry town foreshore, with the crest at Chart Datum.
- Construction of one Offshore reef placed at the south end, at 300 m north of the pier, with the crest at 1 m above Chart Datum.
- Sand nourishment using 4,50,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand between northern and southern reef along the Coastline of Pondicherry Town near Gandhi Statue.

The goal of the nearshore wedge reef in the north is to provide a mild barrier to sediment losses, thus enabling sand to move naturally to the north while slowing the losses of sand from the town foreshore. The goal of the offshore reef at the south is to create a salient or tombolo which will hold the sand on the town beaches which also acts to prevent sand losses from the town back to the Port.

- Area of nearshore reef - 28,540 m<sup>2</sup> of 4 m height.
- Area of offshore reef - 4,200 m<sup>2</sup> of 4 m height.
- Reclamation/ beach nourishment using dredged sand of 4,50,000 m<sup>3</sup> provided by Port Department, Puducherry.
- Total Project cost – Rs. 65 crores.

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The committee noted that the proposal was discussed in the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Puducherry Coastal Zone Management Authority (PCZMA) held on 13.06.2016 and the Authority recommended the proposal to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India for approval subject to the following conditions:

- i) The project shall not interfere with the regular fishing activities in the area.
- ii) Continuous monitoring of the levels of crest of berm or other appropriate methods shall be carried out by the Project Proponent to assess the shoreline changes for the entire coast of the Union Territory and report shall be submitted to PCZMA every year.

Subsequently the proposal was discussed in 164<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The EAC referred the amendment dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 in the CRZ notification 2011 which states that the proposals covered under para (4) (i) but not attracting EIA notification 2006 requires CRZ clearance from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) in respective state after having been recommended by concerned CZMA. Accordingly, the Expert Appraisal Committed advised project proponent to apply the proposal to the SEIAA in Puducherry for the desired CRZ clearance as per the extant provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011. Hence, the proposal was again placed in the 33<sup>rd</sup> PCZMA meeting held on 26.12.2016 and the Authority recommended it to SEIAA for issue of CRZ Clearance.

After detailed deliberations, the Committee resolved that the proposal shall be recommended to SEIAA for issue of CRZ Clearance with following specific conditions along with other general conditions:

- i) The project shall not interfere with the regular fishing activities in the area.
- ii) Continuous monitoring of the levels of crest of berm or other appropriate methods shall be carried out by the Project Proponent to assess the shoreline changes in the project area and also for the entire coast of the Union Territory and report shall be submitted to PCZMA every year.
- iii) Detailed data on fauna and flora along with planktons / bathymetric and shoreline surveys, sediment sampling shall be conducted before and after completion of the project.

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- iv) After construction, the beach nourishment and the reefs performance shall be monitored annually to evaluate the project-performance and to regularly assess the condition of the nourishment and any adverse impact on adjacent coasts. These shall include bathymetric surveys, shoreline and berm positions and total volume.
- v) All safety precautionary measures for safe navigation of the fishing vessels, signals for the fishing boats, etc shall be in place.
- vi) The project proponent shall ensure that no discharge of untreated sewage waste occurs near the proposed project site.
- vii) Precast modules shall be deployed around reefs so as to attract flora and fauna to enhance the biodiversity.
- viii) Adequate funds shall be allotted every year by the Project Proponent for monitoring and maintenance of the reefs and sand nourishment.
- ix) No construction activities other than those permitted in the CRZ Notification, 2011 shall be carried out.

**2. M/s. Manjula Pulverizing seeking Environmental Clearance for Establishing 50 TPA Standalone Cement Unit by Clinker Grinding at R.S. Nos. 41/6 and 41/5B, Sedarapet Industrial Estate, Villianur Commune Panchayat, Puducherry.**

The Committee noted that this proposal was discussed in the 20<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 26.09.2016 and the committee resolved that SEIAA may return the proposal to the Project Proponent with instructions to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC and Wild Life Clearance from NBWL since the project site is within 5 kms of Ousteri Bird Sanctuary which is a notified wild life protected area. Subsequent to the SEAC meeting, the Minutes of Meeting was uploaded in the online portal and the case was forwarded to SEIAA for rejection. But, due to certain processing error the case is still pending in the list of cases under SEAC for consideration and could not be taken up by SEIAA through online portal for placing it before SEIAA meeting and rejecting it. Hence a rejection letter was issued on 30.11.2016 to the project proponent with the approval of Chairman – SEIAA by conventional method of processing in file which was subsequently ratified in the 16<sup>th</sup> SEIAA meeting held on 06.01.2017.

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The committee noted that the proposal has been placed again in the present SEAC meeting to formally reject the proposal in the online portal.

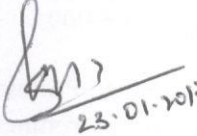
After due deliberation, the Authority re-confirmed the decision taken earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting and resolved that SEIAA may reject the proposal with instructions to the Project Proponent to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC and Wild Life Clearance from NBWL.

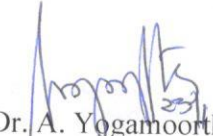
**Agenda Item No. 3: Any other item with the permission of the Chairman – Nil.**

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.


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23/01/17  
Dr. S. Govindaradjane  
(Member)


  
23.01.2017  
Dr. S. Ram Kumar  
(Member)

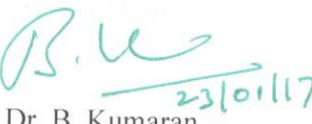
  
23/01/17  
Dr. A. Yogamoorthi  
(Member)

  
23/01/2017  
Dr. K.M. Gopinathan  
(Member)

  
Dr. K. Sambandan  
(Member)

  
Dr. P. Kavita Vasudevan  
(Member)

  
23/1/2017  
Dr. R. Sagaya Alfred  
(Secretary)

  
23/01/17  
Dr. B. Kumaran  
(Chairman)

## ANNEXURE - I

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of the Members Present		
	<u>Tvl.</u>		
1.	Dr. B. Kumaran, Principal Indira Gandhi College of Arts and Science Kathirkamam, Puducherry – 605 009.	-	Chairman
2.	Dr. S. Govindaradjane, Professor Department of Civil Engineering Pondicherry Engineering College Puducherry – 605 014.	-	Member
3.	Dr. S. Ram Kumar, Professor Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research Kurumbapet, Puducherry – 605 009.	-	Member
4.	Dr. A. Yogamoorthi, Associate Professor Department of Ecology and Environment Science Pondicherry University Puducherry – 605 014.	-	Member
5.	Dr. K.M. Gopinathan, Associate Professor Department of Zoology Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts College New Mahe – 673 311.	-	Member
6.	Dr. K. Sambandan, Assistant Professor Department of Plant Science Avvaiyar Government College for Women Karaikal – 609 602.	-	Member
7.	Dr. P. Kavita Vasudevan, Professor and Head Department of Community Medicine Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute Kathirkamam, Puducherry – 605 009.	-	Member
8.	Dr. R. Sagaya Alfred Senior Scientific Officer Department of Science, Technology and Environment 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, PHB Building, Anna Nagar Puducherry – 605 005.	-	Secretary