

**F. No. 10-35/2018-IA.III**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj  
New Delhi – 110 003  
Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

To

**The General Manager (Environment)**  
National Highways Authority of India  
G-5 & G-6, Sector 10  
Dwarka, New Delhi – 110 075

Sub: **Development of Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) Phase-III of Bengaluru (NH-948A) from Peddamadhagondapalli, Karnataka/Tamil Nadu Border (km 140.000) to Deeviripalli (km 179.969) in District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu by M/s National Highways Authority of India - Environmental Clearance regarding.**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter no. NHA/12012/STRR/MoEF/(phase-III)/2/2020/F, J-BNG/3629 dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 submitting the above proposal online to this Ministry on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, for seeking Environmental Clearance in term of the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The above mentioned proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure, CRZ and other Miscellaneous projects in its 237<sup>th</sup> meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

3. The project proponent along with the EIA consultant M/s Louis Berger Consulting Private Limited, Gurugram made a presentation and provided following information to the Committee:

- (i) **Brief description of the Proposal:** The proposed greenfield alignment is part of the "Satellite Town Ring Road (West Side), a newly declared highway as NH-948A. The STRR projects (Phases I, II & III) project starts from Ch.0.000 in Dabaspur and ends at Ch.179.969 near Devarapalli village in Tamil Nadu/Karnataka Border. The project road is falling in two states viz. Karnataka (length 134.942 km) and Tamil Nadu (length 45.027 km).
- (ii) The length of this alignment is 39.969 km that runs from Peddamadhagondapalli, Karnataka/Tamil Nadu Border (km 140.000) to Deeviripalli (km 179.969) in District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) **Item of Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006:** 7 (f).

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- (v) **Address of project site (Plot No./Village/ Tehsil/ District/State):** PIU Bengaluru, Sy. No. 13, 14<sup>th</sup> km, near Deepak Bus stop, Nagasandra, M.S Ramaiah Enclave, Bengaluru – Tumkur Road (NH-4) Bengaluru-560073.
- (v) **Geo-coordinates of project site:**  
 Starting point 12°38'10.56"N - 77°44'18.46"E  
 End point 12°52'16.64"N - 77°53'22.84"E
- (vi) **Connectivity to the site:** Banglore-Chennai.
- (vii) **Investment/Cost of the project:** INR 756.68 crores (Approximately).
- (viii) **Landuse/Landcover of project site in tabular form:**

Landuse/ Land Cover	% occupied	Area (ha)
Cultivated	92%	106591.6572
Barren Land	2%	2317.20994
Plantation	2%	2317.20994
Forest	1%	1158.60497
Settlement	1%	1158.60497
Water	2%	2317.20994
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>115860.497</b>

- (ix) **Landuse/Landcover around 1 km in case of Highway projects:**

Landuse/Land Cover	% Coverage	Area (ha)
Barren land	6%	415.673
Forest	1%	76.702
Plantation	1%	105.022
Settlement	2%	121.342
Water	3%	240.745
Agriculture	87%	6346.597
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7306.080</b>

- (x) **Right of Way (RoW), only for projects covered under 7(f) category of EIA Notification, 2006:** Right of Way (ROW) requirement of 70 m.
- (xi) **Terrain and topographical features:** The Krishnagiri district shares the boundaries of Vellore and Thiruvannamalai districts in the East, Bangalore Urban district of Karnataka state in the West, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh in the North and Dharmapuri District in the south. The district forms part of the upland plateau region with many hill ranges and undulating plains. The western part of the district has hill ranges of Mysore plateau with a chain of undulating hills and deep valleys extending in NNE-SSW direction. The South Pennar River irrigates the flatlands.
- (xii) **Details of water bodies, impact on drainage, if any:** There are two natural streams, one canal and one river is falling along the alignment. The Bridges and cross drainage structures have been provided to avoid the impacts on drainage.

13

(xiii) **Water requirements, sources and NOC:**

Phase	Water Requirement (L/Day)
Construction Phase for Construction	1131839
Construction Phase for Workers/labour camps	1157680
Operation Phase	2760

- (xiv) **Groundwater extraction/usage and NOC/Clearance from CGWA/State Ground Water Department:** Ground water table in the project area varies between 5m to 20m. Main source of water in the nearby villages is groundwater.
- (xv) **Total 5,93,434 m<sup>3</sup> of Fly Ash** from nearby Thermal Power Stations shall be used to the minimum extent of 30% of total fill material for the embankment.
- (xvi) The project is not located in Critically Polluted area.
- (xvii) **ToR details:** The ToR was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.
- (xviii) **Public Hearing Details:** 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019 at 10:30 am in the District Forest Officer Complex, Mathigiri Cattle Farm (P.O), Mathiri, Hosur Taluk, District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. The major issues raised during public hearing was issues of land, properties, water bodies, employment, and pollution during construction stage. The concern of the people recorded and considered in design for implementation and mitigation.
- (xix) The project does not involve any issue related to diversion of forest land, wildlife and protected areas.
- (xx) The project is not located within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) or Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) notified by the MoEF&CC.
- (xxi) **Details of tree cutting and Green belt development.:** Total 12111 trees will be felled. There will be provision of compensatory afforestation and green belt development.
- (xxii) **Details of Rain Water Harvesting.:** Total 80 rainwater harvesting structures will be provided.
- (xxiii) **Brief description of Socio-economic condition of local people and R&R issues involved:** This project will affect 24 villages and 182 Structures. Accordingly, the compensation for the affected land, property and other structures would be given on the basis of the National R&R Act 2013 in addition to local State laws as applicable.
- (xxiv) **Employment potential:** More than 2600 people will be employed during construction and operation phases.
- (xxv) **Benefits of the project:** Construction of new road will provide better, fast, safe and smooth connectivity for the commuters between the two states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as well as in the region. Smooth and fast moving traffic will cause lower pollutant emissions thereby reducing pollution levels. Accident rates are also expected to be under control due to enhanced road safety measures. Development of the proposed project road will boost the local agriculture and enable farmers to realize better value for their products as well as attract more investment to that region.
- (xxvi) **Details of Court cases, if any:** No.

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4. The EAC, after detailed deliberations during 237<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, Based on the proposal/information submitted by project proponent, scrutiny by the Division, appraisal and recommendations by the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords Environmental Clearance to the project for **'Development of Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) Phase-III of Bengaluru (NH-948A) from Peddamadhagondapalli, Karnataka/Tamil Nadu Border (km 140.000) to Deeviripalli (km 179.969) in District Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu by M/s National Highways Authority of India,** under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars issued thereon, and subject to the specific and general conditions as under:

#### **PART A –SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

- (i) This Environmental Clearance is subject to outcome of court cases pending against the project proponent at Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Court/other Courts/tribunals, if any.
- (ii) The recommendations of Cumulative Impact Assessment studies for all the packages shall be provided (to the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC) along with application for last package of proposed Highway along with the monitoring reports submitted time to time.
- (iii) All the major, minor bridges and culverts should not affect the drainage systems. Flood plains of the rivers/ drainage systems are not to be disturbed.
- (iv) No Ground water shall be extracted and used for this project.
- (v) The proponent shall obtain permission from the competent authorities for tree felling along the proposed alignment.
- (vi) Proponent shall plant 36333 trees of native species (three times of 12111 tree to be cut) on either side along with the shrub plantation and grass carpeting in median of the proposed alignment. A comprehensive plan for plantation using native species shall be provided as per the IRC Guidelines on Landscaping and Tree Plantation (2009). Effort should be made to plant local fruit trees and Ficus species on both sides of the alignment.
- (vii) Quarry areas shall be developed as water reservoirs with proper fencing around quarry area. Rain water harvesting pit shall be at least 3 - 5 m above the highest ground water table.
- (viii) As per the Ministry's Office Memorandum F.No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018, and proposed by the project proponent, an amount of Rs. 7.57 crores (computed on slab basis for total budget of Rs. 756.68 crores) shall be earmarked under Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) for the activities such as support to Panchayats/local government, schools w.r.t. sanitation, health and hygiene, construction of public toilets in the surrounding villages, medical camps, rainwater harvesting, Installation of street lights in nearby villages as per requirement, rejuvenation and creation of water ponds, augmentation of drinking water facilities and provision of solid waste facilities viz. vermicompost and safe drainage of waste water in consultation with concerned Panchayats. The activities proposed under CER shall be restricted to the affected area around the project. The entire activities proposed



under the CER shall be treated as a project and be monitored. The monitoring report shall be submitted to this Ministry's Regional Office concerned as a part of half yearly compliance report, and to the concerned authorities including District Collector. It should be posted on the website of the project proponent.

- (ix) The RoW shall not exceed 70m at any point of the proposed 8-lane alignment, except for the junction improvement at the intersections of the other roads.

## **PART – B: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- (i) Responsibility for implementation of EC conditions rests with the project proponent only.
- (ii) Cut and fill works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the design drawings proposed at the time of appraisal of the project.
- (iii) The project proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the owning agencies of water bodies/temple/tanks etc., as applicable, before execution of works.
- (iv) The project proponent shall obtain necessary permission from the concerned State(s) Irrigation Department(s) before drawing water from the river sources for the purpose of the proposed construction activity. State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) concerned shall not issue Consent to operate (CTO) till the project proponent obtains such permission(s).
- (v) Blasting shall be carried out during fixed hours (preferably during mid-day) or as permitted by the concerned authority. The timing shall be made known to all the people within 1000m (200m for pre-splitting) from the blasting site in all directions.
- (vi) The fly ash shall be used for the proposed project to comply with the Fly Ash Notification, 1999, as amended.
- (vii) Rehabilitation of project affected families (PAFs) and payment of compensation to PAFs shall be carried out as per the extant policy of the Central/State Government, as provided under the law. All the Indian Road Congress (IRC) guidelines wherever applicable may be followed.
- (viii) All entry/exit/access points on this highway shall be appropriately designed and preferably frozen to avoid traffic congestion and pollution.
- (ix) Rain water harvesting including oil and grease trap shall be provided as prescribed by CGWB guidelines. Water harvesting structures shall be located at every 500m along the road. Vertical drain type rainwater harvesting structures shall be set up to minimize surface runoff losses of rainwater.
- (x) All the recommendations of the EMP shall be complied in both letter and spirit. All the mitigation measures submitted in the EIA report shall be prepared in a matrix format and the compliance for each mitigation plan shall be submitted to MoEF&CC.
- (xi) Sidewalk shall be provided along the bridges.
- (xii) The seismic nature of the area shall be taken into account while designing the project.
- (xiii) IRC guidelines shall be followed for widening & up-gradation of road.

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- (xiv) The drain shall be at least 1m away from the toe of the embankment of the road adopting IRC guidelines. Longitudinal drains shall be provided all along the project road to ensure proper drainage of the area. In addition, adequate number of under passes and culverts to act as cross drainage structures shall also be provided.
- (xv) The solid waste generated shall be used for rehabilitating the borrow areas.
- (xvi) For providing safety to the crossing animals and avoid road accidents speed breakers/rumbled strips shall be constructed at the identified locations of the animal movements. Enough hoardings and signages shall also be put up for the public and vehicles convenience.
- (xvii) Necessary clearance/approval shall be obtained for extraction of sand from the rivers.
- (xviii) The embankments/slopes and the slopes left after cutting shall be provided with vegetative growth to avoid soil erosion.
- (xix) The hot mix plant shall be located at least 500m away from habitation and on the barren land to avoid its adverse impact on the human population.
- (xx) For road safety, IRC guidelines in respect of road signages, service roads, bus bays, inter-sections, pedestrian crossings, etc. shall be strictly adhered to.
- (xxi) The responses/commitments made to the issues raised during public hearing shall be complied in both letter and spirit. A hard copy of the action taken shall be submitted to the MoEF&CC and also to its concerned Regional Office.
- (xxii) Beside fulfilling obligations under Corporate Social Responsibilities as per Company's Act, 2013, the proponent has to adhere to the followings Corporate Environment Responsibilities:
  - (a) The Company shall have a well laid down Environment Policy approved by the Board of Directors.
  - (b) The Environment Policy shall prescribe for standard operating process/ procedures to bring into focus any infringements/ deviation/violation of the environmental or forest norms/ conditions.
  - (c) The hierarchical system or Administrative Order of the company to deal with environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the environmental clearance conditions shall be furnished.
  - (d) To have proper checks and balances, the company shall have a well laid down system of reporting of non-compliances/ violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors of the company and/or shareholders or stakeholders at large.
- (xxi) , Appropriate measures must be taken while undertaking digging activities to avoid any likely degradation of water quality.
- (xxiv) Borrow sites for each quarry sites for road construction material and dump sites must be identified keeping in view the following:
  - (a) No excavation or dumping on private property is carried out without written consent of the owner.

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- (b) No excavation or dumping shall be allowed on wetlands, forest areas or other ecologically valuable or sensitive locations.
  - (c) Excavation work shall be done in close consultation with the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development Agencies working in the area, and
  - (d) Construction spoils including bituminous material and other hazardous materials must not be allowed to contaminate water courses and the dump sites for such materials must be secured so that they shall not leach into the ground water.
- (xxv) As per MoEF&CC's circular no. J-11013/41/2006-IA.II (I) dated 22.09.2008, provision shall be made for supply of kerosene or cooking gas and pressure cooker to the labourers, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, Crèche and temporary structures for living during construction phase.
  - (xxvi) Adequate precautions shall be taken during transportation of the construction material so that it does not affect the environment adversely.
  - (xxvii) Borrow pits and other scars created during the road construction shall be properly levelled and treated.
  - (xxviii) The project proponent will set up separate environmental management cell for effective implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards under the supervision of a Senior Executive.
  - (xxix) Full support shall be extended to the officers of this MoEF&CC and its Regional Office by the project proponent during inspection of the project for monitoring purposes by furnishing full details and action plan including action taken reports in respect of mitigation measures and other environmental protection activities.
  - (xxx) MoEF&CC or any other competent authority may stipulate any additional conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary in the interest of environment and the same shall be complied with.
  - (xxxi) In the event of a change in project profile or change in the implementation agency, a fresh reference shall be made to the MoEF&CC.
  - (xxxii) The project proponents shall inform the Regional Office concerned as well as the MoEF&CC, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
  - (xxxiii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year-wise expenditure shall be reported to MoEF&CC and its concerned Regional Office.

5. In addition to above mentioned conditions following general guidelines are to be adhered:

- (i) The above stipulations would be enforced among others under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991, EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments. All other statutory clearances such as the approvals for storage of diesel from Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Department, Civil Aviation Department, the Forest

- Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. shall be obtained, as applicable by project proponents from the respective competent authorities.
- (ii) Officials from the Regional Office of the Ministry 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. A complete set of all the documents submitted to MoEF&CC should also be forwarded to its concerned Regional Office.
  - (iii) In case of any change(s) in the scope, the project would require a fresh appraisal by the MoEF&CC.
  - (iv) The project proponent shall advertise in at least two local Newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded Environmental Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. The advertisement shall be made within Seven days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the concerned Regional office of the MOEF&CC.
  - (v) A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad/Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent.
  - (vi) A copy of the environmental clearance letter shall also be displayed on the website of the concerned State Pollution Control Board. The EC letter shall also be displayed at the Regional Office, District Industries centre and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
  - (vii) The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated EC conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry, the respective Zonal Offices of CPCB and the SPCB. The criteria pollutant levels namely; PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the project shall be monitored and displayed at a convenient location near the main gate of the company in the public domain.
  - (viii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly report on the status of the compliance of stipulated EC Conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by email) to the concerned Regional Offices of MoEF&CC/CPCB/SPCB.
  - (ix) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of EC conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the Ministry/CPCB/SPCB by e-mail.

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6. This clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.

7. Any appeal against this clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

8. The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary, and to take action including revoking of the environment clearance under the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner.

9. This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble MEF&CC.

*Rama*  
28/7/2020  
(Raghu Kumar Kodali)  
Director/Scientist-F

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Saint George Port, Chennai.
2. The Additional Director General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office (SEZ), 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 034.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Member Secretary, 76, Anna Salai, Guindy Industrial Estate, Race View Colony, Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600 032.
5. Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. Guard File/Record File.
7. Notice Board.