

F. No. 22-10/2019-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

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Date: 9th September, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Consideration of Category B violation proposals at the State level as per the provisions of Notification S.O 804 (E) dated 14.03.2017 through lateral entry - regarding.

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change issued a Notification vide S.O 804 (E) dated 14th March 2017 under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 to appraise the projects, which have started the work onsite without taking prior environmental clearance in terms of the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. Time period of six months (14.03.2017 to 13.09.2017) was given vide aforesaid Notification to the proponents to submit proposals.

2. Soon after the publication of aforesaid notification, a PIL challenging the validity of the Notification dated 14.03.2017 was filed in Hon'ble High Court of Madras. Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide Order dated 7th June, 2017 prohibited from taking any further action pursuant to the Notification dated 14.03.2017 and therefore appraisal process for violation cases could not be taken up further. Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide order dated 13.10.2017 vacated the order while upholding validity of the Notification dated 14.03.2017.

3. Pursuant to the notification dated 14th March 2017, Ministry received a number of proposals relating to all sectors covered under category A and category B. As per the said notification all the proposals of violation, irrespective of its categories were required to be appraised at Central level by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC).

4. Further, Ministry vide Notification S.O 1030 (E) dated 08.03.2018 amended the Notification S.O 804 (E) dated 14.03.2017 and delegated the power to the States for appraisal of category B proposals which are under violation of EIA Notification.

5. Subsequently, the Ministry issued an OM dated 15.03.2018 for the implementation of Notification S. O 1030 (E) dated 08.03.2018. All the category B proposals were transferred to the concerned State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).


6. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide order dated 14.03.2018 was of the view that it will serve the ends of justice if time is extended by 30 (thirty) days from the date of delivery of the order, thereby extending the time till 13th April 2018, providing time for violators to apply as per the provisions of Notification S.O 804 (E). Therefore, again a one-month window was given from the date of order of Hon'ble High court (14.03.2018-13.04.2018) to submit proposals under violation of EIA Notification. The Ministry has issued OM dated 16.03.2018 for the compliance of the order dated 14.03.2018 of Hon'ble High court of Madras.

7. Proposals involving violation of EIA Notification, which had applied during the window (14.03.2017 to 13.09.2017 & 14.03.2018 to 13.04.2018) under violation category are being considered by the violation committee. However, in addition to such proposals, there were many category A proposals submitted in the respective sectoral committees for regular appraisal during or prior to violation window period. Sectoral committee while deliberating on the proposals, identified these as violation of EIA Notification. These proposals were subsequently forwarded to the violation committee after approval by the Competent Authority and such proposals are termed as "lateral entry proposals".

8. It is possible that there may be certain category B proposals which were submitted at SEIAA during or prior to the violation window period but not under violation category and later during the appraisal by State Level Expert Appraisal committee (SEAC) identified as violation proposals.

9. Now, a decision has been taken in the Ministry that such proposals as mentioned in para (8) above, may be considered in terms of provisions of Ministry's Notification dated 14.03.2017 & 08.03.2018 by the SEIAA. It is clarified that only those proposals may be taken up for consideration under this provision which had been submitted to SEAC during the window or prior to it as detailed above.

10. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director, IA (Policy) Division

To

1. All the officers of IA Division
2. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
4. Chairman, CPCB
5. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

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