

Date : 23/6/2021

No.969 /EN/T-II-4/009/2018


To :-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of WB. — **Member** secy.ma-wb@gov.in
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of WB. — **Member.** prsecy.fisheries@gmail.com
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, Govt. of WB. — **Member** prsecysad5@gmail.com
4. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of WB. — **Member.** wbwildlife@gmail.com
5. Sri Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Public Health Engineering, GoWB. — **Member.** sandip1952@gmail.com
6. Dr Parthasarathi Chakraborty, Former Chief Scientist, Geo-informatics and RS Cell, Deptt. of Science & Technology, GoWB. — **Member.** psarathic@rediffmail.com
7. Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kol-32. dir.oceanography@jadavpuruniversity.in

Sir,


I have been directed to forward herewith the minutes of 11th meeting of WBSCZMA held on 17.6.2021 regarding CRZ clearance of the proposed installation of an additional **75 MW Solar Park Project in Phase 2 by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL)** for your kind information and necessary action.

Enclos: As stated


Senior Environment Officer,
Deptt. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.

Copy forwarded to :-

1. Prof. Sugata Hazra, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kol-32. sugata_hazra@yahoo.com
2. Sri S. Suresh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Deptt. of Power, Govt. of West Bengal. solarwbasedcl2018@gmail.com
3. Sri P.K. Nag, Chief Engineer, Solar Power Generation Deptt. Vidyut Bhawan, Salt Lake, Sector II, DJ Block, Kolkata 91, WBSEDCL solarwbasedcl2018@gmail.com — *The Project Proponent is requested to rectify and resend the application/PPT as per the discussion held on 17.6.2021, during the 11th meeting of WBSCZMA, at the earliest. The Project Proponent is also requested to inform a convenient date and time for holding the next meeting/PPT presentation.*
4. Shri Biplab Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Secretary (Works), Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt of West Bengal, Jalsampad Bhaban, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 091. biplab_mukherjee05@yahoo.co.in
5. The Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board. ms@wbpcb.gov.in
6. The Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management, ieswm@gmail.com
contact.ieswm@gmail.com


Senior Environment Officer,
Deptt. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.

**MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF WEST BENGAL STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
(WBSCZMA) HELD ON 17 JUNE, 2021 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

The following members/officials attended the meeting:

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.
2. Shri K. Balamurugan, Chief Environment Officer & Member Secretary of WBSCZMA
3. Smt. Tripti Sah, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Department
4. Mr. Chayan Gayen, Assistant Environmental Engineer, WBPCB
5. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, GoWB. — Member
6. Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management
7. Shri Biplab Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Secretary (Works), Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt of West Bengal, Jalasampad Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Kolkata – 700 091.

The following officials attended the meeting on behalf of project proponents:

8. Sri S. Suresh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Deptt. of Power, Govt. of West Bengal.
9. Sri P.K. Nag, Chief Engineer, Solar Power Generation Deptt. Vidyut Bhawan, Salt Lake, Sector II, DJ Block, Kolkata 91, WBSEDCL

The following experts who were virtually present were :

10. Dr Parthasarathi Chakraborty, Former Chief Scientist, Geo-informatics and RS Cell, Deptt. of Science & Technology, GoWB. — Member
11. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kol-32
12. Mr. Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-engineer in Chief, PHED.

Proceedings:

The Chief Environment Officer & Member Secretary of WBSCZMA welcomed everybody and initiated the discussion. The Additional Chief Secretary of the Department virtually chaired the meeting.

Agenda:

The agenda of the meeting was **CRZ Clearance for installation of an additional 75 MW Solar Park Project in Phase 2 by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL).**

Project Brief:

The project proponent is the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), Govt. of West Bengal. Through a Powerpoint presentation the WBSEDCL gave details of their proposed project regarding development of an additional 75 MW Solar Park Project in Phase 2 in the three villages namely Dadanpatrabar, Mania and Dakshin, Purushottampur in the district of Purba Medinipur, which comes under the earthquake zone III and is a moderate damage risk zone and where the average ground level of the park based on topographical survey is 5.95 MSL and the observed High Tide Line (HTL) is EL 5.75 MSL.

The cost of the said project is INR 390 Crores for Phase 2. The total land identified for the proposed project is 201.96 Ha, in Dadanpatrabar – 52.60 Ha, in Mania - 28.32 Ha, Dakshin Purushottampur – 121.04 Ha.

According to WBSEDCL the proposed project will produce clean renewable energy and hence there will be insignificant pollution from the project. The project is the second part, the first part is under construction and almost ready to be implemented. The project can withstand a cyclone at a speed of 280 kms/per hour, whereas the latest highest speed of cyclone has been recorded up to 190 kms/per hour. The alignment of photo voltaic cell of the project will be done at east-west direction to avoid the high wind coming from the southern side.

As the land is barren government land so there will be no issue of displacement of local people. The proposed project will help in reducing Green House Gases (GHGs) by reducing consumption of fossil fuels like coal which are generated in Conventional Power Generation Plants. The project does not involve diversion of any forest land. Therefore, it ensures minimal impact on ecology and biodiversity of the area. The project will provide social benefit by providing energy access and energy security to remote areas, employment generation in area and helps in elevating the standards of rural economies. It is envisaged that the proposed Solar Park will enhance Renewable Energy Resources development of State and the Nation in line with the commitments made in COP21.

As this green energy project is nearer to the coastal area of Bay of Bengal, it attracts the CRZ Clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018, however this proposed project is exempted from requiring prior Environmental Clearance as it is not coming under the purview of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments and also it will not require Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and its subsequent amendments and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and its subsequent amendments as the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has placed the Solar Mono Crystalline Photovoltaic Power Generation Project in White Category List.

Expert Appraisal Committee of WBSCZMA recommended to approach IESWM, Kolkata to prepare revised CRZ map on a wider area of vested land and accordingly, one study was carried out on a wider area of 1891.3266 acres of land and the plot.

According to CRZ notification dated 18th January, 2019 any activity related to power by non conventional energy sources and associated facilities shall be regulated and permissible in the CRZ-1B. The Solar power generation through mono crystalline PV Module technology is economically viable and most efficient in converting solar energy to electrical energy. For the erection of Solar panels Helical type foundation has been proposed considering the high wind speed in the coastal area and the soil condition of the area. Regarding disposal of photo voltaic cells and water prevention and control of pollution act 1981, WBSEDCL will carry out the necessary compliance through solar project developer (SPD) /EPC contractor in line with the standard guidelines of MNRE. Compliance of the same will be communicated to the WBSCZMA/MoEFCC at the interval of every six months by WBSEDCL.

WBSEDCL submitted in due time the Water Sample Analysis of the project site carried out by GSI on behalf of WBSEDCL and the Ph value of the sample was found to resemble with Soft water. This CRZ clearance proposal was considered by the EAC (CRZ) in its 205th meeting held on 17.12.2018, besides this, as per suggestion of EAC committee the WBSEDCL also submitted on 12.2.2019 the EIA Report along with Avian Fauna Report at WBSCZMA.

As per the Environment Management Plan (i)WBSEDCL will have to construct water storage tanks for storage of storm water through rainwater harvesting system. (ii)Debris if any will be collected and dumped at a specific location in consultation with BDO office. (iii)Green Belt needs to be established at 2.5 acres of land. (iv) No transportation will be there at night. (v) In consequence with the Swatch Bharat Avijan Bio-Toilet / Bio- Digester will be installed by WBSEDCL. (vi) For the labor camp the necessary arrangement for sewerage, cooking gas will have to be provided, however use of fire-wood will not be allowed in any case. (vii) A Laboratory will be set-up at the site for measuring the key parameters in regards to quality control, Operation & Maintenance activities on daily basis as mandated for Green Energy Project (viii) WBSEDCL will have to adopt KFW's ESIA Guidelines for compensation and other related issues. (ix)WBSEDCL will have to preserve the few plants/trees adjacent to existing embankment and the during construction period. (x)Construction ACT 1996/ BOCW Act will be adopted for construction workers by WBSEDCL.

WBSEDCL have made estimated budgetary provisions for proper implementation of EMP which are as follows :

Description of Management plan	Tentative Budget (INR in Lakhs)
Water Softener	10.00
Clarification tank and Multistage Filtration	20.00
STP with Bio-digester	20.00
Ambient Air Monitoring Stations	17.00
Installation of Waste Storage Room	08.00
Greenbelt Development	210.00
Laboratory Equipment	18.00
Rain water Harvesting System	1000.00
Total	1303.00

The MoEF&CC, GOI through its OM dated 01 May, 2018 has mandated additional budgetary provision under the Provision of Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) budget and as the Solar Park project is greenfield project with a total budget of 1040 crores, the Applicable CER will be 0.5 % which comes out to be Rs. 1.95 crores.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment of the proposed project, WBSEDCL conducted EIA Studies including the study of various baseline parameters of environment viz. land, water, air, noise, flora, fauna, Avian Study and socio-economic which are for overall prediction of impacts, the study area considered was the project area and its surroundings. (i) The samples of ambient air, water, noise, soil were taken from two locations which are Dadanpatrabar and Dakshin Purushottampur. (ii) For the collection of data regarding Flora and Fauna of the area, the project area and its surrounding were surveyed and also secondary literatures were studied. (iii) The data regarding Socio-economic was collected from both primary and secondary sources.

This Project does not require any Ambient Air Quality in particular as because it is a Green Energy Project, but all the parameters observed in ambient air are found well within the NAAQ (National Ambient Air Quality) standards. The ground water samples were taken from mechanical tube well at Dadanpatrabar and Dakshin Purushottampur for Ground Water Quality where the total Coliform Count and the fecal coliform count are within prescribed range. The surface water sample was taken from upstream and downstream of Pichaboni River at Samudrapur and Sherpurjalpai respectively for pH, dissolved oxygen and coliform count. For this project WBSEDCL conducted soil study in the proposed area primarily belongs to Loamy Sand and Greyish in appearance and quite fertile. WBSEDCL also conducted Noise Quality Assessment where the day time (Level equivalent day) noise levels are observed to be in the range of 43.5 - 58.0 dB (A) & the night time (Leq night) Noise Levels are observed to be in the range of 42.6 - 53.2 dB (A). WBSEDCL also conducted Floral diversity where the type of vegetation are of Tropical Moist Deciduous. According to the Faunal Diversity survey, 16 species of mammals, 33 species of Avifauna, 8 species of Reptiles, 5 species of Amphibians and 21 species of Pisces were recorded from the area where the project is going to set up.

Deliberation:

After the presentation was over the following issues were raised by several experts on this WBSEDCL project -

(1) Experts raised the point about the safety of the height of the Project land area as the wave length rose to 8ft. during tidal surge within the HTL which may inundate the project area. It was suggest for reorientation of the solar panels to the north-west part of the proposed project site and enhancement of the height of the project land and boundary wall. Experts also suggested for betterment of the PPT for future occasion. It was also pointed out to clearly mention about the type of rainwater harvesting unit, ownership of the project land etc.

(2) Experts requested that the areas should be mentioned in square metres instead of square kilometres and current status of the ownership of land of the project site as per CRZ notification which has been earlier used as salt pan and aquaculture firms to be provided. It was also mentioned that the Salt Pan area height is also not properly mentioned.

(3) The type of rainwater harvesting structure to be constructed and its exact area and location is to be mentioned clearly and source of collection of ground water to be mentioned specifically.

(4) No disaster management plan has been provided, it is necessary to know how the INR 400 crores investment can be safeguarded under high wind like Amphan or surge inundation as faced during Yaas.

Representative from Irrigation & Waterways raised the following questions in WBSEDCL-

- (i) As the maximum water level is 7.2 metres then the R.L. need to be reconsidered.
- (ii) If needed they will provide data regarding R.L. and cross-section of the area.

Reply from the Project Proponent:

In reply to the above queries Sri S. Suresh Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary of WBSEDCL replied virtually that -

- (i) The overall height of the project is 7.2 metres.
- (ii) They will provide the Disaster Management Plan during the instruction phase.
- (iii) The ppt presented is not the old one dating back to 1.5 years rather it is a newly one including CRZ maps and etc.

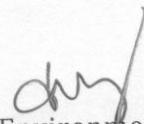
- (iv) Land has been resumed by L&LR Department to the Power Department, therefore the Salt Pan factory has no locus standi regarding ownership of the land in this case and the land is free from all encumbrances.
- (v) Rain water harvesting and ground water utilization will be addressed appropriately.
- (vi) HTL level will be correctly calculated.

Action Point:

The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment concluded the meeting by directing that -

- (i) Though the project of WBSEDCL is a green one, the storm surge is the concern to protect the PVC, so embankment height to be raised considerably to protect those PVCs.
- (ii) Quality of the PPT submitted by WBSEDCL to be updated properly for forward transmission to MoEFCC, in this regard he instructed CEO to forward the ppt of GBDA to WBSEDCL to consult the style of the Powerpoint presentation while updating it by WBSEDCL.
- (iii) The WBSEDCL was instructed to resubmit the replies of the queries raised by the expert members and to resend those to the expert members for further examination.
- (iv) To convene the next meeting in this regard at the end of the next month.

The meeting then ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.


Chief Environment Officer,
Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal,
& Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority