MINUTES OF MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, U.T., CHANDIGARH HELD ON 4.4.2011 AT 12.30 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. VEER SINGH, CHAIRMAN.

A meeting of Environment Impact Assessment Authority constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forest vide Notification No.S.O.2144(E) dated 21st August, 2009 for U.T. Chandigarh was held on 4.4.2011 at 12.30 Noon in the Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration under the Chairmanship of Dr. Veer Singh. The following other members were also present in the meeting:-

1. Prof. S.K. Sharma,
Deptt. Of Environmental Engineering,
Punjab Engg. College, Sector-12, Chandigarh.

Member

2. Sh. Santosh Kumar, IFS,
Director, Environment Department,
Chandigarh Administration.

Member Secretary

Before the meeting, the authority had a site visit of the project area and a presentation was made by the project proponent at the site.

The Authority discussed the recommendations of State Expert Appraisal Committee. It has been observed that this case has been presented before the authority as a fait accompli, as M/s Tech Mahindra has already completed the construction of building (100%) and the project has been commissioned. Actual Construction already carried out by the agency is 23,969 sq meter which is over the threshold limit of 20000 sq meter for which they should have obtained prior environmental Clearance before commencement of project construction as mandated by EIA notification ,2006. Thus, there is a clear violation of Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder.

After considering the above facts, the Authority decided that it will consider the project on merits prospectively and its approval for environment

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clearance shall never be construed as regularization of their violation of EIA notification.

After lots of deliberations and as recommended by State Expert Appraisal Committee, the authority decided to grant in- principle approval for environmental clearance to the project with two specific conditions besides all other conditions as recommended by Expert Appraisal Committee, Two specific conditions are as follows:

- (i) A communication to the project proponent may be sent informing that although the proposal has been accorded in-principle approval, formal environmental clearance will be issued to the project only after the matter relating to violations have been put up to the Board of Directors of the company for consideration of its environment related policy/plan of action as also a written commitment in the form of formal resolution to be submitted to the EIAA to the effect that violation of Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 etc. will not be repeated. A time limit of 90 days will be given to the project proponent for this purpose. In the meantime, the project will be de-listed. It may also be made clear that in the eventuality of not having any response from the project proponent within prescribed limit of 90 days, it would be presumed that they are no longer interested in pursuing the project further and project file will be closed. After which the procedure for obtaining clearance will have to be initiated de novo by the project proponent.
- (ii) The environmental clearance would be subject to their obtaining prior clearance/NOC from Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife as the unit falls within 10 K.M. of notified wildlife sanctuary (Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary). Further, it may also be categorically stated in the Environment clearance that grant of environmental clearance does not necessarily implies that wildlife clearance shall be granted to the project and their proposals for wildlife clearance shall be considered by the respective authority on merit

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and decision taken. The investment made in the project if any, based on environmental clearance so granted, in anticipation of the clearance form wildlife angle shall be entirely at the cost and risk of the project proponent and SEIAA shall not be responsible in this regard in any manner.

Environmental clearance shall be issued to the unit only after fulfillment of above two conditions.

It was also recommended that the Chandigarh Administration will be informed of the violation of EIA notification for initiating legal action against the company as per the procedure prescribed as it has been observed that unit has already completed the construction and its functioning without prior environmental clearance.

M/s Tech Mahindra Limited may also be informed that no further construction shall be carried out by them in future including any modification/alteration etc. and status quo in respect of construction shall be maintained. An affidavit to this effect may be obtained from them in this regard.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

Member

Sh. Santosh Kumar

Member Secretary

Dr. Veer Singh

Chairman