

No.10-23/2005-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA-III Section)

Paryavaran Bhavan
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

~ Dated the 9th May, 2006.

Sub: Environmental Clearance - Airport project at Pakyong under East District of Sikkim proposed by State PWD (Roads and Bridges) – regarding.

Reference is invited to the letters No. 177/FEMD, dated 11/3/2006, 176/FEMD dated 1/3/2006, 337/FEWMD dated 16/11/2005, 427/FEWMD dated 22/8/2005 and 115/FEWMD dated 15/6/2005 from Office of the Principle CCF-cum-Secretary, Department of Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Forest Secretariat on the above subject. Public Hearing of the project was done on 14/2/2004.

The State Government has proposed to construct an airport to serve 50 seater type aircraft. The project includes construction of the Airport with following essential components:-

- (i) Runway (02/20) – 1700 X 30 mts
- (ii) Taxiway – 116 X 15 mts
- (iii) Apron – 106 X 76 mts
- (iv) Terminal Building (100 pax)
- (v) Car park – 50 Nos.
- (vi) Fire station cum control tower

The total land requirement is estimated to be 80.74 (199.5 acres) of which 76.08 ha is agricultural land and 0.0380 ha only is forestland. The density of vegetation in the forest area has been indicated to be only 0.1. No wildlife sanctuary or National Park or Biosphere Reserve is located within the 10 km areas of the project site. It has been mentioned that Reserve Forests, Khasmal and Gourcharan forests exist within 10 km radius. The proposed airport site is located in hilly region with an altitude approximately 1400 mts to 1500 mts above the mean sea level. The average gradient of the slope is approximately 1:6, but varies widely due to undulating terrain. The areas has to be levelled by cutting earth from the uphill side for filling in the downhill side to obtain a flat area for the construction of the runway, basic runway strip, taxiway, apron, terminal building and other associated facilities. Around 5.181 million cu m of earth needs to be removed. Even though no major landslides have been noticed, the area is prone to erosion. The area falls in Zone-IV of earthquake prone zonation. The project proponent has carried out public hearing for the project.

As per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 the Ministry has accorded site clearance for the above project vide letter of even number dated 3rd August, 2005.

The proposal has been examined and the environmental clearance to this project is hereby accorded subject to effective implementation of the following conditions and environmental safeguards:

A. Specific conditions:

- (i) The terminal building should be designed commensurate with the local architecture patterns.

- (ii) Culvert should be provided for all natural Jhoras passing under the proposed runway, so that natural drainage is not disturbed.
- (iii) Cutting and filing of land should be balanced, so that there is no need to dispose of overburden material to other areas.
- (iv) All graded soil should be consolidated against erosion and proper grading plan provided for record and future monitoring.
- (v) The alignment of access road, with possible environmental impacts should be provided.
- (vi) A certificate from Director General of Civil Aviation, certifying the aeronautic feasibility of the airport location, alignment of runway etc., should be provided for record within six months from the date of receipt of this letter.
- (vii) All families affected by the construction should be rehabilitated as per the norms prescribed by Ministry of Social Welfare.
- (viii) The project proponent should ensure that all Jhoras originating from the site should be provided with box culverts to facilitate free flow of water and avoid clogging.
- (ix) Afforestation measures to the tune of 10 number to trees in lieu of each tree cut should be taken up. Details of afforestation areas alongwith selected sites/species should be provided to this Ministry within 2 months from the date of receipt of this letter.
- (x) Necessary rain harvesting facilities should be provided to meet the part of the water requirement.
- (xi) The solid waste generated from the airport should be dumped at the designated dumping site identified at Marchak and composting unit at Martham.
- (xii) All issues raised in the public hearing should be addressed and an action plan should be prepared in this regard and submitted to this Ministry within 2 months from the date of receipt of this letter.
- (xiii) The earth obtained from the civil works should not be dumped in the river bed.

B. General Conditions:

- (i) Construction of the proposed structure should be undertaken meticulously conforming to the existing Central/local rules and regulations including Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and its amendments. All the construction designs/drawings relating to the proposed construction activities must have approvals of the concerned State Government Departments/Agencies.
- (ii) The proponent shall ensure that as a result of the proposed construction, ingress of the saline water into the ground water does not take place. Piezometers shall be installed for regular monitoring for this purpose at appropriate locations on the project site.
- (iii) A well-equipped laboratory with suitable instruments to monitor the quality of air and water shall be set up. The laboratory will also be equipped with qualified manpower including a marine biologist. The quality of ambient air and water shall be monitored periodically in all seasons and the results should be properly maintained for inspection of the concerned pollution control agencies. The periodic monitoring reports at least once in 6 months must be sent to this Ministry (Regional Office at Shillong) and State Pollution Control Board.

- (iv) Adequate provisions for infrastructure facilities such as water supply, fuel for cooking, sanitation etc., must be provided for the laborers during the construction period to avoid damage to the environment. Colonies for the laborers should not be located in the Coastal Regulation Zone area. It should also be ensured that the construction workers do not cut trees including mangroves for fuel wood purpose.
- (v) To prevent discharge of sewage and other liquid wastes into the water bodies, adequate system for collection and treatment of the wastes must be provided.
- (vi) The project authorities should take appropriate community development and welfare measures for the villagers in the vicinity of the project site, including drinking water facilities. A separate fund should be allocated for this purpose.
- (vii) The quarrying material required for the construction purpose shall be obtained only from the approval quarries/borrow areas. Adequate safeguard measures shall be taken to ensure that the overburden and rocks at the quarry site do not find their way into water bodies.
- (viii) For employing unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers for the project, preference should be given to local people.
- (ix) The recommendations made in the Environment Management Plan and Disaster Management Plan, as contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Analysis Reports of the project should be effectively implemented.
- (x) A separate Environment Management Cell with suitably qualified staff to carry out various environment related functions should be set up under the charge of a Senior Executive who will report directly to the Chief Executive of the Company.
- (xi) The project affected people, if any should be properly compensated and rehabilitated.
- (xii) The funds earmarked for environment protection measures should be maintained in a separate account and there should be no diversion of these funds for any other purpose. A year-wise expenditure on environmental safeguards should be reported to this Ministry.
- (xiii) Full support should be extended to the officers of this Ministry's Regional Office at Shillong and the officers of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards by the project proponents during their inspection of monitoring purposes, by furnishing full details and action plans including the action taken reports in respect of mitigative measures and other environmental protection activities.
- (xiv) In case of deviation or alteration in the project including the implementing agency, a fresh reference should be made to this Ministry for modification on the clearance conditions or imposition of new ones for ensuring environmental protection. The project proponents should be responsible for implementing the suggested safeguard measures.
- (xv) The Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance, if any of the conditions subsequently, if deemed necessary, for environmental protection, which shall be complied with.
- (xvi) The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any other additional conditions subsequently, if deemed necessary, for environmental protection, which shall be complied with.

(xvii) The project proponent should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated in the region around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment & Forests at <http://www.envforin.in>. The advertisement should be made within 7 days from the date of issue of the clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Shillong.

(xviii) The Project proponents should inform the Regional Office at Shillong as well as the Ministry the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of Land Development Work.

4. The above mentioned stipulations will be enforced among others under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Hazardous Chemicals (Manufacture, Storage and Import) Rules, 1989, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and its subsequent amendments and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and the Rules made thereunder from time to time. The project proponents should also ensure that the Supreme Court's order dated 18th April, 1996 in the Writ Petition No.664 of 1993 to the extent the same are applicable to this proposal.

(A. Senthil Vel)
Additional Director

To

PCE-cum-Secretary,
PWD (Roads and Bridges),
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok,
Sikkim.

Copy to:

1. T.R Poudyal, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Secretary, Department of Forests, Environment and WL Management, Government of Sikkim, Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok – 737101, Sikkim.
2. Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Deorali, Gangtok – 73710, Sikkim.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (NEZ), Upland Road, Laitumkhrah, Shillong – 793003.
4. Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.
5. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 110032.
6. Director (EI), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.
8. Monitoring File.

(A Senthil Vel)
Additional Director