No.J-11013/71/2016-IA.I(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 25th October, 2017

CIRCULAR

Subject: Compliance to the recommendations of the CAG – Reg.

It is to inform that CAG has carried out a Performance Audit of Impact Assessment (IA) Division and submitted a report on environment clearance and post clearance monitoring (Report No.39 of 2016). Copy of the Report has already been circulated and it is also available on the website of C&AG. In this report a number of recommendations have been given for further streamlining the functioning of IA Division.

2. In view of the above, all Member Secretaries / Directors / Joint Directors working in IA Division are requested to adhere to the following recommendations of performance audit with immediate effect.

i. Revalidation of data with respect of grant of ToR / EC to be carried out on regular basis with NIC.
ii. While scrutinizing the EIA Reports, may ensure that they are as per the ToR, comply with the generic structure, baseline data is accurate and concerns raised during the public hearing are adequately addressed.
iii. The EIA Reports / EC letters should clearly mention cost of activities under EMP and ESR along with the timelines for their implementation.
iv. EMP/EC conditions should be more specific for the area to be developed under Green belt and species to be planted in consultation with Forest / Agriculture Department along with post EC Third Party evaluation.
v. Copy of EC letter to these projects should be endorsed to CGWA to ensure monitoring of ground water extraction.
vi. While appraising the EC application, the name and number of posts to be engaged by the proponent for implementation and monitoring of environmental parameters be specified.
vii. While prescribing the conditions of EC please mention installation of monitoring stations and frequency of monitoring of various environment parameters in respect of air, surface water, ground water noise etc.

viii. While scrutinizing the EC application, should ensure that the EIA Report is prepared by accredited consultant having no conflict of interest with any Committee processing the case.

ix. The conditions of EC should be compatible with the nature and type of project in order to avoid non- uniformity in similar kinds of projects.

x. The EIA Report should clearly mention activity wise EMP and ESC cost details and should depict clear break-up of the capital and recurring costs along with the timeline for incurring the capital cost. The basis of allocation of EMP and ESC cost should be detailed in the EIA Report to enable the comparison of compliance with the commitment by the Central and State monitoring agencies. The capital and revenue expenditure amount to be spent on EMP and CSR cost should be distinctly specified in the EC letter. It should be ensured that there is a time bound action plant for fulfilling the EMP commitment mentioned in the EIA Report to the EC letter.

xi. On maintenance of separate account for EMP and ESC, EC conditions should be more specific like opening a separate bank account and accounting format with specific heads of accounts in order to provide financial accountability by project proponents. This should be made compulsory part of the Annual Environment Statement.

3. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

25/10/17

(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director / Scientist 'F'

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

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS(AKM) / AS(AKJ)
5. PPS to JS(GB) / JS(JT)
6. Website, MoEF&CC
7. Guard file.