

MOST IMMEDIATE

A-12011/1/2010-NRCD-II
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(National River Conservation Directorate)

New Delhi, dated 4th February, 2011

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to refer to the meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment & Forests) on 21.01.2011 in Paryavaran Bhavan, to discuss the issues relating to sanction of new projects under NGRBA taking into consideration the Revised Guidelines of the Ministry for Preparation of Project Reports. A copy of the Minutes of the above meeting is enclosed for kind information/ necessary action.

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To

1. Secretary, Pey Jal, Uttarakhand Secretariat Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
2. Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
3. Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Patna, Bihar.
4. Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Ranchi, Jharkhand
5. Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development Kolkata, West Bengal.

Internal Distribution

PPS to Secretary (E&F), PPS to AS(MM), PS to JS(RG)
Dir(BS)/Dir(D)/Dir(RS)/AD(B)/JD(LKB)/DD(SS)/DD(AR)

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**Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January, 2011
in the Ministry of Environment & Forests to discuss the issues relating to
sanction of new projects under National Ganga River Basin Authority
(NGRBA)**

A meeting was held in room No.403, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi on 21st January, 2011 to discuss the issues relating to sanction of new projects under NGRBA. The List of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. In his opening remarks, Secretary (E&F) mentioned that the Standing Committee of NGRBA in its meeting held on 29th December, 2010 has emphasized expeditious sanction of projects. He referred to the Revised Guidelines for Preparation of Project Reports which have been recently finalized. He also mentioned the interim reports have been submitted by the Consortium of IITs in the context of Ganga River Basin Management Plan. These have been sent to various members and State Governments for their comments.

He observed that assistance to states for O&M should not be construed as a long term solution. ULBs would have to gradually progress to be self-reliant on funding the O&M costs of infrastructures to be built under NGRBA. States have to enhance revenue collection to meet this obligation by imposing sewage tax and other measures.

The agenda items were thereafter taken up for discussion.

3. **Sanction of New Projects: (Agenda No.1)**

3.1 Secretary (E&F) referred to the decision of the Standing Committee in the meeting held on 29th December, 2010, wherein 16 Project Proposals costing Rs.1353.63 crore were identified for expeditious approval. However, it was stressed that all efforts need to be made to ensure that these projects conform to the new features stipulated in the revised guidelines, as far as practicable. It was emphasized that in order to achieve the objective of Mission Clean Ganga, other projects which are ready, should also be appraised and considered for sanction, as it may take time to reformulate the projects under the new guidelines and meet the requirements of the World Bank Project under preparation. The major issues to be addressed as per the Revised Guidelines viz, Preparation of City Sanitation Plans, Public consultations, Dedicated Project Cells, Operation & Maintenance, Appointment of TPIs etc. were discussed in detail.

3.2 It was explained by Joint Secretary (NRCD) that although the revised guidelines have been finalized recently, these were evolved over a considerable period of time through an interactive and participatory manner and the major issues have already been shared with the States.

3.3 With regard to City Sanitation Plan (CSP) with respect to DPRs already submitted, the chairman expressed the view that the planning and siting in respect of sewer networks, pumping stations and STPs proposed in the DPRs should eventually be an integral part of the CSP; preparation of which should begin as early as possible. The states would convey to MoEF the status in this regard. On the issue of Public Consultation, the states may decide the mode of addressing this requirement themselves.

3.4 Principal Secretary (PJ), Uttarakhand informed that no sanitation Plan is available for any towns of Uttarakhand and hence considerable time may be required in preparation of City Sanitation Plan. Principal Secretary (UD), Uttar Pradesh informed that Public Consultations have already been carried out in some of the projects which are proposed to be considered for approval by the Empowered Steering Committee in the coming months. He further mentioned that in addition to six project proposals mentioned in minutes of the Standing Committee, two more project proposals of up-gradation of existing STPs at Allahabad & Varanasi may also be considered for approval.

3.5 Principal Secretary (UD), Bihar requested that sparsely inhabited localities of the town should be served by the trunk sewers so that these areas are connected to main sewerage system by laying branch sewers for development in future. He suggested that installation of de-centralized STPs in sparsely populated areas should be encouraged. As regards the proposal of River Front Development at Patna, he mentioned that the World Bank has shortlisted the consultants for this project, and they will be deployed shortly.

3.6 Principal Secretary (UD), West Bengal requested for approval of 6 River Front Development (RFD) proposals in addition to 4 projects for sewerage proposals. He said that the major components of RFD projects are river bank strengthening, approach to water front through stairs, Public conveniences, landscaping etc., all with a view to checking littering, promoting cleanliness and preventing non-point pollution.

3.7 Decision:

- i) It was decided that the States will make all efforts to ensure that projects being taken up for sanction conform to the new features as stipulated in the revised guidelines as far as practicable. The States will ensure that these projects eventually form an integral part of the City Sanitation Plan to be prepared.
- ii) States will expeditiously provide status of projects with reference to new features stipulated in the revised guidelines which are already being adopted by them and indicate the timelines for adoption of the remaining features.
- iii) It was decided that all projects, including those of RFD already submitted by the States to the Ministry would be considered on a priority basis.

4. **Setting up of dedicated State Project Management Groups (SPMGs): (Agenda No.2)**

4.1 Secretary (E&F) referred to the Ministry's letter dated 8th December, 2010 for setting up of dedicated State Project Management Groups (SPMGs) for planning and implementation of the NGRBA programme in the States. He emphasized that the State PMGs may be established latest by end of February, 2011.

4.2 Principal Secretary (UD), Uttar Pradesh informed that approval of the State Government is already available and the process will be completed by February, 2011. Principal Secretary (UD), Bihar informed that the SPMG will be created in the State by February, 2011. Principal Secretary (UD), West Bengal informed that approval of the Competent Authority has been obtained and the SPMG would be set up by the end of February, 2011. In Uttarakhand, it was indicated that the process has already been initiated.

4.3 **Decision:**

- It was decided that the States will expedite setting up of dedicated SPMGs for implementation of NGRBA programme. The process will be completed by February, 2011.

5. **Setting up of JV entity as the lead Project Executing Agency (PEA) in the States: (Agenda No.3)**

5.1 Attention of the States was invited to the Ministry's letter dated 21st January, 2010 advising the States to set up a lead Project Executing Agency (PEA), as a dedicated Joint

Venture (JV) agency in collaboration with a reputed partner to ensure improved implementation of the projects in a timely and qualitatively superior manner.

5.2 Principal Secretary (UD), Uttar Pradesh informed that the setting up of JV for project implementation will be done on project specific basis, wherever required. Principal Secretary (UD), Bihar informed that BUIDCO, a new public sector entity has been set up for implementation of projects under NGRBA. However, Joint Secretary (NRCD) pointed out that BUIDCO is not adequately staffed and is headed by a part time CEO who has several other responsibilities. Therefore, the Bihar Government should consider setting up a dedicated JV at the earliest for implementation of NGRBA projects. Principal Secretary (UD), West Bengal informed that they have prepared a Bid-document for inviting tender for a private partner.

5.3 **Decision:**

- It was decided that the States will consider setting dedicated PEAs in the JV mode, taking into account the specific requirements pertaining to projects sanctioned for the State and the capacity of existing Implementation Agencies.

6. **Progress of sanctioned schemes under NGRBA: (Agenda No.4)**

6.1 Secretary (E&F) expressed concern over the slow progress of execution of works in the Uttarakhand. Principal Secretary (PJ), Uttarakhand explained the problems being faced in awarding the works to the contractors for towns situated in the hilly areas. However, he assured that progress would pick-up in view of the efforts being made by the State Government. Principal Secretary (UD), UP informed that works in Allahabad have been awarded and significant progress is likely to be made by March, 2011. Further, the pre-qualification process for the contractors for Varanasi JICA project has been completed and notice for tender has been issued.

6.2 As regards Bihar, Secretary (E&F) enquired about the reasons for delay in work at Munger. Principal Secretary (UD), Bihar informed that the Notice inviting tender for the Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plan works at Munger is being published and the project is likely to be awarded by February, 2011. He mentioned that the delay has occurred due to restrictions on account of State assembly elections.

6.3 Principal Secretary (UD), West Bengal informed that out of 18 projects, work in respect of 15 is in progress and work on the remaining three projects would begin soon. Out of a central release of Rs. 45.48 crore, an amount of Rs. 20 crore has been spent till December, 2010 and the State would request for additional central funds by the first week of March, 2011.

6.4 **Decision:**

- States were requested to expedite progress of works in the projects sanctioned under NGRBA.

7. **Commitment of the States to provide their matching share of 30% for all project proposals including O&M costs:**

7.1 It was explained in the meeting that the projects under NGRBA are being taken up on 70:30 sharing of capital cost between the Centre and States based on consultations with the Planning Commission. Planning Commission had been requested for providing assistance for O&M for all NGRBA projects for a period of five years on 70:30 ratio in view of the difficulties faced by the States. This has been agreed to by the Standing Committee, subject to a review after two years. As a large number of projects are to be taken up with the World Bank assistance, the States were advised to confirm that they would provide their matching share of 30% for all project proposals including O&M costs for the first five years.

7.2 All States informed that they are willing to provide their share of 30% for all project proposals including O&M costs. Principal Secretary (PJ), Uttarakhand requested that the funding pattern of 90:10 may be adopted for Uttarakhand as it is a hill state. Addl. Secretary & Project Director (NRCD) observed that this issue has already been discussed in the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on 29th December, 2010, wherein it was decided that the funding pattern of capital and O&M costs for NGRBA projects would be retained at 70:30 between Centre and the States.

7.3 **Decision:**

- All State Governments confirmed their commitment to provide their 30% of cost share for all the projects to be approved under NGRBA, including O&M costs for the first 5 years and full O&M costs thereafter.

8. Innovative approaches to pollution abatement:

8.1 Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) gave a brief outline on innovative approaches namely; i) In-situ bio-remediation of sewage flowing in drains ii) Elimination of E-Coli and other fecal coliform bacteria through bacterio-phage etc. iii) Salt-less preservation of skin/hides by lyophilisation; and iv) Recycling of Municipal Solid Waste.

8.2 The State Governments appreciated the need for innovative approaches and requested that pilot projects may be considered for implementation in all the States. The Principal Secretary (UD), West Bengal requested that one equipment for 'dry hide method' may be installed in Kolkata.

8.3 **Decision:**

- i) States will identify the possible areas for implementation of innovative approaches to pollution abatement in consultation with CPCB.
- ii) CPCB will explore the possibility of taking up one pilot project in each State. Micro-biological treatment systems may be installed in each State (except Jharkhand) on a pilot basis by the CPCB.
- iii) A team of CPCB will visit the sites to assess the situation and explore the possibilities of treatment technologies to be adopted in hilly areas.
- iv) CPCB will formulate project proposals accordingly for consideration.

9. It was also decided that next review will be held in the month of April, 2011. The date and venue will be communicated to the States separately. The review will focus on implementation of the new guidelines.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the chair.

List of Participants

1. Shri T. Chatterjee, Secretary (E&F) - In Chair
2. Mrs. Mira Mehrishi, Additional Secretary & Project Director
3. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary
4. Prof. S.P. Gautam, Chairman, CPCB
5. Shri Brijesh Sikka, Director, NRCD
6. Dr. K.C. Rathore, Director, NRCD
7. Shri Rajiv Sinha, Director, NRCD
8. Shri B.B. Burman, Director, NRCD
9. Shri S.K. Agrawal, Director, NRCD
10. Shri L.K. Bokolia, Joint Director, NRCD
11. Shri Ajay Raghava, Deputy Director, NRCD
12. Shri Vinod Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, NRCD

Uttarakhand

13. Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary (Pey Jal)

Uttar Pradesh

14. Shri Alok Ranjan, Principal Secretary (Urban Development)
15. Shri A.K. Srivastava, Managing Director, UP Jal Nigam
16. Shri Ravi Rastogi, Chief Engineer, UP Jal Nigam

Bihar

17. Shri Girish Shankar, Principal Secretary (Urban Development)

West Bengal

18. Shri Debashish Sen, Principal Secretary (Urban Development)
19. Shri Chunar Dey, DGO(KMDA)