

**No. J-12011/6/2010-IA.I**  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
Government of India  
(IA.I Division)

Paryavaran Bhavan  
CGO. Complex, Lodi Road  
New Delhi – 110 003

Date: 2.7.2013

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To  
M/s. Seli Hydroelectric Power Company Ltd  
235, Okhla Industrial Estate  
Phase-III  
New Delhi – 110 020

**Subject: Seli HEP (400 MW) Project in Lahaul & Spiti District, Himachal Pradesh by M/s. Seli Hydroelectric Power Company Ltd – Environmental Clearance – regarding**

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No.SHEPCL/MOEF/EC/2011-12/953 dated 24.4.2012 and subsequent letters dated 19.5.2012, 14.9.2012 and 22.10.2012 on the above mentioned subject.

2. It is noted that the proposed project is a run-of-the river scheme on river Chandra Bhaga (Chenab) near Shulling Village in Lahul & Spiti District of Himachal Pradesh to generate 400 MW of hydropower. It envisages construction of an 80 m high concrete gravity dam from the river bed across river Chandra Bhaga (Chenab) to generate 400 MW of hydropower. The catchment area of the project is 6,033 Sq.km. Total land requirement for the project is 292.9654 ha. Out of which 276.1875 ha is forest land and 16.7779 ha is private land. The total submergence area is about 197.9092 ha. An underground powerhouse is proposed on the right bank of the river near Gugal Nallah in Kurched Village with 4 units of 100 MW each. A total of 93 families are likely to be affected due to this project. No National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/Monuments/Religious Places etc. exists within 10 Km of the project components. The total cost of the project is about Rs. 2891.97 Crores, out of which Rs.114.44 Crores will be for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the project construction period as indicated is 117 months.

3. The project proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley & Hydroelectric Projects in its meeting held on 1-2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012. The Public Hearing was conducted on 18.11.2011 at Mudgram Village in Lahaul & Spiti District of Himachal Pradesh.

4. The Expert Appraisal Committee, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and clarification furnished in response to its observations, have recommended for grant of Environmental Clearance for the project mentioned above. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords



necessary environmental clearance for the above project as per the provisions of Environment Impact assessment Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendment in 2009, subject to compliance of following conditions:

**Part-A: Specific Conditions**

- (i) The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan as proposed in the EMP report (Chapter-2 in EMP dated May, 2012) shall be strictly implemented in consultation with Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department. Major works shall be completed before impounding. The financial allocation of Rs.42.67 Cores for CAT Plan implementation shall be fully utilized and not to be diverted for any other purpose. As per plan, the area of CAT is 114.74 Sq.km.
- (ii) The details of land holding of project affected persons whose land is being acquired shall be submitted to this Ministry. The R&R benefits for the land losing households will be as per the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 or as per the State Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, whichever is higher. Adequate publicity of the compensation package of NRRP 2007 shall be given in the affected villages. All R&R issues shall be completed before commissioning of the project.
- (iii) A monitoring committee for R&R shall be constituted which must include representatives of project affected persons from SC/ST category and a woman beneficiary.
- (iv) All the commitments made during the public hearing shall be fulfilled completely by the project proponent.
- (v) Consolidation and compilation of the muck shall be carried-out only in the designated muck dumping sites as submitted in the EIA/EMP Report. As per the proposed muck disposal plan, out of the 18.93 lakh m<sup>3</sup> muck to be generated, 7.57 lakh m<sup>3</sup> will be utilized for construction purpose and remaining 11.36 lakh m<sup>3</sup> will be dumped at the 3 designated areas.
- (vi) A minimum environmental flow of 11.20 cumec/sec i.e. 20% of the minimum discharge available during 4 consecutive leanest months of the 90% dependable year shall have to be released as environmental flow for sustenance of aquatic life and downstream use. Regarding release of Monsoon flow, the project proponent explained that the average spill during the three monsoon months i.e. June, July and August, is more than 30% in 31 years out of 33 years for which data has been approved by CWC. The project proponent shall maintain the same average spill i.e. more than 30% of average monsoon discharge during the three monsoon months.
- (vii) Continuous monitoring system for the flow measurement shall be installed and data be displaced at appropriate site for information of civil society and stake holders. Six monthly results shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry and SPCB.
- (viii) The fishery conservation & management plan as proposed in the EMP shall be implemented in consultation with the Fisheries Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh. As proposed, the stocking programme in the reservoir and to stock in the river stretch and its tributaries/sub-tributaries shall be taken-up. For reservoir area the rate of stocking shall be taken-up @ 300-400 fingerlings/hectare & @100 fingerlings/Km in the river and streams for Brown Trout shall be implemented with the help of State Fisheries





Department. Allocated amount of Rs. 3.09 Crores for this purpose shall be fully utilized and not to be diverted to any other purpose.

- (ix) Real-time telemetry and data acquisition system including all weather hydro meteorological station shall be installed for in-flow monitoring and advance flood warning. Advance flood warning and advance communication systems shall be installed in consultation with the downstream Authorities.
- (x) As proposed in the EMP, the Compensatory Afforestation programme on 552.375 ha shall be taken-up at forest ranges at Udaipur & Tindi and Lahul Forest range at Keylong in consultation with Forest department. The allocated grant of Rs. 13.16 Crores for this purpose shall be fully utilized and not to be diverted to any other purpose. During compensatory afforestation programme, native species shall preferably be planted
- (xi) Greenbelt development along the approach roads, residential areas, office complex, dam site and along the reservoir as proposed in 35 ha of land with 6 plant species shall be undertaken. Total budget of Rs. 168.70 lakhs has been allocated including restoration shall be fully utilized not to be diverted for any other purpose.
- (xii) The Biodiversity Conservation and management Plan shall be taken-up as outlined in the EIA/EMP report and implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. A report of implementation shall be included in the six monthly compliance report to be submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office.
- (xiii) Equipments likely to generate high noise levels shall meet the ambient noise standards as notified under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 as amended in 2010 under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986. For this, necessary insulators etc may be ensured.
- (xiv) Any other clearance from any other organization/department, if required shall be obtained before commencing the project.
- (xv) As proposed, an amount of Rs. 43.85 Crores for the Local Area Development Activities (LADA) for this purpose shall be fully utilized and not to be diverted to any other purpose.

#### **Part-B: General Conditions**

- (i) Adequate arrangement for providing free fuel like kerosene/wood/LPG shall be made at project cost for the labour engaged in the construction work so that indiscriminate felling of trees is prevented
- (ii) Basic amenities, sanitation, medical facilities as well as recreational facilities shall also be provided to the labourers.
- (iii) All the labourers to be engaged for construction works shall be thoroughly examined by health personnel and adequately treated before issuing them work permit.
- (iv) No fugitive dust emissions should be observed at the construction sites. Water sprinkling arrangements shall be made to suppress the fugitive emissions.
- (v) Potable drinking water and proper sanitary facilities should be provided for the labour force and the local area people.



- (vi) Restoration of construction area including dumping site of excavated materials shall be ensured by leveling, filling up of burrow pits, landscaping etc. The area should be properly treated with suitable plantation.
  - (vii) Financial provision shall be made in the total budget of the project for implementation of the above suggested safeguard measures.
  - (viii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly compliance reports of the stipulated EC conditions (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the respective Regional Office of MoEF/State Pollution Control Board. Both monitoring report and compliance report shall be up-loaded on the web-site of the Proponent.
5. The project proponent shall provide full cooperation and all required documents/data to the Officials from concerned Regional Office of the Ministry who would be monitoring the implementation of environmental safeguards.
6. The responsibility of implementation of environmental safeguards rests fully with the M/s. Seli Hydro Electric Power Company Ltd and Government of Himachal Pradesh.
7. Besides the above stated conditions, the project proponent and Government of Himachal Pradesh shall also implement all other environmental safeguards, as proposed in the EIA/EMP report and other reports from time to time.
8. Implementation of Environmental Management Plan shall be strictly adhered to and a sum of Rs. 114.44 Crores, the budgetary provisions for implementation of EMP shall be fully utilized and not to be diverted for any other purpose. The project proponent may critically monitor & review progress to ensure completion as scheduled. Project management tools like PERT/CPM may be used for monitoring progress of EMP.
9. Any change in the scope of the project shall be intimated to the Ministry and fresh approval if required, shall be taken from the Ministry.
10. The Ministry reserves the right to review this clearance order and add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if found necessary and to take action including revoking of the clearance under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time-bound and satisfactory manner.
11. MoEF may depute experts or any committee to undertake inspection to ensure timely compliance. The project proponent shall extend full cooperation to such committee.
12. This clearance letter is valid for a period of 10 years from the date of issue of this letter for commencement of construction work.
13. A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parishad/ Municipal Corporation, Urban local body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the Company by the proponent.
14. A multi-disciplinary Committee (MDC) for monitoring the implementation of environmental safe guards during construction shall be constituted by the project proponent (PP) in consultation with the MoEF. A panel may be proposed by the PP and submitted to MoEF.





The project proponent shall organize six monthly meetings of the Committee and submit the monitoring report to the Ministry.

15. The proponent shall 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 letter are available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>.

16. After 5 years of the commissioning of the project, a study shall be undertaken regarding impact of the project on the environment and downstream ecology. The study shall be undertaken by an independent agency, decided in consultation with the Ministry.

17. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if referred, within a period of 30 days from the date of issue, as prescribed under Section 10 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Yours faithfully,



(B. B. Barman)  
Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti, Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-1.
2. The Adviser (Power), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi-1
3. Principal Secretary (MPP & Power), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
4. The Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
6. The Chief Engineer, Project Appraisal Directorate, Central Electricity Authority, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.
7. The Northern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Bays No. 24-25, Sector-31 A, Dakshin Marg, Chandigarh-160 022 (UT).
8. Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Phase-III, Him Parivesh, New Shimla – 171 009
9. EI- Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi-110003.
10. PS to JS (AT)/Director (BB)/PVS Rao(Sci-B)
11. NIC Cell – with request to upload on the MoEF website.
12. Guard file.



(B. B. Barman)  
Director