

Proceedings of the 4th Combined Meeting of State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Manipur Held on Friday, the 29th August, 2014 in the Office Chamber of the Director, Directorate of Environment, Govt. of Manipur.

Members present at Annexure.

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Confirmation of the proceedings of 3rd Combined SEIAA & SEAC Meeting, held on the 13th March, 2014 (as circulated).
2. Appraisal of applications for environment clearance submitted by Tourism Department and I&FC Department, Manipur (as circulated).
3. Misc.
 - Letter from the Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India regarding preparation of mechanism for monitoring of the EC processes.
 - Monthly status report
 - Others

At the outset, the Director (Environment) and Member Secretary, SEIAA, Manipur after welcoming the Chairmen and Members of SEIAA and SEAC, placed the draft proceedings of the 3rd SEIAA & SEAC Meeting held on 13th March, 2014 for comment and confirmation. All the members present agreed to confirm the proceedings of the 3rd Meeting and recommended to send a reminder letter to the Forest Department for early submission of the revised **Form 1** in respect of prior environment clearance for sand / stone quarry before the lapse of schedule time period from the date of intimation of official letter in this regard.

While taking up Agenda item No. 2 of the meeting for discussion, the Member Secretary, SEIAA-Manipur placed the observations made after scrutiny of the 5 (five) applications which had been applied for prior environment clearance by the Tourism Department and I & F C Department before the members.

The proposed project for "Passenger Ropeway at Loktak Lake, Manipur", submitted by Tourism Dept., Manipur falls under **Category B** as per Schedule 7(g) of the EIA Notification, 2006 with "**general condition**" to be applied. The Member Secretary, SEIAA appraised the members that erection of cable ropeway from Sendra Hillock (Bottom Station) to Thanga Chaoba Hill (Top Station) over a length of 4 Km are located at an aerial distance of about 4.2 km and 8.2 km, respectively, from the Keibul Lamjao National Park, and Forests Department letter No. 3/53/2014-WL(Ropeway), dtd. 16th August, 2014 submitted alongwith the proposal mentioning

the proposed project site to be under “**Eco-Sensitive Zone of Keibul Lamjao National Park**”, make it to be treated as **Category A** as per EIA notification 2006.

In continuation of discussion for Agenda item no. 2, Member Secretary, SEIAA also placed the observation made in connection with the projects submitted by the I & F C Department that the 4 (four) projects had already been screened in the 2nd combined SEIAA & SEAC meeting held on 7th September, 2013 with same components and activities as before, except change of title.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project (earlier)	Renamed as
1.	Restoration & conservation of Irong Nallah Natural Waterbody (Upper portion) at Luwangsangbam	Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Irong Nallah Waterbody (Upper portion) at Luwangsangbam
2.	Restoration & conservation of Irong Nallah Natural Waterbody (Lower portion), Mantripukhri.	Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Irong Nallah Water body (Lower portion) at Luwangsangbam
3.	Development of Waithou Pat Water body & Improvement of its Drainage System at Waithou	Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Waithou Pat Water body Thoubal District, Manipur
4.	Development of Water body & Improving Drainage System at Lamphelpat	Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Lamphelpat Water body, Imphal West District, Manipur

Further, he recalled the members about the observation made in the 2nd combined meeting of SEIAA & SEAC in connection with these projects that “none of the proposed work component / activities of the project applied for prior Environment Clearance did fall either in **Category A** or **Category B** as listed in the Schedule to the Notification of the Government of India in the MoEF, number S.O. 1533 (E), dtd. 14th September, 2006”.

While taking up miscellaneous Agenda items, the Director (Environment) and Member Secretary, SEIAA-Manipur placed the proposal from the Superintendent of State Archaeology, Department of Arts & Culture, Manipur, seeking “**No Objection Certificate**” / “**Environment Clearance**” from competent authority for installation of “**Light & Sound**” project inside Kangla and INA Memorial, Moirang, for consideration and recommendation. He further circulated letter from the Secretary, MoEF, Govt. of India communicated vide D.O. No. J-11013/2/2013-IA.I, dtd. 7th February, 2014 to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Manipur to develop monitoring mechanism of the ECs granted by SEIAA in the state.

During review and screening of all the 5 (five) proposals, Members of SEIAA and SEAC expressed their views that since both the authority & committee have been mandated for environmental appraisal, all the project proposals applied for prior environment clearance need to be examined thoroughly based on established parameters as to whether the project is environment friendly or not.

The Chairmen of SEIAA & SEAC after a threadbare discussion and seeking views and comments from the members, made the following observations:

- i. With reference to letter of Forests Department enclosed alongwith Form – 1, submitted by the Tourism Department, the proposed project site falls under the “**Eco-Sensitive Zone of Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP)**” i.e. within 10 km radius from KLNP, the project site also falls within Loktak, the Ramsar Site for International Importance and accordingly may be treated as **Category A** as per EIA notification, 2006.
- ii. The rest four projects submitted by the I & F C Dept, Manipur appear to have same activities / components with the previous project proposals which have already been screened during 2nd combined meeting of SEIAA & SEAC, held on 7th September 2013, except changes in title.

Finally, all the members present in the Meeting unanimously resolved to make the following recommendations:

1. Confirmed the draft proceedings of the 3rd Combined SEIAA & SEAC Meeting. The Member Secretary, SEIAA has to issue a reminder letter to the Forest Department for early submission of the revised **Form 1** in respect of prior environment clearance for sand / stone quarry before the lapse of schedule time period from the date of intimation of official letter in this regard.
2. The project proposal site of “Passenger Ropeway at Loktak Lake, Manipur”, submitted by Tourism Dept., Manipur falls under the “**Eco-Sensitive Zone of Keibul Lamjao National Park**”, accordingly it is treated as **Category A** as per EIA notification 2006. Therefore, the project may be referred to the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India for further necessary action.
3. None of the project component / activities of the 4 (four) projects namely (i) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Irong Nallah Waterbody (Upper portion) at Luwangsangbam, (ii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Irong Nallah Water body (Lower portion) at Luwangsangbam, (iii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Waithou Pat Water body Thoubal District, Manipur and (iv) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Lamphelpat Water body, Imphal West District, Manipur submitted by

the IFCD, Manipur for prior environment clearance did fall either in Category A or Category B as listed in the Schedule to the Notification of the Government of India in the MoEF, number S.O. 1533 (E), dtd. 14th September, 2006. Member Secretary, SEIAA may convey the resolution along with the recommendations of the meeting to the Irrigation & Flood Control Department (IFCD), Manipur.

4. Regarding letter from Secretary, MoEF, Govt. of India communicated vide D.O. No. J-11013/2/2013-IA.I, dtd. 7th February, 2014, all the members agreed to prepare a mechanism for monitoring of the ECs granted by SEIAA in the state.
5. Member Secretary, SEIAA may issue **"No Objection Certificate" / "Environment Clearance"** for installation of **"Light & Sound"** project inside INA Memorial, Moirang. However, for the same project in Kangla, it being treated as green lung of Imphal city, having potential of breeding ground of migratory and resident birds and other faunal species as well, the project proponent may be asked to clarify the issues raised by the members in the meeting. After that the SEIAA & SEAC team may have a field visit for proper screening of the proposal.
6. All the project should be implemented within the purview of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 & its subsequent Rules, keeping in view of the peculiarities and specificities of Manipur's geo-phygeography & environmental characteristics.
7. In case of water body restoration activities, taking due cognition of natural water cycle, catchment area may be conserved / protected through afforestation and catchment area treatment programmes. Conservation with indigenous species (flora & fauna) may be included with provision to check / avoid introduction of alien species (flora & fauna), etc.
8. Any development project inside or nearby eco-sensitive zone may be done after thorough assessment. If so, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) should be conducted properly and environmental management plan (EMP) should be prepared.
9. The Dept. may think of creating a small cell on EIA to facilitate and fast track future project & fund clearances. This may reduce long term cost of the project formulation & clearance.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Dr. M. Homeshwor Singh)
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Govt. of Manipur
&
Member Secretary, SEIAA, Manipur
