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MINUTES OF MEETING OF ORISSA STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

AUTHORITY , Dtd. 7.8.2006.

The first meeting of the reconstituted Orissa state Coastal Zone Management Authority was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department in Conference hall of Rajiv Bhavan, Bhubaneswar at 11.40 am on 7th August, 2006. The list of members present in the meeting is as per Annexure- 1.

Sri B K Patnaik, Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary welcomed the members of the Authority and other participants (representatives of POSCO -India) to the meeting and explained the objective of the meeting. He then requested the Principal Secretary to Chair the meeting.

Agenda item No. 1

1. Initiating the discussion on the agenda item on the proposal submitted by POSCO-India for establishment of a captive minor port at Jatadharmuhan near Paradeep in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa, Principal Secretary stated that as per the provisions of para 3(2) (ii) of CRZ notification, construction and operation of port is a permissible activity and requires environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. He then asked the project proponent to briefly present about the project.

2. Mr Sanjeev Dhar, Executive Director of Consulting Engineering Services (India) Pvt. Ltd. presented a brief summary regarding Master Plan for harbour facilities of POSCO in Orissa. The presentation was on location of site, numerical model analysis and simulation, basic harbour plan,

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including site preparation plan and construction schedule. The details of his presentation are annexed as Annexure 2.

3. Dr. V. Sanil Kumar, Scientist of National Institute of Oceanography, Goa presented the Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment study conducted for the area.

4. After the presentation, Principal Secretary requested the members to offer their views.

The following issues were raised by the members:

(i) The duration of study for biological analysis has not been mentioned. The phytoplankton study did not have any details such as date of collection of samples, centre of deposit, voucher number and photographs of each organism. There has not been any mention of sea weed and sea grass in the report.

(ii) As the Regional Research Laboratory (RRL) is monitoring the coastal water of Orissa since last few years, data are available and these data could be taken advantage of in the preparation of comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report as reference.

(iii) It was pointed out that the CRZ maps which have been supplied by ORSAC and the maps enclosed in the report do not match.

(iv) Steps proposed for protection of beach erosion need to be mentioned.

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(v) Issues like socio-economic aspect, horseshoe crab, impact of handling materials other than coal and iron ore in the port, water pollution problem including treatment facility and location of discharge have not been addressed in the impact assessment report.

(vi) Mr. S. P. Nanda, Principal Secretary and Chairman of the Authority wanted to know the truth in the apprehension and concern of general public about threat to the Paradeep Port.

5. In response to the issues raised in para-4 the following clarifications were given by the consultant.

(i) Sea weed and sea grass studies is to be included in the comprehensive EIA. Details of sample, i.e., date of collection, photographs and voucher would be provided in the comprehensive report.

(ii) Comprehensive environmental impact assessment report is under preparation which would cover all seasonal data pertaining to environmental parameters. N I O is currently carrying out seasonal observation for water quality and biological parameters. Data available from other sources would also be referred to.

(iii) The issue regarding mismatch between CRZ map prepared by Government of Orissa and the map submitted by the project proponent would be sorted out immediately.

(iv) The Consultant also indicated that during construction of Paradeep port counter measures for shoreline erosion had not been visualized properly whereas in the present case countermeasure such as sand

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bypassing with additional engineering measures for beach nourishment would be adopted which would maintain the shoreline. Annual natural sediment transportation would not affect the Paradeep port because the effect can be felt upto a maximum distance of about 5 kms towards Paradeep port. But Paradeep port is located at a distance of 12 kms. Hence, the apprehension is not correct.

(v) Socio economic aspect would be dealt with in detail in the comprehensive report. The points raised such as water treatment facility and location of disposal of waste water would be immediately furnished. The representative of POSCO clarified that no other material other than iron ore and coal would be imported through the port. The air quality measurements would be mentioned in the comprehensive report. In connection with a query regarding dust control measures, the consultant clarified that dry fog arrangements with vacuum cleaners would be adopted which would require less water and there would be no generation of waste water from such treatment.

6. Some members desired to go on a site visit. It transpired during the deliberations that the present proposal being for a minor port, it would not attract the provisions of the EIA notification (1994).

7. After detailed deliberation, the Authority in principle agreed to recommend the proposal of M/s POSCO for establishment of captive minor port at Jatadharmuhan creek, to Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India for considering grant of CRZ clearance. Other statutory clearance (Forest clearance) if any, shall be obtained by the project proponent.

Agenda item No.2

8. The authority noted the information furnished regarding constitution of different District Coastal Zone Management Committees as well as the action taken on the CRZ violations.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Approved

S. P. Nanda
Chairman 1.9.06