

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of reconstituted West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBCZMA) held on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 12.00 Noon at the Conference Hall of Environment Department**

The following agendas were discussed during the meeting;

**Agenda 1: CRZ recommendation for the proposed project titled 'Sulphuric Acid Pipeline from IOCL, Haldia Refinery to Finger Jetty of Haldia Dock Complex, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata' at Haldia, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal.**

**Brief Description of the project:**

- ❖ **Name of the Project:** Sulphuric Acid Pipeline from IOCL, Haldia Refinery to Finger Jetty of Haldia Dock Complex, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata
- ❖ **Location:** Village- Haldia, Tehsil- Sutahata-I, District- Purba Medinipur
- ❖ **Project Proponent:** Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
- ❖ **Cost of the Project:** Rs. 4989 Lakhs

The project site falls in IOCL refinery and Haldia Port in Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, on the Hoogli river mouth of Bay of Bengal. The total length (meter) of the proposed Sulphuric Acid pipeline falls in the following CRZ categories;

| Proposed Project Activity | CRZ-II (Urban or Developed Area) | CRZ-IV B (River/ Creek) | Total length of pipeline within CRZ Category as per CRZ report | Outside of CRZ Categories | Total length of pipeline (mts) as per NCSCM report |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Sulphuric Acid Pipeline   | 268.8                            | 16.3                    | 285.1  | 1863.4                    | 2148.5*  |

M/s Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, the Project Proponent made a presentation on the proposed project explaining its salient points. At the onset, it was pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the length of the pipeline as mentioned in the EIA Report (2175mts) and that mentioned in the CRZ report( 2148.5 mts). The PP stated that the length as mentioned in the CRZ report prepared by NCSCM is final and the difference could have been due to the use of Google Earth imagery in estimating the length for preparing the EIA report.

During the course of presentation, IOCL explained that safest techniques would be followed for laying pipelines with full consideration to pollution abatement, waste management and soil conservation issues during construction work. Afforestation and other social activities have already been taken up and will be continued through CSR activities.

After presentation, the following points were deliberated on:

- The 16" pipeline would be laid at a depth of 1.2mts below ground level by horizontal directional drilling method with minimal impact on the surrounding area as HDD allows pipes and conduit installation with minimal disruption to fragile natural ecosystems. An additional line carrying Nitrogen would also be laid parallel to Sulphuric Acid pipeline for cleaning and purging purpose of main pipeline. The pipeline will be made of stainless steel material and with minimum joining.
- As informed by the Project Proponent, 1 km of the proposed pipeline will be laid by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method and for remaining 1.15 km cut and cover process would be followed. The underground pipeline shall be protected against corrosion using cathodic protection to ensure its safe operation
- The experts enquired about the need of felling any trees due to the proposed work. The PP ensured that the project does not require any tree cutting as the horizontal directional drilling causes minimal surface disturbance.
- It was suggested that IOCL must be careful regarding pollution of green belt canal which is a burning issue of that area. IOCL assured that it will ensure pollution free measures. In the same context, IOCL remarked that they are proactively engaged in reducing air and water pollution through their existing mechanism. The PP was requested to take up green belt development programme outside their project area too.
- A question was raised on how IOCL will identify and monitor the emergencies such as leakage etc. IOCL assured that the proposed project will follow safest technology with zero leakage occurrences. It was also mentioned that the primary life of protection system is 30 years and it will be monitored continuously so as to replace the system in case the need arises for it.

**DECISION:** Based on the detailed deliberations and clarification given by the Project Proponent, the WBSZMA unanimously agreed to recommend the said project to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

#### **Agenda 2: Delegation of power to WBSZMA by MoEF&CC**

Member Secretary, WBSZMA informed the members that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has recently forwarded Office Memorandum No. IA3-12/2/2022-IA.III dated 10.10.2022 which deals with the 'delegation of powers under Section 5 (S.O. 4650 (E))', 'empowering under Section 10 (S.O. 4648 (E))' and 'authorizing under Section 19 (S.O.4649 (E))' of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Three (3) separate Gazette Notifications dated 30th September, 2022 have been issued for this purpose that were shared with the members. Vide these memorandums; the Central Government has delegated its power to issue directions under

Section 5 of Environment Protection Act to SCZMAs and Union Territories CZMAs.; right to enter and to inspect under sub section 1 of section 10 to Chairman, SCZMAs and cognizance of offences under section 19 clause (a) to SCZMAs and Union Territories CZMAs., within their territorial jurisdiction.

**Agenda 3: Hotel construction in Mandarmani, Purba Medinipur District in violation of CRZ Notification, 2011**

The WBSCZMA members were briefed about the writ petition filed in the National Green Tribunal under O.A. No.134 of 134 of 2015/EZ (Bishnupada Pakhira vs State of West Bengal & ORS ) alleging unauthorized construction of hotels ,resorts etc at Mandarmani , Purba Medinipur, violating CRZ Notification,2011. As per the directions of Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 02.05.2022 a joint committee of NCZMA, WBCZMA, CPCB Regional office,Kolkata and State PCB and District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur District was constituted by WBPCB, being the nodal Agency of the aforementioned Committee. An opportunity was provided to the respondent hotels, restaurants or resorts claiming their existence and operation to be valid under CRZ Notification and otherwise compliant, to put forward their claim with all relevant documents before the joint committee within two weeks. The committee was directed to pass a reasoned order within the next two months.

The members were told that the geo coordinates collected for these hotels were forwarded by the District Authority to WBSCZMA, which in turn forwarded it to IESWM for ascertaining the CRZ status as per the approved CZMP, 2011. The CRZ status as ascertained by IESWM was submitted to the Joint Committee through WBPCB. As per the CRZ status report, out of the total hotels/ resorts etc submitted by District Administration, 23 hotels are falling on the landward side of the Mandarmani Chalkhola Road. Approx 7 hotels are falling partly on the landward and partly on seaward side. The Committee called a hearing of the hotel/ homestay/ resort owners which was attended by very few hotel owners. The final report from WBPCB is awaited.

**Agenda 4: Hotel construction in Tajpur of Purba Medinipur District in violation of CRZ Notification, 2011**

The members were informed about a writ petition filed in Calcutta High Court with WPA No.32923 of 2013 (Rama Prasad Sarkar Vs Union of India) alleging unauthorized construction of hotels, resorts etc at Tajpur, Purba Medinipur violating CRZ Notification, 2011. In this context DM, Purba Medinipur was requested by MS, WBSCZMA to prepare a report identifying violations of CRZ Notification, 2011 at Tajpur and also remedial actions taken against the violators. The DM, Purba Medinipur constituted a committee consisting of a representative of Block Development Officer, Ramnagar I Block, representative of Block Land & Land Reforms Officer, Ramnagar I and others for collection and validation of geo coordinates for 4 corners of plot areas of Hotels etc.

A list of 70 Hotels/ resorts/ homestays along with 4 geo coordinates was submitted by the DM, Purba Medinipur to WBSCZMA which was then forwarded to IESWM for ascertaining their CRZ status as per the approved CZMP, 2011. The CRZ status of these 70 hotels in Tajpur has been ascertained by IESWM and submitted to WBSCZMA.

Out of these 70 hotels, 44 hotels are falling on the landward side of the Tajpur Main Road. Hence, there are 26 cases of violations at Tajpur.

**Agenda 5: CZMP Updation**

The house was informed that updation process of CZMP, 2011 has been completed for Purba Medinipur district out of the three coastal districts in the state and forwarded to the MOEF&CC for its approval. The work on updation of Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), 2011 as per Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019 for coastal areas of South 24Pgs. & North 24Pgs. districts is in process. The public hearing for North 24 Parganas district is proposed at the end of March, 2023 and the work on CZMP updation for South 24 Parganas district would be completed tentatively by the end of Sept, 2023.

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

Principal Secretary, Environment Deptt.  
&  
Chairperson, WBSCZMA

Memo No. 102/18/-EN/T-II-04/17/2022

Date: 08.02.2023

Copy forwarded for information to the:-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Deptt. of Sundarban Affairs, Govt. of W.B.
2. The Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of W.B.
3. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Govt. of W.B
4. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of W.B.
5. The Secretary, Deptt. of Fisheries, Govt. of W.B.
6. Prof. Dhrubajyoti Sen, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, IIT, Kharagpur, W.B.
7. Prof. Kalyan Kumar Chattopadhyay, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, Howrah, W.B
8. Ms. Ajanta Dey, Joint Secretary and Programme Director, Nature Environment and Wildlife Society.

Member Secretary,  
WBSCZMA  
&  
Director, IESWM.