

File No. 10-52/2020-IA.III
[Proposal No. IA/MH/NCP/295375/2022]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110 003

Dated: 2nd June, 2023

To
The Chief Manager(PP&D)
M/s Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)
Admin Building, Sheva Uran, Navi Mumbai-400707

Subject: Development of Greenfield Port at Vadhavan, District Palghar, Maharashtra by M/s Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)-Further consideration for Amendments in Terms of Reference-reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal no IA/MH/NCP/295375/2022 submitted to this Ministry on 19th December, 2022 seeking Amendment in Terms of References for the aforementioned project as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The above mentioned proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure, CRZ and other miscellaneous projects in its 318th EAC meeting during 12th -13th January, 2023, 321st meeting during 28th-1st March, 2023 and 324th EAC meeting held on 19th to 21st April, 2023.
3. The project proponent along with the EIA consultant M/s. Enkay Enviro Services Pvt. Ltd., Jaipur made a presentation through Video Conferencing and provided the following information:-
4. The ToR proposal was earlier considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 241st meeting held on 25th-26th August, 2020. The MoEF&CC granted Terms of Reference (ToR) vide letter No.10-52/2020-IA.II dated 7th October, 2020.
5. The PP online application dated 19th December, 2022 has requested for the following amendment in terms of References (TOR) dated 7th October, 2020.
6. Through the amendment proposal the PP has proposed that the reclamation in the instant proposal is 200 M cum as compared to earlier ToR which was 86.88M cum. Also, the location of the port was changed from onshore to offshore port requiring large scale of reclamation. Based on the actual calculations the requirement of reclamation is about 200 million cubic meter for the proposed layout of the port. Considering the substantial amount of reclamation requirement, it was decided to extract the fill material through marine borrow pit as against the earth filling borrowed from land location & in view of the ecological sensitivity




of the region, the change of location is proposed to borrow the material from offshore. The locations of offshore are in the norther side of Vadhavan port location where sandy bed is available. The marine borrow pit was identified in the offshore of the daman coast about 50 km from the port site at a depth varying from 20 m to 25 m. In view of the environmental requirements, the following studies have already been carried out as part of the port development, Bathymetric survey, Geophysical Survey – shallow seismic survey, Current and tide measurements, Collection of Water and sediment samples, Mathematical model studies, Hydrodynamic and Flow modelling, Dredged dispersion studies, Impact of dredging and dumping on marine ecology.

7. The EAC, taking into account the submission made by the project proponent, had a detailed deliberation in its 324th meeting during 19th-21st April, 2023 and **recommended** the proposal for amendment in ToR, however, since the configuration of the project has been changed, the PP has to conduct the studies as per the revised configuration for the EIA/EMP studies. The EAC further prescribed additional ToRs for conduct of additional studies.

8. Based on the deliberations in the meeting and information provided by the proponent in support of the project, the EAC recommended for the amendment in Terms of Reference, which was accorded *vide* letter no. 10-52/2020-IA.II dated 7th October, 2020. As per the recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords amendment in Terms of Reference for ‘Development of Greenfield Port at Vadhavan, District Palghar, Maharashtra by M/s Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)’ as mentioned at point 6 above along with the following additional ToRs for conduct of additional studies.


- i. Justification for the site suitability and viability of the project location shall be submitted.
- ii. The PP has to conduct the studies as per the revised configuration for the EIA/EMP studies.
- iii. Traffic assessment studies for the increase of the traffic due to port related activities on NH-8/Vadodara Expressway shall be conducted.
- iv. JNPA has identified a burrow pit at around 50-65 kms into sea from the proposed Vadhavan port for obtaining sand for creating reclaimed land at the proposed Vadhavan port. The marine sand will be dredged using Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD) and the sand will be transported and dumped at the reclamation location. This has involved the mining in the marine in this regard Comments/permission shall obtained from the Ministry of Earth sciences.
- v. A detailed and additional biodiversity study for the burrow pit region covering monsoon and winter season (considering the sand flats are active breeding areas for fishes and other sand burrowing fauna) should be undertaken by Zoological Survey of India.
- vi. A comprehensive and dedicated socio-economic studies to be conducted with specific focus on fisherman community both in Dahanu and Daman region considering large scale sand mining that may have an impact on active fishing grounds. Such fishing grounds to be documented by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) or similar competent nationally reputed institute with expertise in fisheries. Details regarding the impact, mitigation and R&R for fisherman community be envisaged.
- vii. The mining also proposed after 12 nautical miles around 50-65 kms into sea Ministry shall obtain the Comments from the CRZ division in this regard.
- viii. Public hearing shall be conducted at Dahanu district and Daman districts.
- ix. No LNG and LPG terminal shall be allowed in the proposal at this time.

- x. Two seasons additional baseline data shall be collected by Zoological Survey of India covering monsoon and winter season with specific focus on offshore marine mammals movement and fish aggregation sites if any with special focus on offshore sand mining areas and port reclamation areas.
 - xi. Impact of breakwaters and transport carriageway on the erosion/accretion to be evaluated by National Center for Coastal Research.
9. All the other conditions stipulated in the Ministry's Terms of Reference letter of even number, dated 7th October, 2020 shall remain the same.
10. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Amardeep Raju)
Scientist-E

Copy to:

- i. Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Cinema, Sion Circle, Mumbai-400 022.


(Amardeep Raju)
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