



भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

MOST URGENT

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No. J-21011/4/2009-IA-I

Dated the 30th June, 2011

To

M/s Alaknanda Hydro Power Co. Ltd.
Paigah House
156-159, Sardar Patel Road
Secunderabad-500 003
Andhra Pradesh

Subject : Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for causing Pollution of River Alaknanda and the surrounding environment.

Whereas, the Ministry of Environment & Forests had issued environmental clearance to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) on 3rd May, 1985 for 200 MW Srinagar Hydroelectric Power Project on River Alaknanda near Srinagar in Garhwal District of Uttrakhand. Forest clearance was also accorded for diversion of 338.36 ha on 15th April, 1987; and

2. Whereas, the environmental clearance was transferred in favour of M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Company Ltd. (DNHPCL) on 27th July 1999 for a capacity of 330 MW, after submission of Environment Impact Assessment Report and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan and an undertaking to abide by the conditions stipulated in the environment clearance letter to UPSEB and subsequent to which, the environmental clearance was transferred on 28th March, 2006 to M/s Alaknanda Hydro Power Company Limited (AHPCL) for a capacity of 330 MW from DNHPCL; and

3. Whereas, the project proponent was asked twice, on 28.8.1998 and 19th July, 2005 to seek fresh environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notifications of 1994 and 2006, and on submission of the facts that a



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वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

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substantial amount of the tune of Rs 139 Corers has already been spent towards project implementation and R&R issues and infrastructure works like land acquisition, residential and non-residential buildings, roads, bridges, compensatory afforestation etc. have already been undertaken by the Project Proponents, it was considered as the existing project as per the circular dated 23rd July, 1998 of the Ministry and it was decided that Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 shall not be applicable for the Project; and

4. Whereas, the environment clearance was transferred from UPSEB to DHPCL and finally from DHPCL to AHPCL as the project was considered as the existing project; and

5. Whereas, the Ministry had received, on 8th May, 2011, a representation against submergence of Dhari Devi Temple due to implementation of this Project; and

6. Whereas, a communication was issued to AHPCL on 30th May, 2011 informing that no further construction work other than the safety and electricity works up to 200 MW should be undertaken on the project site till the matter is reviewed by undertaking a site inspection by a team; and

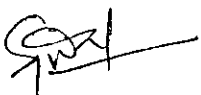
7. Whereas, a Team with the following members was constituted by the Ministry on 1st June, 2011 to undertake a site visit and submit its report within three weeks-

- (i) Dr B.P. Das, Vice-Chairman, EAC (RVP);
- (ii) Dr Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor, Department of History, Delhi University and Former Member, Delhi Urban Art Commission;
- (iii) Shri Bharat Bhushan, Director(IA), MoEF; and
- (iv) Ms. Sanchita Jindal, Director, MoEF and Member Secretary, EAC(RVP); and

8. Whereas, the Team was to review (I) the status of the relocation of the Dhari Devi temple and its adequacy (II) the Management Plan for muck disposal (III) compliance to various environmental conditions and (IV) review the EC for the increased capacity under the order of Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in WP (PIL) No. 137 of 2009 by Shri Ram Lal & others Vs. Union of India for this Project; and

9. Whereas, the Team visited the site on 6th-7th June, 2011 and has submitted two Reports - one by Dr. B.P. Das & Ms. Sanchita Jindal and the other by Dr. Nayanjot Lahiri, which are available at the website of the Ministry; and

10. Whereas, these Reports have been accepted by the Ministry and it was noted that the issue of muck disposal and pollution of the Alaknanda River and



the surrounding environment is crucial, that AHPCLs track record on this issue has been extremely poor, that even its own muck management plan prepared by IIT, Roorkee appears to have been ignored and that from the year 2008 till 2011, three Committees have drawn pointed attention to the short comings pertaining to muck disposal; and


11. Whereas, regarding the issue of relocation of Dhari Devi Temple and its adequacy, it is noted that the plan needs to be modified in collaboration with an outside agency like INTACH, along with a Conservation Architect; and

12. Whereas, it is noted that the quarried area is being used for storing building material and no treatment of quarry work has so far been started; and


13. Whereas, it is noted that the Alaknanda River Front Development Scheme is being implemented by AHPCL, without any consultation/ concurrence of this Ministry.

14. Now, therefore, under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the following directions are proposed to be issued for compliance by AHPCL -

- (i) To preserve the religious sanctity and character of the Dhari Devi Temple, a modified plan will be prepared in collaboration with INTACH, a Conservation Architect, the local Temple Samiti and the representative of the Geological Survey of India. The Plan should, inter-alia, examine how part of the rock on which the platform of the deity has been constructed, along with the rock that formed its backdrop, shall be mounted at a higher elevation in such a way that it maintains contact with the base rock from which it is raised.
- (ii) Only after modified Plan as specified in 14(i) above has been prepared, the construction shall be resumed at Dhari Devi Temple.
- (iii) The muck slope at the edge of the river shall be adequately protected by a retaining wall of at least 1-2m height to be 1 m above HFL corresponding to a flood of 2500 to 3000 m³/sec in the river.
- (iv) The existing slope of the muck disposed off is around 40-45° and shall be flattened to 35°. The walls shall be constructed partially upto a maximum of 2 m height and need to be completed to the top with surface protection before July, 2011 when the monsoon precipitation becomes intense. This is considered expedient to prevent sloughing, sliding of the critically steep muck slope and to arrest flow of the muck into the river. The wall shall be constructed over a length of almost 1 Km stretch at three major sites i.e. the dam, desilting basin and power house. This would lead to adequate environmental protection.



- (v) Muck shall be compacted and Terraces shall be formed, where so ever possible.
 - (vi) Appropriate protection by plantation and gabions should be put only after slopes are flattened to 35°, protected by retaining walls of desired height. Thereafter, appropriate soil cover of 1m shall be provided to raise plantation for slope protection.
 - (vii) Muck disposal site wise restoration plan with time targets shall be submitted immediately to the MoEF.
 - (viii) The green belt development shall be undertaken simultaneously along with the project construction.
 - (ix) AHPCL shall pursue with Geological Survey of India (GSI) for expediting the remaining reports on Geomorphological Studies and implement all the recommendations of GSI immediately before the Dam gets operational. AHPCL shall take up the mitigation measures immediately.
 - (x) The restoration work for Supana quarry shall be undertaken simultaneously, leaving the part which is being used for storage of building material.
 - (xi) AHPCL shall maintain a minimum environmental flow as will be decided by the Ministry on the basis of the Study by IIT, Roorkee on Cumulative Impact Assessment on Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Basin.
 - (xii) Requisite clearances shall be sought by AHPCL for Alaknanda River Front Development Scheme before proceeding further on this scheme.
 - (xiii) AHPCL shall submit a detailed Action Plan on the above mentioned directions with time targets along with a Bank Guarantee of Rs. 1 Crore in favour of the State Pollution Control Board, Uttarakhand. The Bank Guarantee shall be forfeited in case of non compliance by AHPCL.
15. Keeping in view the above proposed directions, M/s APHCL shall undertaken construction work related only to the components mentioned above in para 14 i.e. related to the muck disposal, quarry restoration etc.
16. No further construction work other than safety and electricity works upto 200 MW shall be undertaken on the project site by APHCL.



17. The MoEF will set up appropriate Committee(s) to monitor implementation of the project in all its aspects and M/s APHCL shall cooperate fully with this Committee(s).

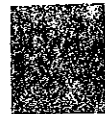
18. It may be noted that if no response is received within 15 days on receipt of these proposed directions, final orders as deemed fit will be passed under the circumstances of the case without any further notice to you. In case, any personal hearing is desired, it may be indicated in your response.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanchita Jindal'.

(Sanchita Jindal)
Director

Copy to- Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board, E-115, Nehru Colony, Haridwar Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanchita Jindal'.

(Sanchita Jindal)
Director