



## **EAC Thermal considering a 2400 MW project for EC in spite of policy thrust towards renewable**

Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Thermal Power Projects (TPP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is considering 6 proposals in its meeting scheduled for 26 April 2019. There are 2 proposals for EC, 2 for Validity Extension of EC and one each for ToR and amendment in EC.

EAC is considering two projects for EC of which one is 3x800 MW Super-Critical TPP at Dhenkanal Distt., Odisha. Three Schedule-I (the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972) species including elephant are found in the area. The impact zone is part of Mahanadi Elephant Reserve and Maulabhanja–Jiridamali-Anantapur identified elephant corridor. Therefore, in its last meeting (March 2019) EAC deferred the project for want of information on (i) map showing distance between elephant corridor, project boundary, the geographical extent of Schedule-I and II species in and around the project area. Details of number of each species recorded in the impact zone (ii) Details of greenbelt proposed in the project and in the wildlife management plan along with the map indicating the length, width and coordinates of the proposed greenbelt (iii) Details of air quality modelling shall be presented. The emissions of SO<sub>x</sub> in case of failure of FGD for three units may be re-calculated. Further, the emissions may be calculated for stack height of 275 m, 100 m and as per the formula provided in the Ministry's Notification dated 28.06.2018. It should also take into account of exit velocities of the flue gas and, (vi) Off set plan for cutting 13,264 trees in non-forest area and 2,829 trees in the forest area. Ideally, no new coal plant should be recommended in view of policy thrust towards renewable.

The other EC proposal is an expansion of gas based power project in Tripura by ONGC for 726.6 MW.

Amendment in EC is proposed in 2x67.5 MW Coal based Captive Thermal Power Plant at Odisha wherein the project proponent has requested for increased in land area by 80 acres so as to construct a private railway for smooth transportation of raw materials for CPP.

Validity Extension of EC is proposed in two projects namely 250 MW Lignite Based Barsingsar Thermal Power Plant at Rajasthan by NLC India; and 1980 MW (3x660 MW) Coal based Thermal Power Plant at Madhya Pradesh by Welspun Energy

Madhya Pradesh Ltd for five years and three years respectively. Where the Welspun plant couldn't get Power Purchase Agreement and financial closure to get commissioned within the stipulated time period, the Barsingar TPP couldn't get the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract.

One project is proposed for Terms of Reference i.e. 660 MW Supercritical Thermal Power Plant at the existing Amarkantak Thermal Power Station, Madhya Pradesh by MPPGCL which is a replacement of retired and decommissioned units of 290 MW.

### **Review by**

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