



SPEED POST

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Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

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Dated: 22nd October, 2020

To:

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Subject: Extension of Validity of CRZ Clearances for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) 3 To 6 (4x1000 Mwe, LWR Units) Kudankulam, Radhapuram Taluk, Tirunveli District -reg

This is in reference to, email dated 6th July 2020 of NPCIL sharing the recommendation of Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority and requesting the Ministry for extension of validity of CRZ clearances for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) unit 3 to 6 (4X1000 MWe, LWR units) at Kudankulam, Radhapuram Taluk, Tirunveli district. The proposal was perused in the ministry.

2. The CRZ clearance for the unit 3 to 6 of KKNPP was granted by MoEFCC vide letter dated 25th July 2012. The proposal is for seeking Extension of Validity of CRZ clearances for KKNPP 3 to 6 (4x1000 MWe, LWR units) granted by MoEFCC vide DO dated 25th July 2012. Validity of the CRZ clearance has been extended till 31st December 2019 by MoEFCC. The extant proposal was considered during the 42nd EAC(N&D) meeting held on 9th September 2020.

Extension of Validity of CRZ Clearances for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) 3 To 6 (4x1000 Mwe, LWR Units) Kudankulam, Radhapuram Taluk, Tirunveli District

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3. As desired by the committee, NPCIL presented the chronology of event wrt grant of EC and CRZ clearance for the project (**KKNPP 3 to 6**), which is as given below:

- i. Environmental clearance for KKNPP 3&4 vide letter dated 23-09-2008.
- ii. Environmental clearance for KKNPP 5&6 vide letter dated 31-12-2009.
- iii. Extension of validity of Environmental Clearance validity for KKNPP 3&4 upto 22-09-2018 vide letter dated 08-01-2014.
- iv. Extension of Environmental clearance validity for KKNPP 5&6 upto 31-12-2019 vide letter dated 08-01-2014.
- v. Extension of Environmental clearance validity for KKNPP 3&4 and KKNPP 5&6 upto 31-12-2020 vide letter dated 14-11-2018.
- vi. CRZ clearance (CRZC) for KKNPP 3 to 6 vide letter dated 25-07-2012.
- vii. Extension of CRZ clearance validity for KKNPP 3 to 6 upto 31-12-2019 vide letter dated 08-01-2018.
- viii. TNSCZMA recommended extension of validity of CRZC for KKNPP 3 to 6 vide dated 04/03/2020.

4. It was noted that Secretary, DAE vide his letter no. 84/2018 dated 9th May 2018 had also requested for extension of validity of EC & CRZ Clearance for KKNPP Unit 3 & 4 and KKNPP units 5 & 6 till December, 2026.

5. The policy status wrt extension of validity of CRZ clearance was updated to the committee. Accordingly, as far as extension of validity of CRZ Clearance is concerned, according to amendment dated 6.3.2018 of CRZ Notification, 2011 (para 1(v)), "the clearance accorded to the projects under this notification shall be valid for a period of seven years from the date of issue of such clearance. Provided further that the period of validity may be extended for a maximum period of three years in case an application is made to the concerned authority by the applicant within the validity period, along with recommendation for extension of validity of the clearance by the concerned State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authority.

6. Accordingly, committee noted that CRZ clearance can be valid for maximum period of ten (10) years with the extension. The ten-year period for the validity of CRZ clearance gets over on 24.07.22 for KKNPP 3 to 6.

7. As part of the presentation and various other documents submitted to the Ministry, the PP submitted following information about the proposal:

- i. Nuclear Power Program at Kudankulam (KK) Site is under Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Govt. of India and Govt. of Russian Federation and accordingly there are delays in materializing various agreements with the Russian Govt.
- ii. Unit 3 and 4 are under construction and excavation is completed. Site construction work is underway. Construction for Reactor Building, Reactor, Auxiliary Building, Turbine Building, hydro technical structure is in progress. Further, manufacturing and delivery of Long Manufacturing

Cycle equipment like Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV), Steam Generator (SG), Turbine, Polar Crane etc. at site are in progress.

- iii. Unit 5 & 6 construction is expected to commence from June 2021. June 2021 and Dec 2021 are commencement date and Dec 2026 and June 2027 are completion date which are planned for Unit -5 and Unit-6, respectively. Contracts for supply of major equipment signed and bid evaluation for excavation works is in progress.

8. TNSCZMA in its meeting held on 19.02.2020 resolved to recommend the proposal for extension of validity under CRZ Notification, 2011 to MoEF&CC, Gol as the Project Proponent had certified that there is no change in the existing proposal with reference to KKNPP Units 3 to 6 and also construction of these units is under progress. The Environment and Forests Department of the Tamil Nadu Government has recommended the proposal received from TNSCZMA for extension of validity of CRZ Clearances for KKNPP Units 3 to 6 for clearance under CRZ Notification, 2011.

9. It was noted that no forest land, Mangrove land or protected areas are involved in the project. The protected area of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park is 87 km from the Project and NOC was obtained from Tamilnadu Forest Department for setting up of project. The condenser cooling water will be discharged to sea water body through a specially designed intake & outfall structures with liquid effluents complying with AERB and Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board requirements.

10. During construction and operation, the required treatment plants will be constructed in stages to meet the stipulations of TNPCB norms for discharges and municipal wastes. During operation, radioactive gaseous emissions and liquid effluents will be treated and discharged within the limits specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Sewage generated from the plant / township will be treated in Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), and the treated water will be used for landscaping and greenbelt development.

11. A minimal quantity of dredging to facilitate the construction of offshore structure is envisaged. This is a temporary and purely construction activity which is not required to be carried out in future during the operation of the plant. KKNPP plant is already in higher elevation. A shore protection bund will be constructed along the shoreline to preserve the shoreline of the plant site. The area will be filled to the grade level up to the shore protection bund. Sea water is being used as source of water for the plant. Fresh water requirements for each unit to be met from a new desalination plant as a part of the proposed project.

12. The committee observed that the communications submitted by NPCIL seeking CRZ extension for the project does not refer to the period of validity

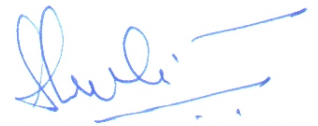


of the extension sought. Further, the TNCZMA recommendation for the CRZ extension is also open ended with no validity. The NPCIL in response referred to the Secretary, DAE letter dated 9th May 2018 referring to the period and requested that the same may be considered taking into account the practical limitations associated with commencement of the extant project and other such nuclear power plants on the basis of precedence.

13. It was also noted that the sanctioned Total Project Cost is ₹ 49,621 Cr and the cumulative expenditure till Aug., 2020 is only ₹ 2,324 Cr against the Cumulative Commitment of ₹ 22,329 Cr till Aug., 2020.

14. On the basis of detailed deliberations, committee noted that the extant project is in non-forest area with no protected areas around. Accordingly, not much variation in environmental aspects is expected if we consider extension till December 2026 as proposed by secretary, DAE instead of 24.07.22 which is applicable as per existing statutes. Committee also recalled past experiences wrt such nuclear power projects, which tend to take time varying from 10-20 years for commencement from the date of EC.

15. On the basis of recommendation of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, in acceptance of the recommendation of the EAC (Nuclear and Defense), hereby accords approval to the extension of validity of CRZ Clearance to the above project viz. "Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) 3 To 6 (4x1000 Mwe, LWR Units) Kudankulam, Radhapuram Taluk, Tirunveli District" as requested by Secretary, DAE, subject to compliance of all the conditions specified in EC for KKNPP 3&4 vide letter dated 23-09-2008, EC for KKNPP 5&6 vide letter dated 31-12-2009, CRZ clearance for KKNPP 3 to 6 dated 25-7-2012 and recommendation of TNSCZMA date 04-03-2020. NPCIL to expedite all the efforts to meet the timelines and complete the work for Unit 3 to 6 of KKNPP before December 2026.

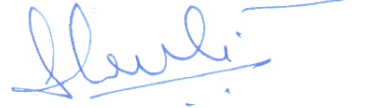


(Dr. Shruti Rai Bhardwaj)
Addl. Director/Scientist 'E'

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2. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests Tamil Nadu, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015
3. The Chairman CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 32.

4. The Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment, First Floor, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015, Tamil Nadu.
5. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment First Floor, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015, Tamil Nadu.
6. The APCCF (C) MoEF&CC, Regional Office (SEZ), I and II Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai- 34.
7. Guard File/ Monitoring Cell.



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