ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE NEW CONSTRUCTION, BUILDINGS AND TOWNSHIP

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The Background

MoEF, Govt. of India amended EIA notification dated 27th January, 1994 vide an extra ordinary Gazette notification dtd.7th July'2004 covered certain new construction activities including buildings, townships, settlement colonies and commercial, hospital, hotels and office complexes etc. under environmental clearance procedure.

MoEF NOTIFICATION

Purpose of the Regulation

- Large construction activities have environmental impacts which need proper evaluation.
- Impact of available civic infrastructure and conservation of natural resources.
- Better urban management through improved environmental considerations.
- Integrated approach for environmentally sound urban development.
- Sustainable development

EC Procedure-I

- Application of public hearing to MPCB along with.
- EIA & EMP report (20 copies)
- Executive summary in Marathi & English (20 copies)
- Fees for conducting public hearing.
- Application for Consent to Establish under water (P&CP) Act, 1074 and Air (P&CP) 1981 to MPCB.
- Prescribed form (available on MPCB website)
- Fees.
- Approved plans.

EC Procedure-II

- Public Hearing
- Formation of Public hearing panel including 3 senior citizens nominated by collector, 3 Local body members.
- Minimum 30 days notice for date and venue of public hearing
- Conduct of public hearing where concerned persons can express views/objections/suggestions etc.

- Proceedings of public hearing communicated to DoE, GoM/ MoEF, GoI.
- Consent to Establish granted subject to clearance from MoEF, GoI.

Issues for Consideration

- Resource Requirements
- Stress on available civic infrastructure and amenities like road, drainage, parking, water supply mains, MSW etc.
- Integration with over all development planning.
- Pollution potential from proposed project including air pollution, MSW, sewage etc.
- Socio-economic impacts
- Disaster management plans

Environmental Initiatives

- Rain water harvesting
- Common transport facilities.
- Solar energy utilisation.
- De-centralised sewage treatment plant
- · Recycle/reuse of treated sewage
- Localised MSW treatment and disposal
- Green belt development
- Use of environmentally friendly materials like fly ash bricks, use of fly ash in cement, avoiding use of timber for construction purpose.

Further considerations

- Building plans approved by local bodies before environmental clearance.
- Mis-conception about environmental issues,
- Notification seen as obstruction in development.
- Environmentally sound development will lead to better civic life.

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