



महाराष्ट्र जलसंपत्ती नियमन प्राधिकरण

(महाराष्ट्र जलसंपत्ती नियमन प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 2005 चे कलम 3 अन्वये स्थापित वैधानिक प्राधिकरण)

Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority

(A Statutory Authority Established u/s 3 of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005)



File No. MWRRA/2023/PRCL/VIDC/138/420

Date : 19/07/2024

To,

Executive Director,

Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation,
Sinchan Seva Bhavan, Civil Lines,
Nagpur 440 001.

Sub: Clearance of MWRRA under Section 11(f) of MWRRA Act, 2005 to Administrative Approval Proposal of Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project.

- Ref :**
- 1) ED, VIDC, Nagpur's Letter No. 1640/विपाविम/कातां-5(1)/वैनगंगा - नळगंगा नदीजोड/2023 Dated 03/03/2023
 - 2) MWRRA's even letter No. 573 Dated 10/08/2023
 - 3) ED, VIDC, Nagpur's Letter No. 84/विपाविम/कातां-5(1)/वैनगंगा - नळगंगा नदीजोड/2024 Dated 03/01/2024 and 2636/ विपाविम/कातां-5(1)/ वैनगंगा - नळगंगा नदीजोड/2024 Dated 29/03/2024
 - 4) MWRRA's even letter No. 314 Dated 21/05/2024
 - 5) ED, VIDC, Nagpur's Letter No. 3535/विपाविम/कातां-5(1)/वैनगंगा - नळगंगा नदीजोड/2024 Dated 29/05/2024 and 4605/ विपाविम/कातां-5(1)/ वैनगंगा - नळगंगा नदीजोड/2024 Dated 12/07/2024
 - 6) Additional Chief Secretary, WRD's DO Letter No. RLS 2023/(111/2023)/WRI Dated 12/07/2024

Executive Director, Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, Nagpur ("Project Proponent" for short) vide letter under Reference No. 1 submitted the proposal of

Administrative Approval (AA) of Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project for clearance of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority ("Authority" for short) under Section 11(f) of the MWRRA Act, 2005. On scrutiny of the proposal, the Authority had raised queries vide letter under Reference No. 2 & 4. Accordingly, Project Proponent resubmitted AA proposal of the Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project for the Authority's clearance vide letter under reference No. 3.

Government of India and Central Water Commission decided the Policy regarding River Linking Projects and water diversion from West Flowing River Basins in the Year 1980. Accordingly Project Feasibility Report of 30 River Linking Projects including Wainganga - Nalganga River Link Project were prepared by National Water Development Agency, New Delhi. Project Proponent submitted the same to State Level Technical Advisory Committee (SLTAC) on 09/02/2023 and submitted to the Authority vide letter under Reference No. 1.

Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project is proposed to transfer 1772 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of water during monsoon season through 426.542 Km long link canal from upstream of Gosikhurd Project on Wainganga River in Godavari Basin to Nalganga Project in Tapi Basin. The Project includes Seven Tunnels (13.83 km), 11 Pipe Canal (25.98 km) and 386.73 km open canals and water will be lifted at 6 places for total lift of 155 meters. The Project also includes construction of 31 new Storage Tanks and increasing the height of 6 existing Tanks. Further, Lower Wardha, Katepurna and Nalganga Projects will act as a Balancing Reservoirs.

The Annual Water Use of Project is 1772 MCM, out of which, 1286 MCM for Irrigation use (3,71,277 ha), 32 MCM for Domestic use, 397 MCM for Industrial use and 57 MCM for conveyance losses. The Project needs to acquire 28,041.30 ha land including 395.30 ha forest land. Due to this Project, 26 villages fully and 83 villages partially will be affected and 2646 families will have to be rehabilitated. The AA proposal cost of the Project as per Year 2022-23 Schedule of Rate is Rs. 88,575 crores. The SLTAC scrutinised the AA proposal of the Project. Due to large scope of the Project, SLTAC divided the proposal into two parts (Part 1 - Survey, Design, Forest Clearance and Statutory Clearances, Part 2 - Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, Construction of Project's Components, etc.). The SLTAC further stated that the provisions are made as per 'Pro rata basis' & 'cost curve equation' and it is important to take up works of Part 1 on priority after detailed survey and design for preparation of Detailed Project Report.

On scrutiny of the AA proposal of Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project with respect to provisions in Section 11(f) of the Act and policy of the Authority for clearance of projects under Section 11(f) of the MWRRA Act, it is observed that;

- a) As per AA Proposal, it is proposed to transfer 1772 MCM water from upstream of Gosikhurd Project on Wainganga River in Godavari Basin to Nalganga Project in Tapi Basin. Out of 1772 MCM, 1286 MCM for Irrigation use (3,71,277 ha), 32 MCM for Domestic use, 397 MCM for Industrial use and 57 MCM for conveyance losses.
- b) This Project comes in the Wainganga sub-basin of Godavari Basin on upstream of Gosikhurd Project. As per the Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal Award, Maharashtra State is entitled to use all waters of the Wainganga River and its tributaries upto Gosikhurd Project on Wainganga River. Further, Maharashtra State is entitled to use additional 424.75 MCM water in Wainganga sub-basin in Madhya Pradesh State during the 15 October to 30 June. Thus, the Project Proponent must ensure that said 424.75 MCM water will be utilized as per the provisions of Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal and project planning should be done accordingly.
- c) As per the decision taken in the State Cabinet meeting dated 04/01/2024, Government of Maharashtra, vide GR dated 06/02/2024, has relaxed the criteria of 75% dependability for Major projects for the Project to 63% dependability. Accordingly, Chief Engineer, Hydrology & Dam Safety, Nashik had certified the water available for 63% dependability as 1772 MCM on 13/06/2024. Chief Engineer while issuing water availability certificate has also considered the provisions in above Para (b) regarding Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal.
- d) The B/C ratio of Project is 1.55 which is more than norm of 1.50 for Major Project.
- e) Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change's (MoEF&CC) Notification dated 14/08/2018 are in force now and as per the AA proposal, the Project requires Environment Clearance (EC). Project Proponent must obtain EC from MoEF&CC as per Schedule Item 1(c) and under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 395.30 ha forest land.
- f) Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, vide DO Letter No. RLS 2023/(111/2023)/WRI Dated 12/07/2024 submitted the Minutes of 8th Meeting of State Water Council. As per the Para 1 (ii) of the said minutes, the said Project is incorporated in the Integrated State Water Plan (ISWP). Further, Water Resources Department, vide Letter No. नजोयो-२०२३/(१११/२३)/जसंअ Dated 12/07/2024 submitted revised copy of ISWP and provision for said Project is made on Page No. 135, 209, 253 and 264 of Vol IIA and Page No. 356 of Vol IIB of revised ISWP.

- g) As per letter under Reference No. 10, the Hon'ble Governor, vide their letter No. RB/DB/e-19011(110)(2024)/12 dated 10/07/2024, has accorded in-principle approval to the said Project.

Thus, the proposal is examined as per the Section 11(f) of the MWRRA Act, 2005. SLTAC, as recommended in Para 28 of its Report, the Project is divided into two Parts. As scope of the Project is huge, it is required to carry out survey and investigation of the Project on priority for preparation of Detailed Project Report and works coming under Part 1 shall be taken up first. Therefore, as per recommendations of SLTAC, the Authority has directed me to convey in-principle clearance for obtaining Administrative Approval to Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project to the extent of execution of works under Part 1 of the AA proposal. The Project Proponent should plan the water use as mentioned in above Para (b) in accordance with Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal Award.

The Project Proponent is directed to submit and obtain separate clearance for Wainganga-Nalganga River Link Project under Section 11(f) from this Authority after the completion of Part 1 of the AA proposal.

Hence this communication.

(By Order of the Authority)




(Mallikarjun Dharane)
Secretary, MWRRA

Copy to :

- 1) Additional Chief Secretary (WRP & D), Water Resources Department, Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 032
- 2) Principal Secretary to the Hon. Governor, Raj Bhavan, Malabar Hill, Mumbai - 400 035.
- 3) Chief Engineer, Gosikhurd Project, Water Resources Department Sinchan Seva Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440 001.
- 4) Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Project Investigation Circle, Water Resources Department, Sinchan Seva Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
- 5) Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Project Investigation Circle, Sinchan Bhavan, Shivaji Nagar, Camp, Amravati - 444 603.