



महाराष्ट्र जलसंपत्ती नियमन प्राधिकरण

(महाराष्ट्र जलसंपत्ती नियमन प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, २००५ चे कलम ३ अन्वये स्थापित वैधानिक प्राधिकरण)

Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority

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

No. MWRRA/2024/PRCL/VIDC/164/315

Date : 24/06/2025

To,

Executive Director,

Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation,

Sinchan Seva Bhavan, Civil Lines,

Nagpur 440 001.

Sub: Post-facto Clearance of MWRRA under Section 11(f) of MWRRA Act, 2005 to Administrative Approval of Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation Project, Taluka Morshi, District Amravati.

- Ref :** 1) Executive Director, VIDC, Nagpur's letter No. ७५१९/विपाविम/कातां-७/(५५६/२०२२)/२०२४ dated 13/12/2024
- 2) MWRRA's even Letter No. 11 dated 02/01/2025
- 3) Executive Director, VIDC, Nagpur's letter No. ११७/विपाविम/कातां ७/(५५६/२०२२)/२०२४ dated 07/01/2025

Executive Director, Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, Nagpur ("Project Proponent" for short), vide letter under Reference No. 1, submitted the proposal Administratively Approved (AA) of Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation Project, Taluka Morshi, District Amravati for the Post-facto 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 sought some additional information vide letter under Reference No. 2 which was submitted by Project Proponent vide letter under Reference No. 3.

Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation Project has proposed on Chargad River in the Wardha sub-basin of Godavari basin near village Ladki in Morshi Taluka of Amravati District. An AA had been accorded on 19/08/2006 for Rs. 37.25 crores (RSR 2003-04) by the State Government to irrigate 1680 hectare area with total storage of 16.42 Million Cubic Meters (MCM). Subsequently, the State Government has accorded the 1st Revised Administrative Approval (RAA) on 11/03/2010 for Rs. 111.13 crores (RSR 2008-09).

As per the 2nd RAA proposal, the work of Earthen Dam, spillway, Head Regulator and Closed Pipeline Distribution Network is balance. The Project needs to acquire 561.65 hectare of land including 12.94 hectare Forest land, out of which 416.63 hectare land is already acquired including 4.75 hectare Forest Land. The revised cost of the project is 564.22 Crores (RSR 2022-23) of which Rs. 164.06 crore was spent till August 2023.

As, there is no change in irrigable command area or live storage of the Project between 1st RAA and 2nd RAA is proposed. Thus, the Authority's clearance, as per the Water Resources Department's Government Resolution dated 16/11/2016, are not require for the 2nd RAA proposal. However, the State Level technical Advisory Committee, during the scrutiny of proposal, commented that the project receives its AA after the establishment of the Authority, thus the project requires clearance from the MWRRA.

Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005 came in force from 08/06/2005. Water Resources Department, vide its letter dated 09/05/2007 directed Executive Director, Godavari Marathawada Irrigation Development Corporation, Aurangabad and Executive Director, Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, Nagpur that before according AA to Irrigation Projects, it is necessary to obtain clearance from MWRRA under Section 11(f) of the MWRRA Act 2005. As the Project receives its AA before 09/05/2007, hence clearance under Section 11(f) of the MWRRA Act 2005 from the Authority was not obtained.

On scrutiny of the AA proposal of Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation Project with respect to provisions in Section 11(f) of the Act and the policy of the Authority for clearance of projects under Section 11(f) of the Act, it is observed that;

- a) At the stage of AA of the Project, it was proposed to irrigate 1680 hectare land with total storage of 16.42 MCM. The annual water use of project was 17.14 MCM, out of which 10.86 MCM for Irrigation, 1.89 MCM for Drinking and 4.39 MCM is Evaporation losses.
- b) The Revised Integrated State Water Plan (ISWP), approved by the State Water Council in June 2024, under Section 16(4) of the Act, has specified annual water utilization for Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation project as 17.14 MCM and Total Storage as 16.42 MCM on Page No. 272 of Volume II A of ISWP which is matching with AA proposal of Project.
- c) At the time of AA, Chief Engineer, Hydrology Project, Nashik has given a water availability certificate of 17.14 MCM to the project on 22/05/2006 at 50% dependability.
- d) At the time of AA, the cost of the project was Rs. 37.25 crores based on the Schedule of Rates for the Year 2003-04 and the B/C ratio was 1.27 which was more than 1.00, a norm for Minor projects. The Cost per Thousand Cubic Meter of Project was Rs. 22,677/- which was well within the norm of Rs. 28,670/- for Backlog Areas as per the Water Resources Department's Government Resolution dated 20/11/2003.
- e) At the time of AA, the Ministry of Environment & Forest's (MoEF) Guidelines of 14/09/2006 were in force and as per the guidelines project was required Environment Clearance. Whereas, at present, MoEF's 14/08/2018 Guidelines in force and according to new guidelines, the Project do not require Environment Clearance. At the time of AA, the Project required 4.75 hectare of diversion of forest land which was accorded in-principle by MoEF on 22/05/2009. However, as per 2nd RAA proposal, MoEF's approval required for diversion of additional 8.19 hectare forest land.
- f) At the time of AA, Hon'ble Governor's Directives for FY 2006-07 were in force and according to those directives, taking up new irrigation projects in Backlog Affected Vidarbha and Marathwada Regions was permissible. This is an ongoing project and Rs. 164.06 crore expenditure has already been incurred till August 2023.

Thus, this Administratively Approved proposal appears to be consistent with the mandatory requirements provided in Section 11(f) of the Act and the policy of the Authority for clearance of projects under Section 11(f) of the Act.

However, as seen from the State Level technical Advisory Committee's Report, the Project is not meeting any economic norms as per Water Resources Department's Government Resolution dated 13/07/2018 the 2nd RAA proposal i.e. B/C ratio is 0.30 which is less than the norm of 1.00, Internal Rate of Return is 3.85%, which is less than the norm of 12.00% and Cost per Thousand Cubic Meter of Project is Rs. 3,43,618/- is also more than the norm of Rs. 1,22,132/-. Thus, the State Government must consider the aspect while according the 2nd RAA to the Project.

In view of the above and considering the feasibility condition and the norms prevailing at the time of AA, this Authority has directed me to convey you that this project proposal is suitable for Post-facto clearance. Hence, Post-facto clearance is hereby accorded to the Administratively Approved proposal of Lower Chargad Minor Irrigation Project, Taluka Morshi, District Amravati.

Hence this communication.

(By the Order of the Authority)



M. Dharane

(Mallikarjun Dharane)
Secretary, MWRRRA

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 (SP), Water Resources Department Sinchan Bhavan, Shivaji Nagar, Camp, Amravati - 444 603.
- 4) Superintending Engineer, Amravati Irrigation Project Circle, Sinchan Bhavan, Shivaji Nagar, Camp, Amravati - 444 603.