



D.O.No. 22-19/2017-IA-III

3rd July, 2017

Dear Shri. Mishra,

Please refer to the D.O. letter No. Q-15014/2/2017-CPHEEO dated 14.02.2017 requesting to revisit the process of prior environmental clearance for Solid Waste Management Treatment and Processing Facilities.

2. The matter has been examined by the Expert Group constituted in the Ministry in its meeting held on 14.06.2017. The Expert Group has submitted its recommendations. The recommendations of the Expert Group have been examined in the Ministry.
3. The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 in the Schedule at item 7(i) mentions Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (CMSWMF) as Category B project for which State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) is empowered to appraise the project for grant of prior environmental clearance.
4. The municipal solid waste management involves various steps like door to door collection, segregation, composting, refuse derived fuel (RDF) making, waste to energy generation through waste to energy plants and disposal in scientific landfills. The above activities, except landfill site, if proposed as standalone activities are not covered under item 7(i) of EIA Notification, 2006, hence do not require prior environmental clearance. In case the activities of composting, RDF making and waste to energy plant (up to capacity of 15 MW) are proposed at an existing landfill site, they do not attract the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.
5. If the activities of incineration, RDF making and waste to energy plant are proposed along with the new site of solid waste disposal/ landfill, it is advisable to obtain an integrated prior environmental clearance for these projects.

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6. It has been seen that locating a landfill site or municipal solid waste disposal site is a contentious issue and there is a tendency to locate them far from the habitation but near forest, rivers, ponds, wetlands and low lying areas etc. which are ecologically sensitive sites and require proper environmental management. Since, the forests, rivers, ponds, wetland and low lying areas are critical from environmental point of view, it may not be appropriate to exempt this activity of municipal solid waste disposal site or landfill site from the requirement of prior environmental clearance.

7. I believe this will expedite the achievement of the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(A.N. Jha)

Shri Durga Shankar Mishra
Secretary,
Ministry of Urban Development,
Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011.