


A-12011/1/2010-NRCD-II
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(National River Conservation Directorate)

New Delhi, dated 15th February, 2010

Subject: Minutes of the first meeting of Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) held on 5th February, 2010.

A copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) held on 5th February, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Environment & Forests) is forwarded herewith for information/ necessary action.


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Encl: As above

ESC:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Dept of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Secretary, Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Chief Secretary, Uttranchal Secretariat Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
9. Chief Secretary, Shastri Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
10. Chief Secretary, Main Secretariat, Patna, Bihar.
11. Chief Secretary, Project Bhawan, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
12. Chief Secretary, Writers Building, Kolkatta, West Bengal.
13. Special Secretary & Project Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
14. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Arjun Nagar, New Delhi.
15. Chairman, Central Water Commission, Sewa Bhawan, New Delhi.
16. Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

Jharkhand

22. Shri A.R. Sarkar, Principal Secretary, Department of Forests & Environment, Govt. of Jharkhand

Uttarakhand

23. Shri M.H. Khan, Secretary(Drinking Water), Govt . of Uttarakhand

Internal Distribution

PS to JS(RG)/Dir(BS)/Dir(D)/Dir(F)/AD(RS)/AD(B)/DD(SS)

Other invitees:

Government of India

1. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power
2. Shri A.K. Mehta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
3. Shri J.B. Ravinder, Assistant Adviser, CPHEEO, Ministry of Urban Development
4. Shri R.M. Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
5. Dr. Indrani Chandrasekharan, Adviser (Environment & Forests), Planning Commission
6. Shri R. Sendhil Kumar, Consultant (Environment & Forests), Planning Commission
7. Dr. Laxman Prasad, Mission Head (Water & Power), Department of Science & Technology
8. Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission
9. Shri Anupam Prasad, Director, Central Water Commission

Uttar Pradesh

10. Shri Alok Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Departments of Urban Development & Environment, Govt. of U.P.
11. Ch. Jitendra Nath Singh, Mayor, Allahabad
12. Shri Ashok Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Allahabad Nagar Nigam
13. Shri A.K. Srivastava, Managing Director, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow
14. Shri Vijendra Vikramaditya, Chief Engineer, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow
15. Shri S.S. Kazmi, Chief Engineer, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
16. Shri A.K. Mittal, General Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
17. Shri J.P. Mani, Project Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
18. Shri R.M. Kant, Deputy Secretary (Coordination), U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghaziabad

Bihar

19. Shri Girish Shankar, Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Govt. of Bihar
20. Dr. D.K. Shukla, Special Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Housing, Govt. of Bihar
21. Shri O.P. Goyal, Department of Urban Development & Housing, Govt. of Bihar

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF EMPOWERED STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY (NGRBA) HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2010 IN PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

The 1st meeting of the Empowered Steering Committee of the NGRBA was held on 5th February, 2010 at 3.00 p.m. in Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants and briefly explained the mandate of the NGRBA, which has been constituted on 20.2.2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring & coordinating authority for the Ganga River. NGRBA in its first meeting on 5.10.2009 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister decided that under "Mission Clean Ganga" it will be ensured by 2020 that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluents flow into the river. As the projects under NGRBA have to be taken up in Mission Mode, a 'fast track' mechanism for expeditious processing & approval of projects and release of funds has been approved by the Cabinet. This includes a Standing Committee chaired by the Union Finance Minister to function on behalf of the NGRBA to periodically review and assess implementation of the Authority's work programme, and an Empowered Steering Committee for sanction of projects and release of funds.

3. The following five project proposals were taken up for consideration:

- (i) Sewerage and non-sewerage schemes for pollution abatement of river Ganga at Allahabad, UP – Rs. 305.34 crore
- (ii) Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Begusarai for pollution abatement of river Ganga in Bihar- Rs. 65.40 crore
- (iii) Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Buxar for pollution abatement of river Ganga in Bihar- Rs. 74.95 crore
- (iv) Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Hajipur for pollution abatement of river Gandak in Bihar- Rs. 113.62 crore
- (v) Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Munger for pollution abatement of river Ganga in Bihar- Rs. 187.89 crore

4. The Principal Secretary (Urban Development & Environment), Government of UP underscored the importance of Allahabad as one of the most important towns in the context of the programme to conserve the river Ganga. The salient features of the project proposal were mentioned, as given below:

- Against the present sewage generation of 228 mld (which is expected to increase to 296 mld by 2025), only 89 mld of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far in the town under GAP-I & II. 60 mld treatment capacity is envisaged under JNNURM. The present proposal envisages creation of 105 mld treatment capacity (in 4 STPs). These add to a total of 254 mld.
- For tackling the balance sewage generation upto 2025 and laying of inter-connected sewerage system in the town, additional project proposals are under preparation, and would be posed for approval subsequently.
- In addition to STPs, the project involves laying of trunk sewers, desilting and rehabilitation of existing sewers, upgradation of existing pumping station & construction of new pumping stations, community toilet complexes, dhobi ghats and public awareness & participation schemes.
- State Government is committed to provide 30% share of the capital cost and bear any escalation in the project cost above the sanctioned cost.
- State Government is exploring the possibility of creation of an SPV for project implementation and O&M of projects under NGRBA.
- The State Government and the Allahabad Nagar Nigam are committed to bear the O&M cost of the assets to be created under the project. A detailed O&M Recovery Plan had been furnished by Allahabad Nagar Nigam in this regard.
- In view of the Maha Kumbh scheduled to be held in Allahabad in early 2013, the State Government proposes to fast-track the implementation schedule and complete the project within FY 2012-13. The revised PERT Chart and implementation schedule, including the yearwise financial requirements, would be submitted to the Ministry in a week's time.
- It was assured that the process of acquisition of land for the STPs and pumping stations will be started immediately, so that the implementing agency can commence work expeditiously.

While the State Government is committed to provide its share of capital cost & full O&M cost of the project, the Central Government may consider funding NGRBA projects on 90:10 cost sharing pattern and bear the O&M cost for the first 5 years, as requested during the 1st meeting of the NGRBA held on 5.10.2009.

5. The Mayor of Allahabad observed that only 25% of the town presently has sewerage network. Considering the financial constraints being faced by the local body, he requested for support of the Central Government to lay sewerage system in the entire town and build adequate treatment capacity, so that pollution of river Ganga can be stopped. He also requested that the Central Government may consider bearing the O&M cost for the first 5 years of the project.

6. Principal Secretary (Urban Development & Housing), Govt. of Bihar highlighted the salient aspects of the project proposals pertaining to Begusarai, Buxar, Hajipur and Munger, as given below:

- Besides works relating to sewerage network, sewage treatment capacity of 17 mld at Begusarai, 16 mld at Buxar, 22 mld at Hajipur and 28 mld at Munger is proposed to be created. Presently, no treatment capacity is available in these towns.
- Land for siting of STPs in Buxar and Munger is available. The process for transfer of land for STPs in Begusarai and Hajipur and for Intermediate Pumping Stations in all towns will be completed expeditiously.
- Minimum size of 250 mm diameter has been proposed in the branch sewer network with a view to avoid frequent choking due to storm water flow carrying silt of larger size, garbage and plastic waste.
- Sequential batch reactor process, which can be deployed for BOD reduction as per requirement and has less land requirement, has been adopted for estimation purposes. Chlorination of treated effluent is envisaged in the STP for faecal coliform reduction. The effluent shall be released in the river after treatment up to the desired level to achieve the designated river water quality.
- Bid documents are being prepared for implementation on a turn-key basis incorporating 5 years of O&M.

- A new entity called Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation has been created for speedy implementation of NGRBA project.
 - A Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) involving the Urban Local Bodies concerned shall be signed shortly. User charges in term of sewerage tax are proposed to be levied in these towns, once these facilities are in place. These revenue enhancement measures would help meet the O&M cost of sewerage schemes.
 - State Govt. plans to submit another proposal for consideration shortly, which would include certain other essential components relevant to the present project proposals, namely low cost sanitation toilets, dhobi ghats and public participation & awareness.
 - While Govt. of Bihar has already committed to bear 30% share of the project cost as well as O&M expenditure, the Central Government may consider 100% Central funding for NGRBA projects and reimburse the O&M cost for the first 5 years, as requested the Chief Minister of Bihar by during the 1st meeting of the NGRBA held on 5.10.2009.
7. After presentation of the project proposals, the Chairman requested the members to give their comments, which are summarized below.
8. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development made the following observations:
- Proper O&M of assets created has been a major problem with most of the urban local bodies/State Governments. O&M expenditure should be met from user charges and not provided by the Central Government.
 - State Governments should ensure that the proposals posed under NGRBA are dovetailed with the already sanctioned/proposed projects under JNNURM and UIDSSMT schemes of MoUD.
 - Comprehensive City Development Plans should be prepared and specific projects should follow subsequently.
 - ULBs should be closely associated with project proposals right from inception to ensure that they have ownership of the projects.
 - Treatment technology should be selected based on life cycle cost comparison.

- Service level benchmarks should be prescribed to assess the efficacy of the project.
- Regarding the project proposals of Bihar, the minimum size of branch sewer should be as per the Sewerage Manual, i.e. 150mm diameter. This would ensure that minimum velocities are achieved and siltation does not take place.
- Public awareness and participation activities need to be taken up on a larger scale.
- The State Govt. may speedily complete the preparatory works for starting implementation after the approval of the projects.

9. Advisor, Planning Commission while supporting the proposals, drew the attention of the Chairman to the Sludge Hygienization Research Irradiator facility of BARC, which removes 99.99 % of pathogenic bacteria from sewage sludge. She suggested that this technology may be tried out under NGRBA on a pilot basis.

10. The Mission Head (Solar Energy & Water), Ministry of Science & Technology mentioned that the Agenda Notes may include comparison of various treatment technologies justifying the final technology chosen. However, the Ministry has no objection to the proposals from Bihar and UP.

11. Chairman, CPCB suggested that the treated effluent, instead of being discharged into the river, may be used for irrigation, horticulture and industrial application, to the extent possible.

12. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources supported the project proposals with remarks that the project proposals/DPRs need to be appraised by independent agencies.

13. Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Environment & Forests made the following observations:

- State should ensure that the land acquisition process, which is a major reason for delay of schemes, should be completed at the earliest.
- State Governments should ensure that there is no time overrun in implementation, which will also check cost escalation.

- Cost escalation in the projects, beyond the sanctioned cost, will be borne entirely by the concerned State Governments.
- A technology based project management system should be developed for rigorous monitoring of the projects.
- Since the projects will spill over into the XII Five Year Plan, Planning Commission may take note of the funding requirements of these projects.

14. In response to various comments, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests made the following observations:

- The issue regarding cost sharing pattern and funding of O&M cost by the Central Government is under consideration of the Planning Commission, as decided in the 1st Meeting of the NGRBA. Till a decision is taken, the present dispensation of cost sharing and O&M shall be followed.
- Service level benchmarks will be prescribed by the Ministry in consultation with the MoUD.
- It has been decided to have a Tripartite MoA signed by MoEF, State Government & urban local body for projects under NGRBA. These envisage, inter-alia, preparation of Comprehensive Sewage Disposal Plan for the town, timelines for addressing issues relating to sanitation, crematoria, bathing ghats, etc.
- States have proposed treatment technologies in their proposals based on life-cycle cost comparison of the various options as well as local site conditions. However, the choice of technology should be left open during the tendering process by the States. Only the desired outcome to be achieved are prescribed by MoEF and must be ensured by the State Governments.
- The issue of minimum diameter of sewer pipe may be left to the Government of Bihar to decide as per their assessment of the local conditions. However, the State Government should duly take into account the observations of MoUD in this regard before arriving at a final decision.
- The Ministry has already initiated the process of selecting independent agencies for appraisal of DPRs under the NGRBA. In the meanwhile, DPRs are being appraised by NRCD, as per the practice followed under the ongoing NRCP.

- The Committee may consider approving the five project proposals. The proposals of Munger and Allahabad, which are of more than Rs. 150 crore each, will be submitted to CCEA for final approval after recommendation of the Committee. The Committee was also requested to approve release of the 1st instalment of funds for these projects:

- Rs. 7 crore for Begusarai
- Rs. 8 crore for Buxar
- Rs. 12 crore for Hajipur
- Rs. 20 crore for Munger
- Rs. 10 crore for Allahabad

(Funds for Munger and Allahabad shall be released after approval of CCEA for these projects).

15. In conclusion, the Chairman made the following observations:

- A wide range of important issues have emerged from discussions in the meeting which should be taken into consideration by the MoEF, the State Governments and ULBs.
- Coliform reduction to the desired levels must to be ensured by the State Governments. This is important for human health also.
- Reuse of treated effluent is necessary to ensure flow of better quality water in river.
- Considering the scarcity of land, cost comparison of treatment technologies should factor in land cost while deciding the treatment technology.
- The choice of technology should be left open during the tendering process by the States, with the outcome to be achieved being the important parameter.
- Service level benchmarks need to be prescribed for the projects.
- The size of sewers should be optimized to achieve best results, taking into account all relevant local conditions.
- The progress of implementation of the schemes should be closely monitored.
- Cost escalation in the projects, beyond the sanctioned cost, will be borne entirely by the State Governments.

14. Based on the discussions during the meeting, the Empowered Steering Committee decided the following:

- (i) Approval of the project of "Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Begusarai for Pollution Abatement of river Ganga in Bihar" at a cost of Rs. 65.40 crore and release of 1st instalment of Rs. 7 crore.
- (ii) Approval of the project of "Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Buxar for Pollution Abatement of river Ganga in Bihar" at a cost of Rs. 74.95 crore and release of 1st instalment of Rs. 8 crore.
- (iii) Approval of the project of "Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Hajipur for Pollution Abatement of river Gandak in Bihar" at a cost of Rs. 113.62 crore. Release of 1st instalment of Rs. 12 crore after approval of the project by the Union Finance Minister.
- (iv) Recommendation of the project of "Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant at Munger for Pollution Abatement of river Ganga in Bihar" at a cost of Rs. 187.89 crore for approval of the CCEA. Release of 1st instalment of Rs. 20 crore after approval of the project by the CCEA.
- (v) Recommendation of the project of "Sewerage and non-sewerage schemes for pollution abatement of river Ganga at Allahabad in UP" at a cost of Rs. 305.34 crore for approval of the CCEA. Release of 1st instalment of Rs. 10 crore after approval of the project by the CCEA.

**List of Participants for the 1st Meeting of Empowered Steering Committee of
NGRBA held on 5th February, 2010 at Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi**

Government of India

1. Shri Vijai Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests - *in chair*
2. Shri R.H.Khwaja, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests
3. Shri Surabh Chandra, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Environment & Forests
4. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests
5. Prof. S.P. Gautam, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board
6. Shri Brijesh Sikka, Director, NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests
7. Shri S.K. Agarwal, Director, NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests
8. Shri S. Jagannathan, Director (Finance), Ministry of Environment & Forests
9. Shri Rajiv Sinha, Additional Director, NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
10. Shri B.B. Barman, Additional Director, NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests
11. Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, NRCD, Ministry of Environment & Forests
- ✓ 12. Shri Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power -
- ✓ 13. Shri A.K. Mehta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development
14. Shri J.B. Ravinder, Assistant Adviser, CPHEEO, Ministry of Urban Development
- ✓ 15. Shri R.M. Mishra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
16. Dr. Indrani Chandrasekharan, Adviser (Environment & Forests), Planning Commission
17. Shri R. Sendhil Kumar, Consultant (Environment & Forests), Planning Commission
18. Dr. Laxman Prasad, Mission Head (Water & Power), Department of Science & Technology
19. Shri Rajesh Kumar, Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission
20. Shri Anupam Prasad, Director, Central Water Commission

Uttar Pradesh

21. Shri Alok Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Departments of Urban Development & Environment, Govt. of U.P.
22. Ch. Jitendra Nath Singh, Mayor, Allahabad
23. Shri Ashok Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Allahabad Nagar Nigam

24. Shri A.K. Srivastava, Managing Director, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow
25. Shri Vijendra Vikramaditya, Chief Engineer, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow
26. Shri S.S. Kazmi, Chief Engineer, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
27. Shri A.K. Mittal, General Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
28. Shri J.P. Mani, Project Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Allahabad
29. Shri R.M. Kant, Deputy Secretary (Coordination), U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghaziabad

Bihar

30. Shri Girish Shankar, Principal Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Govt. of Bihar
31. Dr. D.K. Shukla, Special Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Housing, Govt. of Bihar
32. Shri O.P. Goyal, Department of Urban Development & Housing, Govt. of Bihar
33. Shri Atul Krishna, Consultant (M/s Tetra Tech India Ltd.)
34. Shri K. Srivastava, Consultant (M/s Tetra Tech India Ltd.)
35. Shri S.C. Agarawal, Consultant (M/s IPE Ltd.)
36. Shri Sanjay Shakya, Consultant (M/s IPE Ltd.)
37. Shri P.K. Grover, Consultant (M/s IPE Ltd.)

Jharkhand

38. Shri A.R. Sarkar, Principal Secretary, Department of Forests & Environment, Govt. of Jharkhand

Uttarakhand

39. Shri M.H. Khan, Secretary (Drinking Water), Govt. of Uttarakhand