

F.No.10-108/2008-IA-III

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA.III Section)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 3
Dated: 09th September, 2016

To

M/s Usha Breco Limited,
701, Surya Kiran Building,
19, K.G. Marg,
New Delhi - 1

Sub: Construction of 'Udankhatola' Aerial Ropeway at Mount Girnar, District Junagadh (Gujarat) by M/s Usha Breco Limited - Environmental Clearance - reg.

Ref: Your application No.UBL/GIR/MoEF/01/08-09, dated 08.09.2008 and subsequent letter dated 03.11.2008, 24.11.2008, 12.12.2008, 30.09.2009, 23.10.2009 and 20.11.2009 and online proposal No.IA/GJ/MIS/53151/2008 dated 10th May, 2016.

Sir,

This has reference to your application No.UBL/GIR/MoEF/01/08-09, dated 08.09.2008 and subsequent letter dated 03.11.2008, 24.11.2008, 12.12.2008, 30.09.2009, 23.10.2009 and 20.11.2009 and online proposal No.IA/GJ/MIS/53151/2008 dated 10th May, 2016 alongwith project documents including Form I, Terms of References, Pre-feasibility Report, EIA/EMP Report regarding above mentioned project.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the application. It is noted that the proposal is for construction of an aerial ropeway at Mount Girnar in Junagadh District, Gujarat. The total area required for the ropeway project is 7.2871 ha. The project site stretches from the foot of Mount Girnar to a point near the Ambaji Temple at the top of the Mountain. Land required for this project is 72,817m². The project will be developed as a mode of transportation for carrying pilgrims from the foot of Mount Girnar to Ambaji Temple. The total cost of the project is 89.31 crores. The total plot area is 72,871 m² and breakup is as follows:

- (i) Lower Station Area: 21,917 m²
- (ii) Lines: (trestles, electrical lines, water lines): 36,845 m²
- (iii) Upper Station: 8,000 m²
- (iv) Staff accommodation & amenities: 6,109 m²

Length of Alignment:

- (i) Inclined length between two stations: 2,382.49 m

Std

- (ii) Horizontal length between two stations: 2,171.40 m
- (iii) Vertical rise: 850 m

Features of Aerial Ropeway

- (i) Monocable detachable grip type system
- (ii) Capacity of carrying: 1,000 passengers per hour
- (iii) Line speed: 5 m/s (maximum)
- (iv) Cabin capacity: 8 passengers
- (v) Travel time: 9.28 min
- (vi) Length of forest land crossing: 1,750 m.

3. It is noted that the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Gujarat, vide WLP/32/B/7730/2015-16 dated 23rd December, 2015 has issued permission under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for use of 7.2871 ha of land in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat for construction of Ropeway by M/s Usha Breco Ltd after recommendation of the Standing Committee for NBWL. MoEF&CC vide letter dated 3rd April, 1995 has issued stage-I forest clearance for diversion of 9.9132 ha forest land.

4. During construction phase, 16.33 KLD of water will be required and during operation phase, 24.65 KLD of water will be required, which will be supplied by the Junagadh Municipal Corporation. Sewage will be treated in the sewage treatment plant (STP). Treated sewage shall be used for horticulture purpose. Power requirement will be 3 X 415V, 50Hz, 1000kVA will be provided by State Electricity Board. Solid waste will be segregated and disposed as per the norms of the municipal solid waste management and handling rules, 2006. Used oil will be sent to the authorized recycler/re-processor. The project will lead to the cutting of 2350 trees as per Forest Department marking. The total cost of the project is Rs. 89.31 crores.

5. Public consultation/public hearing was held on 03.06.2009.

6. All the projects related to Aerial Ropeway located at an altitude above 1000 m are listed at 7(g) of schedule of EIA Notification, 2006 covered under category 'A' and appraised at central level.

7. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee in its meetings held during 19th – 20th December, 2008, 29th -30th October, 2009 and 29th June, 2016 respectively. The project proponent and the EIA Consultant namely M/s Perfact Enviro Solutions Pvt Ltd, N Delhi have presented EIA/EMP report as per the TOR. EAC has found the EIA/EMP Report and additional information to be adequate and in full consonance with the presented TORs. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of environmental clearance.

8. Based on the information submitted by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords environmental clearance to project under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, subject to the compliance of the following specific and general conditions:

sd

A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- (i) The height of the 9th and 10th tower of ropeway will be increased to avoid disturbance to the vulture nesting sites located in this area.
- (ii) A camera of high resolution will be placed on the 9th tower to monitor movement of cultures and if required, movement of cabins of the ropeways will be regulated in such way as to avoid any accidental collision of vultures with the cabin of ropeway.
- (iii) A cafeteria for vultures will be constructed at an appropriate location, to be decided in consultation with the experts, to provide for supplemental feed to the vultures apart from attempting to divert the movement of vultures away from the ropeway.
- (iv) A cess of Rs. 5 per ticket or 2% of the ticket turnover revenue, whichever is higher, will be imposed. This cess amount will be given to the Gir Lion Conservation Society for conservation related activities in and around the Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary with a focus on long-billed vultures.
- (v) A technical monitoring group of officers from Gujarat Forest Department, local voluntary organizations concerned, BNHS, WWF and experts will be set up to advise on safety protocols and to monitor the implementation of the conditions governing the clearance of the ropeway project.
- (vi) All other conditions stipulated by the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests vide letter dated 23rd December, 2015, for permission under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, shall be strictly complied with.
- (vii) 'Consent to Establish' shall be obtained from Gujarat State Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act and a copy shall be submitted to the Ministry before start of any construction work at the site.
- (viii) All the details/information submitted vide letter dated 20.11.2009 and presentation/commitment made during the meeting on 29-30 October, 2009 shall be strictly complied.
- (ix) All the commitments made during the public hearing shall be strictly complied with.
- (x) Sufficient parking facility including Bus bays shall be provided near the lower station outside the sanctuary.
- (xi) Parking and assembly of visitors should remain outside the wildlife sanctuary and ferry them by battery operated buses with no or minimum noise as per the silent zone norms prescribed by CPCB. No private vehicles shall be allowed inside the Sanctuary. Walkway of sufficient width shall be provided for pedestrians.

SK

- (xii) Transporting of materials shall be through material ropeway only to minimize the disturbance in the sanctuary.
- (xiii) Staff shall not stay within the sanctuary during the construction and operation of the project.
- (xiv) A First Aid Room will be provided in the project both during construction and operation of the project.
- (xv) All the topsoil excavated during construction activities should be stored for use in horticulture/ landscape development within the project site.
- (xvi) The safety provisions shall be made as per the international standards and safety audit shall be carried out regularly by an independent and an authorized agency.
- (xvii) All requisite safety measures stipulated for ropeway shall be strictly adhered to.
- (xviii) A detailed plan with regard to rescue operations during emergency situations shall be prepared and submitted to this Ministry within 3 months from the date of receipt of this letter.
- (xix) Project proponent shall provide all basic facilities for the tourist/ visitors.
- (xx) The existing trackway shall also be improved and the environmental issues of the trackway shall be examined comprehensively.
- (xxi) Acoustic enclosure for DG sets to be provided and the emissions shall be monitored as per Central Pollution Control Board norms.
- (xxii) Existing road shall be improved and maintained. Avenue plantation shall be taken up in consultation with local Forest Department.
- (xxiii) An undertaking shall be submitted to the effect that commercial development will not be allowed at top of the ropeway, as well as a certification to this effect from the competent Authority shall be provided to Ministry within 3 months from the date of receipt of this letter.
- (xxiv) It shall be ensured that no plastic bags/ plastic carry material shall be permitted to be used by the tourists who will be coming to use the ropeway.
- (xxv) Total fresh water requirement from Junagadh Municipal Corporation shall not exceed 24.65 m³/day. No ground water shall be used.
- (xxvi) Wastewater shall be treated in the STP and shall be designed for the climatic conditions of the project site. Treated effluent shall be reused for flushing.

SD

(xxvii) Continuous online (24 x7) monitoring to be installed for flow measurement and measurement of pollutants within the treatment unit. Data to be uploaded on company's website and provided to the respective RO of MEF&CC and SPCB.

(xxviii) No solid wastes/ effluents shall be discharge into the forest area.

(xxix) The ropeway project shall not obstruct/ pass through any public access area.

(xxx) It shall be ensured that adequate parking facilities for the tourist shall be provided. There shall be no spillage of vehicles of the tourists coming for the ropeway on the road. The parking provisions shall be made as per the National Building Code.

(xxxi) All the issues raised during the public hearing/consultation meeting held on 03.06.2009 shall be satisfactorily implemented.

(xxxii) The project should conform to the norms prescribed by the Director General Mine safety. Necessary clearances in this regard shall be obtained.

B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- (i) The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), State Government and any other statutory authority.
- (ii) No further expansion or modification in the project shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In case of deviations or alterations in the project proposal from those submitted to this Ministry for clearance, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry to assess the adequacy of conditions imposed and to add additional environmental protection measures required, if any.
- (iii) The overall noise levels in and around the plant area shall be kept well within the standards by providing noise control measures including acoustic hoods, silencers, enclosures etc. on all sources of noise generation. The ambient noise levels shall conform to the standards prescribed under EPA Rules, 1989 viz. 75 dBA (daytime) and 70 dBA (nighttime).
- (iv) A separate Environmental Management Cell equipped with full fledged laboratory facilities must be set up to carry out the environmental management and monitoring functions.
- (v) Adequate funds shall be earmarked towards capital cost and recurring cost/annum for environment pollution control measures and shall be used to implement the conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as well as the State Government alongwith the implementation schedule for all the conditions stipulated herein. The funds so provided shall not be diverted for any other purposes.

SKD

- (vi) The Regional Office of this Ministry/Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Board will monitor the stipulated conditions. A six monthly compliance report and the monitored data along with statistical interpretation shall be submitted to them regularly.
- (vii) A copy of clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zila Parishad / Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the web site of the company by the proponent.
- (viii) The project proponent shall also submit six monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions including results of monitored data (both in hard copies as well as by e-mail) to the Regional Office of MOEF, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB. The Regional Office of this Ministry / CPCB / SPCB shall monitor the stipulated conditions.
- (ix) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company alongwith the status of compliance of environmental conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC by e-mail.
- (x) The Project Proponent shall inform the public that the project has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry and copies of the clearance letter are available with the SPCB and may also be seen at Website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at <http://envfor.nic.in>. This shall be advertised within seven days from the date of issue of the clearance letter, at least in two local newspapers that are widely circulated in the region of which one shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office.
- (xi) Project authorities shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of commencing the land development work.

9. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.

10. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.

11. Any appeal against this Clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

SW

12. The above conditions will be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

SK
9/9/2016
(S.K. Srivastava)
Scientist-E

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat, Sachivalaya, 8th Floor, Gandhi Nagar - 382 010, Gujarat.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Western Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, E-5, Arera Colony, Link Road -3, Bhopal -462 016, M.P.
3. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110 032.
4. The Chairman, Gujarat State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhawan, Sector 10 A, Gandhi Nagar-382 043, Gujarat.
5. Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi -110003.
6. Guard File/Monitoring File/Record File.

SK
9/9/2016
(S.K. Srivastava)
Scientist-E