

Overview of Environmental Impact Assessment Process in India

Manthankumar Joshi

SS&IU, Swarnim Institute of Technology, Bhoyan Rathod, Near ONGC WSS, Opp. IFCCO, Adalaj Kalol Highway, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Abstract— Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the formal process used to predict the environmental consequences (positive or negative) of a plan, policy, program, or project prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action. EIA is considered the starting point in the process of implementing sustainable development agendas. In terms of benefits, it has identified EIAs as the most effective tool for integrating environmental concerns in development planning and implementation. The origin of EIA took place in 1969 in the form of a domestic law by United States through initiating National Environmental Policy Act. Over the time period of many years, now many countries including the third world countries have started following the US set example by incorporating the study of EIA into their officially authorized system.as India is concerned, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoI, for the first time, issued environmental guidelines for setting up specific types of industries in August 1985.The present Study focuses on substantive processes of EIA in India.

Keywords: EIA, EIA in India with notification 1994, and 2006, EIA Process

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to assess the adverse possible effects of a proposed developmental project on the environment surrounding the proposed project, a detailed analysis required to be made. This report is known as the Environmental Impact Assessment (S.K.Garg, 2018). Today the developed countries as well as the developing countries are undertaking EIA as the precautionary measure to judge the aftereffects of new developments at the planning stage ensuring the wellbeing of ecosystems (S. Malik, et.al, 2017). EIA envisages the future environmental impacts arising from upcoming project or a development activity providing suitable options & feasible measures for reduction of adverse impacts, making project friendly to lives of number of local habitans & hence maintaining sustainable livelihoods (Anoop Singh, et.al, 2016). EIA is used to identify, predict, evaluate and mitigate the environmental, social and other potential impacts and consequences of projects prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made to recommend suitable mitigation measures and to decrease possible adverse impacts (Vivek Kumar Tiwari, et.al 2016).on 27th January 1994, the MoEF, GoI issued its first important notification, governing the need of submission of Environmental impact Assessment with Environmental Management Plan for specified types of Developmental projects, to the MoEF for obtaing its clearance, before the project can be got sanctioned for execution. The first notification has been superseded by a recent notification of September 14, 2006 (S.K.Garg, 2018).

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION, 1994

The notification included 32 types of projects/industries, which brought under the ambit of this notification, out of those 15 types of projects / industries were necessarily required to obtain environmental clearance irrespective of the cost of the project; 1 type of projects needed EC if the project cost exceeded 5 crores; while 16 types of projects needed EC when project cost exceeded 50 crores (S.K.Garg, 2018).

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION, 2006

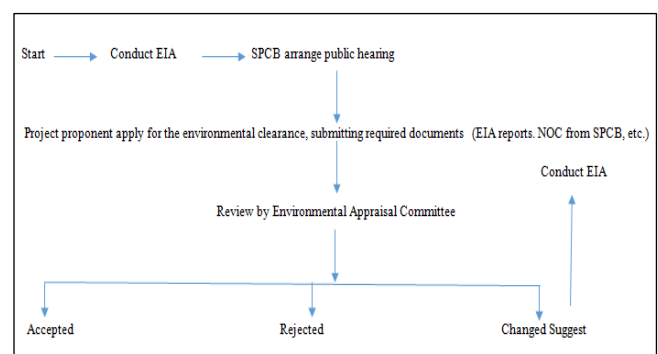
Under this new notification, dated 15.09.2006, all projects or activities, which need EC from the regulatory authorities, have been divided into two categories; i.e. Category A and Category B as discussed in below table:

Sr No.	Category A	Category B (Sub Divided: Category B-1 & B-2)
01	Need EC from Central government on the recommendation of EAC	Need EC from SEIAA, on the recommendation of SEAC
02	Preparation of EIA is necessary for all such category A projects	Preparation of EIA is necessary for all such category B-1 projects

Table: 01 Project Category Comparisons for EIA

Note: In the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA or SEAC, a category B Projects shall be treated as category A project, needing clearance from MoEF (GoI) (S.K.Garg, 2018).

IV. EIA PROCESS REQUIREMENTS IN INDIA (J.KUMAR, 2012 ET.AL)



V. PHASES INVOLVED IN EIA

- Screening
- Scoping
- Baseline data Collection
- Impact Prediction
- Assessment of alternatives, control measures, and environment impact statement

- Public hearing
- Environment Management Plan
- Decision making
- Monitoring the clearance conditions (Vivek Kumar Tiwari, 2016 et.al).

VI. CONCLUSION

EIA process is identify the potential environmental effects of any proposal along with its advantages and disadvantages on environment. As per present notification of EIA, its very simple and easiest method to clear or get the Environmental clearance according to its categorization and simplest method in India.

ABBREVIATIONS

- EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment
- MoEf: Ministry of Environment and Forests
- GoI: Government of India
- SPCB: State Pollution Control Board
- EC: Environmental Clearance
- EAC: Expert Appraisal Committee
- SEAC: State Expert Appraisal Committee
- SEIAA: State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

REFERENCES

- [1] Dibya Jyoti Kalita "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) IN INDIA: AN APPRAISAL" India Omiyo Kumar das Institute of Social change and development ISSN (Online): 2394-9163 Vol-3, Issue-1 January-February 2016.
- [2] Tiwari Jeetendra Kumar "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS: A CASE STUDY OF ACC CEMENT PLANT" Journal of Environmental Research and Development Vol. 7 No. 2, October-December 2012.
- [3] Vivek Kumar Tiwari, Anjali Verma, Akash Kumar, Akash Kumar and Manjul Gupta "A REVIEW ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS" IOSR Journal of Environmental Science, Toxicology and Food Technology (IOSR-JESTFT) e-ISSN: 2319-2402, p-ISSN: 2319-2399. Volume 10, Issue 1 Ver. I (Jan. 2016).
- [4] Santosh Kumar Garg "SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND AIR POLLUTION ENGINEERING", Environmental Engineering (Vol-II), Edition-38, Revised in (June-2018).