

Minutes of the first meeting of Project Appraisal and Approval Committee for utilization of EPC funds (PAAC-EPC)

First meeting of Project Appraisal and Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC) for the utilization of EPC funds was held on 28th June, 2017 at CPCB, Delhi under the chairmanship of Chairman, CPCB. The list of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

Chairman, CPCB welcomed the members and briefed about mandate of the committee and upkeep of EPC funds maintained by CPCB as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court for air quality management in Delhi and NCR region.

Dr. Prashant Gargava, Head AQM division provided brief background on EPC funds, thrust areas identified for the utilization of funds, proposed guidelines for evaluation of proposal, etc. In order to finalize protocol/process for appraisal & approval of proposals, following issues were placed for discussion and decision:

- Nature of projects to be taken for funding- Members from SPCBs suggested that EPC funds may also be utilized for providing subsidies for certain activities identified for air pollution reduction like subsidies for encouraging battery operated Vehicles in Delhi NCR, subsidies for technology retrofitment in industrial processes w.r.t to cleaner fuels. In view of available funds, it was clarified that EPC funds at present are not intended for purpose of subsidies; however, such proposal if found useful, may be forwarded to MoEF&CC for consideration.
- Mass Awareness Program on air pollution-Chairman emphasized the need for strategic plans for mass awareness and enhancing public participation in air pollution control.

Members from SPCBs were requested to prepare State specific strategies and action plans for creating mass awareness. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting & other agencies may also be approached for inputs/guidance.

- R&D activities on AQM- The R&D proposals focusing on Delhi and NCR may only be considered. SIAM representative proposed for taking up fuel testing projects. Further, SIAM opined that EPC funds may be used primarily on projects/activities pertaining to Vehicular Pollution control. It was clarified that the EPC funds are intended to be utilized for improvement & management of air quality and not limited to a particular source category. The prioritization of the projects may be decided by PAAC-EPC
- Allocation of funds among thrust areas- Prioritization of projects will be decided by PAAC-EPC. Funds allocation among thrust areas will be fungible. The capacity building with regard to infrastructure enhancement will be done in consultation with concerned SPCBs. Specific fund allocation to various thrust areas may not be done at this stage. The same may be considered at later date, if required.
- Evaluation procedure- It was agreed that CPCB will do preliminary screening of proposals for relevance and a template shall be prepared for evaluation of project proposals including weightage for relevant components.

It was explained that as no specific proposals are invited, normal tender process may not be followed, and committee may have to decide on proposals based on set evaluation criteria and objectives. It was suggested to check the process followed by DST in funding research proposals.

The eligibility criteria for accepting project proposals from international organizations shall be decided in subsequent meetings.

- Project duration- The projects to be classified as short, medium and long duration and committee will decide on projects depending on need and relevance.
- Quorum for the approval of project by PAAC-EPC-It was agreed that a quorum of 60% i.e. presence of 07 members is must for decision on projects approval. It was also felt that continuity of members is important; therefore, organizations may be requested for nominating a representative and alternate member and ensure their participation in the meetings
- Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

- **First meeting of Project Appraisal & Approval Committee for Utilization of EPC funds on June 28, 2017 at CPCB**

Sr.No	Name	Designation & Address
1.	Shri S.P Singh Parihar	Chairman, CPCB
2.	Dr. A.B Akolkar	Member Secretary, CPCB
3.	Dr. Prashant Gargava	Additional Director & Head, AQM, CPCB
4.	Dr. Chandra Prakash	Delhi Pollution Control Committee
5.	Paras Nath	RO Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (Ghaziabad)
6.	Dr. B.B Awasthi	RO Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (Noida)
7.	Dr. Jai Bhagwan	RO Haryana State Pollution Control Board Gurugram (North)
8.	Novika Sood	Executive Officer SIAM
9.	Prashant K. Banerjee	Deputy Executive Director (Tech SIAM)
10.	K.C Gupta	RO Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board Bhiwadi (Alwar)
11.	Ms. Garima Sharma	EE, AQM, CPCB
12.	Ms. Meetu Puri	SSA, AQM, CPCB