

Minutes of Second meeting of Project Appraisal & Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC) for utilization of EPC funds held on August 16, 2017 at CPCB, Delhi

Second meeting of Project Appraisal & Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC) for utilization of EPC funds was held on August 16, 2017 at CPCB, Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Chairman, Central Board. List of member participants and project proponents is enclosed at Annexure- I. In the absence of representation from IFD division of MoEF&CC, Head, F&A division of CPCB was present for providing financial guidance (in compliance to General Financial Rules).

Dr. Prashant Gargava, Head AQM briefed the members on objectives of PAAC- EPC meeting and explained the methodology for technical evaluation of project proposals. He apprised the committee that as per CPCB submission to Hon'ble Supreme Court, expenditure of EPC funds shall be incurred in accordance with General Financial Rules (GFR). Expression of Interest was advertised for seeking proposals under five identified thrust areas.

As such in case of submission of single proposal for identified thrust areas, Rule 194 of the GFR on single source selection/consultancy by nomination shall be applicable. Therefore, committee was requested to specifically look into the cost justification provided by the project proponents.

Total 08 proposals were presented by project proponents. The observations and decisions of committee are summarized below,

1. Understanding impacts of agricultural residue burning practices and management using science and policy interventions- Dr. Anu Rani Sharma, TERI university

The proposal aimed at identification and addressing the fundamental issues that force the farmers to burn the agriculture & to suggest control measures. The study did not involved actual assessment of the ambient air quality for analyzing impacts of residue practice rather it was examining the historic contribution of residual burning practices and its contribution in deterioration of urban air quality of neighbouring regions . The use of modeling techniques may not be adequate in view of lack of inventory on stubble burning and robust metrological data. The management plan proposed also required extensive consultation with experts. It was agreed that proposal may not be accepted.

2. Assessment of contribution of stubble burning in Haryana & Punjab- Dr. S. K. Goyal, NEERI

The scope of the project involved monitoring of ambient air quality, characterization of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} , development of Source Profile for Stubble and urban biomass burning, Source Apportionment of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, emission inventory development for criteria air pollutant, air quality modelling & remote sensing and formulation of techno-economic feasible solution for stubble burning in the NCR region

The cost quoted by NEERI for the study was found to be very high. Therefore, in order to bring down the cost it was suggested that the component related to formulation of techno-economic feasible solution for stubble burning may be dropped and study may focus only on the assessment of contribution to Delhi air quality. Further it was observed that number of monitoring station, monitoring days & chemical speciation may be reduced and also available data from the existing

monitoring network be used. Also, it was advised to reduce project duration by specifically focusing on stubble burning season.

3. Impact of Agricultural burning on particulate matter air quality in Delhi- Prof. Virendra Sethi, IIT B

It was opined by members that duration of study may be relooked. As stubble burning starts in October, thus it would be appropriate to conduct sampling during October and . The report should be finalized by July 2018. The committee was little apprehensive about adequacy of three monitoring stations for assessment purpose. However, proposal's approach on modeling application was felt to be sound. The committee felt that a joint study by IIT-B & NEERI considering their respective expertise may further strengthen the outcomes of the study. Hence the committee advised CPCB to ask NEERI & IIT-B to come –up with a comprehensive revised proposal covering all the components.

4. Delineation of airshed for air quality management in Delhi- NCR- Dr. S.K. Goyal, NEERI

The committee observed that approach to define airshed was unclear. Analysis of meteorological data, emissions & dispersions may be required to delineate NCR air shed. It was advised to earmark areas contributing to pollution in Delhi to define airshed of Delhi. Application of box model approach may be explored and the existing data (meteorological, population density, etc.) available for Delhi and NCR towns may be used. Accordingly, the proposal may be revisited for methodology and cost.

5. Local air quality management planning in Delhi- Shri Sumit Sharma, TERI

During discussion, it was agreed that the project should initially focus on identification of hotspots in Delhi , validation of the proposed approach along with forecasting using statistical modeling may be considered at a later stage. Accordingly, it was advised to revisit cost and duration of study.

6. Improvisation & management of air quality in Delhi NCR under EPC funds- Dr. B. S. Gill, MRIIC

The project aimed at reducing particulates from the ambient air, using filters to be mounted on the top of vehicles. It was opined that while project is innovative, it needs to be further supported scientifically. The committee also advised proponent to rework on the calculations related to volume of air to be cleaned and suggested to increase height of the ambient air column from 10 m to 100m .Further to discuss operational & other issues, the committee advised that a meeting with concerned stakeholders including Delhi Transport Corporation, MoRTH etc, may be convened. The committee advised MRIIC to submit revised plan with more realistic approach.

7. Development of emission factors & impact statement & mitigation strategies for air quality adversaries caused due to firework in Delhi- Prof. Tanu Jindal, Amity University

It was advised to focus on chemical constituents of fire crackers, their reaction behavior, persistence in atmosphere, and long term health effects, with an objective to identify and ban harmful constituents used in firecracker manufacturing. As CPCB has done some work on the same it was decided that a meeting may be held with Head, UPCD, Head Air Lab and project proponent to reformulate the project accordingly.

8. Sodar networking and modeling for CPCB monitoring stations w.r.t. atmospheric air pollution over Delhi- NCR-Dr. Kirti Soni, NPL

The proposals included up gradation of the existing SODAR at CPCB and also strengthening of SODAR network in 7 more cities in NCR. It was agreed that up gradation & maintenance of existing SODAR at CPCB may be taken up.

List of Participants

1. Shri S.P Singh Parihar, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board.
2. Shri K.C. Gupta, Regional Officer (Bhiwadi), Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.
3. Dr. B.B Awasthi, Regional Officer (Noida), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.
4. Shri. J.P Maurya, Assistant Environmental Engineer (Noida), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.
5. Shri K.K Gandhi, Executive Director, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.
6. Shri M. Dattary, City for High Technology.
7. Dr. C. Prakash, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
8. Shri. Mohan Kanpur, ACO, Central Pollution Control Board.
9. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Head AQM Division, Central Pollution Control Board
10. Ms. Garima Sharma, Environmental Engineer, Central Pollution Control Board.
11. Ms. Meetu Puri, Senior Scientific Assistant, Central Pollution Control Board.

Project Proponents

1. Dr. Anu Rani Sharma, TERI University
2. Dr. S.K. Goyal, Sr. Principal, CSIR-NEERI Delhi Zonal Centre
3. Professor Virender Sethi, IIT Mumbai
4. Mr. Sumit Sharma, Associate Director, TERI-Delhi
5. Dr. Kirti Soni, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory
6. Dr. B.S Gill, Manav Rachna Innovation and Incubation Centre
7. Professor Tanu Jindal, Amity University