The industry vide lr. dt. 08.07.2019 requested for NOC for proposal to increase the ash pond capacity by increasing the height of Ash Dyke Walls (ash pond bund).

In this regard, it is to submit the following:-

**ECs & Consent status:-**


2. The industry obtained CFE for establishing Power generation – 1980 MW Plant (Stage 1 - 2 x 660 MW=1320 MW & Stage 2 (1 x 660 MW) from the Board vide order No. CFE Order No.177/PCB/CFE/RO-NLR/HO/2009-433 dated 15.05.2010. Subsequently, the industry obtained CFO from the Board for Power generation capacity – 1320 MW ( 2 x 660 MW) vide CFO Order No. APPCB/VJA/NLR/930/HO/CFO/2016 dated 21.11.2016, for stage – I which is valid up to 30.11.2021.

**Present proposal:-**

The industry allocated an extent of about 210 acres for Ash Pond. The industry constructed First ash pond with the extent of about 89.3 acres & second ash pond with the extent of 98 acres. The ash bund of First Ash Pond is 4.5m height. Now, the industry proposed to increase the First ash pond capacity by increasing the height of the Bund and there is no proposal of any additional land acquisition. During inspection, it was observed that the First Ash Pond was completely filled up with ash at brim level of the tank and the ash is in dry condition and now pumping the ash into the second pond. The representative of the industry has not specified the reason for exigency in increase of height of ash pond bund to store ash in ash pond even there is space in Second Ash pond for storing at about 10.0 Lakh Tons of Ash, which seems the industry has not assured to achieve 100% fly ash utilization in compliance to the Fly Ash Notification 2016 & NGT order dated 20.11.2018. At present, the industry is using at about 18000 Tons of coal (Indigenous 70% & Imported 30%) for 2 x 660 MW Plant and generating 4500 – 5200 Tons of ash depending on the usage of domestic & imported coal.

The Hon’ble MLA, Sarvepalle Constituency over telephone on 17.07.2019 has made a request to Board not to consider the request of increasing the height of the bund, as the nearby villagers are already facing pollution problems due to non-rehabilitation of the nearby villages under R & R policy by the power plants.

In view of the above, the NOC for increase the ash pond capacity by increasing the height of the First Ash pond dyke wall (bund) to M/s. Sembcorp Energy India Limited (formerly M/s. Thermal Powertech Corporation (India) Ltd.) may be examined duly incorporating the following conditions:–

1. The industry shall use only fresh water (water from desalination plant) for preparation of ash slurry before pumping into the ash pond, as the usage of saline water may result intrusion of salt in stored ash and in future may not be useful for any other purposes viz. for brick manufacturing, cement grinding units etc.
2. The industry shall provide water sprinklers all along the ash pond, so as to keep the ash in wet condition in the entire pond, to avoid fugitive emissions on the surrounding villages due to heavy winds, as the plant is located near to sea (Bay of Bengal)

3. The industry shall develop thick green belt around the ash pond as per the conditions stipulated by the Board and also MoEF&CC, GOI.

4. The industry shall construct garland drain with leachate collection all along the ash pond to utilize for ash slurry preparation.

The industry has failed to achieve 100% fly ash utilization in compliance to the Fly Ash Notification 2016 & NGT order dated 20.11.2018. Hence, the industry may be directed to submit a commitment letter on implementation of Fly ash Notification in order to achieve 100% utilization of Fly ash in the coming years and also ask for justification on the proposal of increase the height of the Bund of First Ash Pond even there is space in Second Ash Pond for storing ash of about 10.0 Lakhs Tons.

Head Office Remarks:

a) If the saline water is used for disposal of fly ash, no organization / cement plant would utilise the fly ash due to presence of salts in the fly ash.

b) The industry has to specify the reasons for exigency in increase of height of ash pond bund to store ash in ash pond even there is space in Second Ash pond for storing at about 10.0 Lakh Tons of Ash, which seems that the industry has not assured to achieve 100% fly ash utilization in compliance to the Fly Ash Notification 2016 & NGT order dated 20.11.2018.

c) The Hon'ble MLA, Sarvepalle Constituency over telephone on 17.07.2019 has made a request to Board not to consider the request of increasing the height of the bund, as the nearby villagers are already facing pollution problems due to non-rehabilitation of the nearby villages under R & R policy by the power plants.

d) The industry shall submit a commitment letter on implementation of Fly ash Notification in order to achieve 100% utilization of Fly ash in the coming years.

e) In the EC area of ash pond mentioned as 210 acres. Capacity of ash pond was not mentioned. In the present proposal the industry is not increasing the area of ash pond.

The item is placed before the CFE Committee for taking a decision.