

TAMIL NADU STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Note for circulation:

The following agenda item is circulated among the members of the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority, for perusal and approval.

AGENDA ITEM **Proposed "Chennai Andaman Nicobar Island (CANI) Submarine Cable System landing at Santhome Beach, Chennai" proposed by M/s. Universal Service Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunication- Clearance under CRZ Notification 2011- regarding.**

The Universal Service Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunication have planned to connect the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands - eight number of islands viz., Port Blair, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Havelock, Long and Rangat Islands with mainland of India at Chennai through submarine optic fiber cable system. The cable system will have speed of 100 (Gbps) Gigabit per second and the system will help in augmenting the existing capacity to high capacity demand for communication and internet applications. The cable will comprise of four pair of optic fiber, i.e. eight fiber cables. Total route length is estimated to approximately 2199.66 Kms. Under the project, a beach manhole measuring 3m X 4m X 4m will be developed for housing the cable at Santhome Beach, Chennai. Cable from the beach manhole will be connected to the cable landing station which is the existing BSNL building located in R.K. Nagar, Chennai, which is 1.9 km from the beach manhole. No other major infrastructure will be developed in the coastal area.

2) The cable installation will not result in increase in concentration of suspended solids or increased turbidity. Cable will be laid on the sea bed freely without burial in deep sea i.e. where depth > 1000m. In the water where depth is less than 1000m, cable will be buried to depth of approx. 1m. A special equipment called

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Plough will be used for laying and burying the cable in depth of 20-1000m. Plough is burial machine wherein cable is laid and buried simultaneously by trenching supported by water jet action on sea bed and not by dredging. This water jet based burial itself does not allow much increase in turbidity.

3) In the areas very close to the shore (depth less than 20m) cable is laid and buried by divers using water jets. Sediments will settle down before mixing with the water column. Also cable laying near shore (less than 20m depth area) will be done in one day time.

4) The project area is falling in CRZ-IV (water area), CRZ-IB (intertidal zone) and CRZ-II (developed area - 500 mts. from the HTL of sea). The total project cost is Rs.15.02 crores.

5) The District Coastal Zone Management Authority for CMDA areas has recommended the project to the TNSCZMA, subject to the following conditions:

- a) As the total suspended solid in the sea water column will be increased during operational phase of the project due to tunneling / drilling activity, an EIA shall be prepared on the turbidity simulations and adequate EMP shall be evolved to mitigate the adverse impact, if any.
- b) Statutory Clearances, if any, from the competent authorities such as Telecom Department, Navy, Coast Guard, Maritime Board and other local/ State/ Central Authorities/ Security agencies etc., shall be obtained prior to the commencement of activities.
- c) The proponent shall record the data on the status of faunal and floral communities after the completion of the project to assess the impact of the project on ecology of the area.
- d) The applicant should adhere the following.
 - i) make operation only during the high tide in order to reduce siltation in the alignment area.
 - ii) The soil dredged from the sea bottom should be disposed in open sea where depth is more than 100m.

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- iii) the applicant shall ensure that there should not be any spillage of oil and petroleum products from boats to be used for laying cable.
- iv) the vessel which will be used for the project should strictly adhere with ballast water management system in order to avoid introduction of invasive alien species in the territorial water.
- v) the operation of cable line should be made only during the day time as illumination from the vessels may attract phototaxis organisms such as cephalopods, exocoetes etc., from the marine environment and insects from terrestrial habitat, which may endangered their lives.

6) With reference to the above, the project proponent have furnished detailed report in their letter dated 03.10.2018 (copy enclosed).

7) As per the CRZ Notification 2011, vide para 4 (i) (a) clearance shall be given for any activity within the CRZ if it requires waterfront and foreshore facilities and as per para 8 I CRZ-I (i) conveying systems including transmission lines; construction of trans harbour sea link are permissible activities even in CRZ-I (ecologically sensitive area). However as per para 4 (ii) (d), the activity requires clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

8) Therefore, by considering the reply furnished by the project proponent, the State Coastal Zone Management Authority may resolve to recommend this proposal to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for Clearance under CRZ Notification, 2011.

Sd/- xxxx
Member Secretary,
TNSCZMA

To
The Members of Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority

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It is requested to convey your acceptance to record this as minutes by returning a signed copy.

APPROVED

- 1) Dr. Beela Rajesh, I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Town and Country Planning,
807, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002. Sd./-
- 2) Dr. G.S. Sameeran, I.A.S.,
Director of Fisheries,
Integrated Animal Husbandry and
Fisheries Building,
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 015. Sd./-
- 3) Thiru Rajesh Lakhoni I.A.S.,
Member Secretary,
Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority,
Thalamuthu Natarajan Building,
1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008. Sd./-
- 4) Thiru D. Sekar,
Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
76 Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai 600 032. Sd./-
- 5) Thiru C. Paul Prabhakar,
Regional Director,
Central Ground Water Board,
S.E.C.R., E-1, Rajaji Bhawan,
Besant Nagar, Chennai 600 090. Sd./-

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- 6) Dr. S.S. Ramakrishnan,
Director, Institute of Remote Sensing,
Anna University Campus,
Chennai 600 025. Sd./-
- 7) Dr. S. Paulraj., IFS.,
Conservator of Forests (Retired),
No.61/1, AIS Quarters,
Nerkundram, Chennai 600 092. Sd./-
- 8) Dr. R. Venkatesan, Scientist G &
Group Head-Ocean Observation Systems,
National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT),
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Pallikaranai,
Chennai 600 100. Sd./-
- 9) Dr. Nehru Kumar Vaithilingam,
Director, Centre for Environment, Health & Safety,
Annamalai University,
Annamalai Nagar 608 002. Sd./-
- 10) Dr. V. Selvam, Executive Director,
M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation,
3rd Cross Street,
Taramani Institutional Area,
Taramani, Chennai 600 113. Sd./-

Sd./- xxxxxx 05.12.2018

Thiru Sambhu Kallollikar, I.A.S.,
Chairman, TNSCZMA and
Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment & Forests Dept.,
Chennai-9