

F.No. IA3-22/17/2025-IA.III [E-278911]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
3rd Floor, Vayu Wing, Jor Bagh Road
Ali Ganj, New Delhi-3

Dated: 28th January, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Environmental safeguards to be followed while operation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) - reg.

It is to inform that, the Ministry vide Notification No. S.O. 389 (E) dated 28th January, has exempted Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) from the requirement of prior Environment Clearance (EC) under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, subject to implementation of environmental safeguards.

2. The matter was referred to the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the concerned Infrastructure sector in the Ministry for deliberation. The sectoral EAC after due deliberation recommended specific environmental safeguards which are to be included as additional conditions in the CTEs/ CTOs to be issued by the concerned State PCBs/ Union Territory PCCs in respect of all CETPs mentioned above.

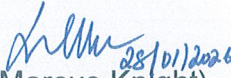
3. The recommendations were placed before the Expert Advisory Committee for examination. After due deliberation, the Expert Advisory Committee concurred with the recommendations of the sectoral EAC and advised that the same may be issued through an Office Memorandum so that it will ensure that the concerned State PCBs/ Union Territory PCCs shall implement the same.

4. The recommendations of the sectoral EAC and the Expert Advisory Committee have been examined in the Ministry. Based on the recommendations, the Ministry hereby directs that the concerned State PCBs/ Union Territory PCCs while issuing the CTE/CTO to the CETPs, shall include the following environmental safeguards:

- i. The Project Proponent shall strictly adhere to the siting criteria as per concerned SPCB/PCC guidelines, if any, prior to the establishment of the CETP. The State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall verify compliance before issuing the CTE.

- ii. The Project Proponent shall ensure that effluent from member industries is transported to the CETP exclusively through a dedicated pipeline network. Transportation of effluent by tankers or other means of vehicular transport shall not be permitted under any circumstances.
- iii. All treated effluent from the CETP shall be supplied through pipeline network exclusively to member industries for reuse in their respective industrial processes in accordance with relevant environmental norms and safety standards.
- iv. Treated effluent shall not be supplied or reused for agricultural, horticultural, landscaping, plantation, or any other similar purposes or processes.
- v. All member industries shall be responsible for pre-treating their effluent in accordance with the inlet quality norms prescribed by the CETP or as prescribed in the respective Environmental Clearance conditions/Consent to Operation (CTO).
- vi. The CETP shall be designed and operated for tertiary treatment of effluents. The CETP shall not accept effluent exceeding its designed treatment capacity.
- vii. Project Proponent shall install continuous online monitoring systems at both the inlet and outlet of the CETP to ensure real-time compliance with the prescribed discharge standards.
- viii. Project Proponent shall ensure that the continuous online monitoring systems are connected to the CPCB and SPCB servers prior to the commissioning of the CETP and subscribe to the CPCB guidelines/standards in this regard.
- ix. The CETP shall operate on a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) basis. It shall be designed, maintained, and operated to ensure complete recycling of treated effluent, with no discharge of liquid waste under any circumstances. The Project Proponent shall install energy-meters and flowmeters at each units of the CETP prior to the commissioning of the project.
- x. Sludge generated from the CETP shall be handled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, as amended.
- xi. Project Proponent shall develop the mandatory green-belt area in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Ministry's Office Memorandum vide dated 29.10.2025.
- xii. The Project Proponent shall submit an annual performance audit report on the functioning of the CETP and the implementation of environmental safeguards, through accredited environmental auditors, as per the Ministry's Notification dated 29th August, 2025. The same report shall be uploaded on the company's website for public access.
- xiii. The State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall monitor the project quarterly in compliance of MoEF&CC Notification No. S.O. 3864 (E), dated 09.09.2024 (Roles and responsibilities of CETP operating agencies), and the monitoring report shall be uploaded on the company's website for public access.

- xiv. Project Proponent shall establish an Environmental Monitoring Cell and environmental laboratory for the monitoring and maintenance of the CETP prior to the commissioning of the project. A SCADA/PLC system shall be installed in the CETP for in-house monitoring and tracking of its operations.
 - xv. Project Proponent shall comply with the conditions laid down in point no. 2, of the MoEF&CC Notification No. S.O. 3864 (E), dated 09.09.2024 (Roles and responsibilities of CETP operating agencies).
5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. J.D. Marcus Knight)
Scientist E

To

1. The Chairman, CPCB
2. The Chairman/Members of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. The Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs.
4. The Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs.
5. All the officers of IA Division

Copy for information

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS(VVY)/AS(AG)
5. PPS to the JS(RA)
6. Website of MoEF&CC/ Guard file