

CWDL/CMWSSB/2008-09/Shipyard
15th October, 2008

The Managing Director
Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board,
No.1, Pumping Station Road,
Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600 002

Sir,

Sub: Setting up of 100 MLD seawater desalination plant on DBOOT basis near Minjur - Development of Shipyard cum Port Complex at Kattupalli by L&T Shipbuilding Ltd. - Impact on Raw sea water characteristics & Product Water Quality - reg.

Ref: BWPA dated 13th September 2005.

We are writing this in pursuance of the above BWPA entered into for the implementation on a DBOOT basis of a 100 MLD sea-water desalination plant at Minjur, Chennai. The above agreement requires us to produce Desalinated Water having specific product standards (Product Water). These standards have been set out in detail in Schedule III of the BWPA and Clause 9.3 of the Agreement mandates us to deliver Product water strictly in accordance with such quality standards.

For the purposes of achieving such product standards, we had carried out a detailed analysis of the raw water characteristics in an area of 16 Sq Kms, in grids of 10 meters and at various depths, over a period of 06-08 months. The detailed analysis of these numerous samples have formed the basis of the

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Raw Sea Water Characteristics range, that would be required to achieve such product standards, which we had provided to you. These raw water characteristics have also been incorporated and form part of the BWPA. Based on the characteristics of the raw water required for achieving the product specifications, we had done out a detailed survey of various areas in the vicinity of the desalination plant, and had accordingly fixed the intake point at 80° 21' 04"E, 13° 18' 53"N. This intake point was decided on, keeping in mind the fact of there being no construction in the area as a result of which there would be free sea currents and thereby, it would be possible to maintain the raw water characteristics.

We had accordingly applied to the MoEF for permission to set up the intake point at the above place. The MoEF had reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment on the basis of which they had granted CRZ clearance to us by their letter dated 26.10.2006 for setting up the intake point at that place.

We had applied to the Tamilnadu Maritime Board, and had after obtaining the requisite approvals, entered into a Licence Agreement with them for construction of a cofferdam and for laying lines to draw sea water and discharge brine water from the desalination plant into the sea.

We had also commenced construction of the desalination plant and there has been substantial progress in respect of the same. We expect to complete construction of the plant and commence trial commissioning from January 2009.

We would emphasize that the quality standards of the product water is one of the prime conditions of the BWPA and severe penalties are provided for in the BWPA in the event of the product water not meeting such performance standards.

We now come to understand that a shipyard is proposed to be located in the vicinity of the intake point, and in connection with such shipyard a northern breakwater is proposed to be constructed at a distance of about 100 meters from the intake point. As you are aware, such breakwater will seriously impede the free flow of sea water and wave action near the intake point, and thereby seriously impact the quality of the raw water available at the intake point. This would in turn have a severe impact on the quality of the product water.

We would therefore request you to take emergent steps to ensure that the proposed northern breakwater for the shipyard-cum-port complex is not put up at the location currently envisaged. This location shall be decided to avoid any alteration of the raw water above the BWPA characteristics and after the analysis through studies of the impact of the Shipyard breakwater and shipping traffic that may have on the suspended solids (TSS), brine dispersion, and oil & grease. We wish to emphasize that our project is of prime importance in ensuring good quality drinking water to the citizens of Chennai, and it is therefore imperative that no action be taken which would adversely affect the quality of such water.

We are also marking a copy of this letter to the MoEF requesting them to re-assess the environmental impact of the proposed breakwater on the raw water for the desalination plant, and to accordingly realign the breakwater in such manner that the raw water for our plant is not adversely affected in any manner.

We may further inform you that in the event of the breakwater being constructed in the present location, we would not be responsible for the deterioration if any in the quality of the product water, and neither would you be entitled to impose any penalty on us for not achieving the desirable limit norms for the product water in terms of the BWPA.

Thanking You

Yours truly,

for Chennai Water Desalination Ltd.,



(D. Venkatasubramaniam)

Director

C.c: The Director, IA-III Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests