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Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

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To,  
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Dr. N. Mohan Karnat  
Dr. Sharatchandra Lele  
Mr. N.S. Mondal  
Dr. R.K. Giri  
Dr. S.K. Paliwal  
Prof. Sunil Kumar Gupta  
Dr. Jai Krishna Pandey  
Dr. Manjari Srivastava  
Mr. Gururaj. P. Kundargi  
Mr. Suramya Dolarray Vora  
Dr. S. Kerketta

July 4, 2019

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I write to you from Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG), a 33 year old non-profit, non-political and professional organisation that works towards protecting citizens' rights in environmental, civic and consumer issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making.

This is with reference to a news [report](#) published on June 20, 2019, in The Times of India, titled '*Chennai: Tangedco to add 2,100MW thermal capacity in 2 years*'. The news report makes a mention of the Ennore Thermal Power Station-Expansion, proposed by TANGEDCO, for which Terms of Reference was awarded in January 2019. In the report, a senior TANGEDCO official has been quoted as saying "After cancelling Lanco's tender, we have given the project to BGR Energy Systems. Work has restarted at the site."

If work has restarted, as the official has mentioned, and is ongoing, it would be in complete violation of the Expert Appraisal Committee's recommendation, prohibiting any such work on the plant until fresh Environmental Clearance was obtained. It would be relevant to mention here that the proponent had moved for an amendment in ToR to permit construction work even beyond the validity of Environmental Clearance. This request was rightfully rejected by the EAC in its 26th meeting held on 27 March, 2019, the [minutes](#) of which specify thus:

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Ms. Tara Murali (*Architect*)  
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“The committee again emphasises that no construction activities shall be carried out beyond the date of expiry of the existing EC till a fresh EC is obtained based on the amended ToR.”

The original Environmental Clearance for the project was issued in June 2009 and valid until June 2, 2019. At the time of the publication of the news report, the project did not have a valid Environmental Clearance. In such a case, the claim by the senior TANGEDCO official in a popular newspaper raises concerns over whether the public utility has been acting in contravention of the EAC’s order.

To ensure that no transgression of the EAC’s directives take place, we request for the EAC to conduct a site visit, and interact with the local communities operating around the plant to understand the plant’s progress. The statement of the TANGEDCO official in the news report, if found to be true, should lead to the cancellation of the ToR awarded for the plant.

I urge the Expert Appraisal Committee to order and conduct such a site visit at the earliest.

Regards,

Sharadha Narayanan  
Senior Researcher