



File No: 11/33/2024-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
IA-III Section (CRZ)
Centralized Processing Centre - Green



Dated 11/09/2024



To,

M/s Bharti Airtel Limited

Airtel Centre, Plot No.16,

Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,

Gurugram - 122015,

Haryana

Email: r.iyer@airtel.com

Subject:

Proposal for CRZ Clearance – Laying of SEA-ME-WF-6 Submarine Cable System- Landing at Pattinapakkam, Santhome Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited – regarding

Sir/Madam,

This has reference to your proposal No. IA/TN/CRZ/449703/2023 dated 20/10/2023 on the above mentioned project proposal for CRZ Clearance in accordance with the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has examined the proposal for 'Laying of SEA-ME-WF-6 Submarine Cable System- Landing at Pattinapakkam, Santhome Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited'.

3. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Infrastructure Development, Coastal Regulation Zone, Building/Construction and Miscellaneous projects, in its 369th meeting held on 10-11 July 2024. The Project Proponent (M/s Bharti Airtel Limited) along with his EIA consultant (M/s EQMS Global Pvt. Ltd) have made a presentation on above said proposal and informed the following salient features of the proposal, including the details provided in the application of the project, to EAC:

1.	Brief description of the Project	Southeast Asia-Middle East Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE 6, or SMW6), a new 19,200 km
----	----------------------------------	---

		<p>undersea cable system connecting Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe.</p> <p>Airtel is participating in the SEA-ME-WE-6 Cable System which is expected to go live in 2025. Airtel has acquired one fibre pair on the main SEA-ME-WE- 6 system and will co-build four additional fibre pairs between Singapore, Chennai and Mumbai as part of the cable system.</p> <p>The project is for connecting the cable system in the existing BMH in Chennai at 13°1'28.14"N; 80°16'43.62"E, Pattinapakkam, Santhome Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</p>
2.	Salient features/Components of the project activity	<p>The submarine cable system will connect the submarine cable to a terrestrial cable at existing BMH, which will then connect to an existing network. The marine cable is connected to the terrestrial cable at the Beach Manhole (BMH).</p> <p>The Chennai landing does not require the construction of a new Beach Manhole. Bharti Airtel Limited will utilize the existing BMH of 4.0m x 2.0m x 2.0m (L x W x D) located in Pattinapakkam, Santhome Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu for housing the SMW6 Cable. The current BMH is owned by Bharti Airtel Limited.</p> <p>The existing cable landing station (CLS) and existing underground duct will be utilized to connect the cable from existing BHM to CLS. The SMW-6 cable landing station is located at Oceanic Towers, 1st Floor, 101 Santhome High Road, Santhome, Chennai, 600028.</p> <p>As per the report from Anna University, the BMH location is under CRZ-IA and the cable route falls under CRZ-IA, CRZ-IB, and CRZ-IVA as per CZMP 2011.</p>
3.	CRZ Report/Maps prepared by	Institute of Remote Sensing Anna University,
4.	CRZ Categorization	<p>Existing BMH fall in CRZ IA, and Cable route falls in CRZ IB and CRZ IVA as per CZMP of CRZ Notification, 2011.</p> <p>CRZ clearance for the existing BMH has already obtained vide letter dated 05/10/2005.</p>
5.	Applicability of EIA Notification 2006	Not Applicable
6.	NOC from SPCB	Not Applicable as there will be no effluent, sewage

		or solid hazardous waste by proposed activity
7.	CCR from IRO (in case Expansion/Amendment Project)	Not Applicable
8.	Permissibility of project as per CRZ Notification 2011/2019 (mention the clause as per SCZMA recommendation)	Para 4 (i) (a), Para 8 I (i) (b) and Para 4 (ii) (d) of CRZ notification 2011.
9.	EIA Consultants details	M/s EQMS Global Pvt. Ltd. NABET Registration No.: NABET/EIA/2225/RA 0303 valid till 23/11/2025
10.	Baseline period for EIA	December 2022 to February 2023
11.	Applicability of Terrestrial and Marine EIA	EIA report has been prepared with terrestrial and marine ecology.
12.	Anticipated impacts (mention page no of EIA)	Chapter 4 is based on Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures. Section 4.2 (page no 112 of EIA report) mentions the details of Anticipated Environment Impacts.
13.	Mitigation measures proposed (mention page no of EIA)	Chapter 4 is based on Anticipated Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures. Table 4.5 (page no 127 of EIA report) showing the mitigation measures in respect to the anticipated impacts.
14.	Disaster Management Plan (mention page no of EIA)	Emergency Response Manual shall be followed by cable laying vessel. Attached as Annexure – VI in EIA report
15.	Risk Assessment (mention page no of EIA)	Not Applicable
16.	Total Project cost	8.3 Crores
17.	Is project located in erosion prone area (yes/no)	No
18.	If yes, specific the management plan proposed	Not Applicable
19.	EMP cost proposed (capital and recurring)	A budget of 10 lakh allocated for implementing mitigation measures during the cable-laying phase.

20.	Forest Clearance requirement	Not Applicable
21.	Wildlife Clearance Requirement	Not Applicable
22.	Proposed Green Cover	Nil
23.	Proposed budget for green cover development	Nil
24.	Rainwater harvesting	No rainwater harvesting proposed for the project
25.	Proposed budget for rainwater harvesting	None
26.	Details of tree cutting	No tree cutting proposed
27.	Details of Compensatory afforestation proposed	Not Applicable
28.	Proposed energy conserving measures	None
29.	Power Requirement and Source	Only construction machinery shall be used, no power requirement for the operation of project.
30.	Water requirement and source	None
31.	Waste water Treatment and reuse	Not Applicable
32.	Solid Waste Generation	None
33.	Solid Waste management	None
34.	Hazardous waste Management	No hazardous waste generation is envisaged during operation phase.
35.	Resettlement and Rehabilitation	Not applicable
36.	Employment generation	10 No's
37.	Details of Litigation, If any	None
38.	Details of Ground Water extraction	No ground water extraction is proposed
39.	Benefits	The project will enhance telecommunications connectivity providing additional capacity and speed for international traffic. As 5G technology already coming in countries (Asian). India is

		<p>currently having 4G technology for telecommunication and internet connectivity for most of the area. Upcoming project will enhance the speed and connectivity, which will increase the social development and business opportunities.</p> <p>Various social upliftment attributes like e-Learning, skill development thorough electronic media, emergency medical and security service will enhance in the country by the high-speed optical fibre network.</p>
40.	SCZMA Recommendation	<p>Tamil Nadu SCZMA has recommended the proposal to Ministry <i>vide</i> Letter no. 673/EC-3/2024-1 dated 06/06/2024 as per CRZ Notification, 2011.</p>

4. The Committee deliberated the proposal based on the information provided/presented by the proponent. After deliberation, the Committee has noted that project activity is permissible as per CRZ Notification, 2011 and Tamil Nadu SCZMA has recommended the proposal. Further, the Committee has suggested that the location of existing Beach Man Hole (BMH) already has few operational submarine cable systems and laying of submarine cable may disturb the benthic ecology of seabed. In response, proponent has informed that CRZ clearance for the existing BMH has already obtained *vide* letter dated 05/10/2005 and cable installation process will only result in short term direct impacts to the sub-tidal bottom habitats and assemblage present on intertidal area near the beach landing point. The short-term loss of benthic organisms directly along the cable routes is not considered to represent an unacceptable ecological impact. The rapid natural reinstatement of the seabed will result in the area being available or rapid re-colonisation and hence, no major impacts are anticipated from cable project.

5. The Committee also observed and of opinion that:

a. Due to coastal erosion and change in coast line the possibility of Beach Man Hole (BMH) and buried submarine cable connected to BMH getting exposed cannot be denied. Such exposed cables may be obstructions and source of entanglement of human as well as marine animals. Also surface laying of cable especially in shallow water can be the potential source of obstruction to the movements and entanglement of marine fauna. Seeing the increased activities of subsea cable laying across the Indian coast by multiple agencies this problem of entanglement can be a cause of concern in future. Therefore, there is a need to explore the possibility of adopting new technology of sea cable laying which could be more marine animal friendly.

b. Also possibility of identifying the well-defined subsea cable corridors should also be explored, so as to streamline the sea cable laying operations and make them marine animal environment friendly in future.

6. The Committee, after detailed deliberations and considering the submissions made by the project proponent, has recommended the proposal for CRZ Clearance as per CRZ Notification, 2011, subject to certain Specific conditions, as stipulated during its 369th meeting held on 10-11 July 2024 other than General conditions.

7. Based on the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority and considering the submissions made by the project proponent, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, in acceptance of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ), hereby accords CRZ Clearance to the project for “**Laying of SEA-ME-WF-6 Submarine Cable System- Landing at Pattinapakkam, Santhome Village, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited**” under the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and amendments thereto, subject to the compliance of terms and conditions as under:-

Specific Conditions

S. No	Specific Conditions
1	All construction shall be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011, as amended from time to time.
2	The PP shall not construct any new Beach Manhole (BMH) in the shore of project location under any circumstances and existing BMH shall be utilised, as per CRZ Clearance already obtained <i>vide</i> letter dated 05/10/2005 for the earlier project.
3	BMH should be away from eroding area and shoreline change should be monitored at BMH area.
4	Cable laying and associated facilities shall not hinder the local fisherman community activity in the area and necessary precautions and awareness shall be carried out.
5	Safety measures shall be put in place to prevent cable damage.
6	Alignment of cable should be mapped in Naval Hydrographic Charts and submit to IRO of the Ministry.
7	The excavated area shall be covered after laying the cable, and even the CRZ area shall be cordoned off by floating buoys with warning flasher lights and sound alarm in case of any intrusion in to the cordoned area.
8	The PP should take necessary steps to explore the possibility of adopting new technology of sea cable laying for future projects which could be more marine animal friendly and progress made in this direction should be intimated to the IRO of MoEFCC as part of six monthly progress report.
9	The PP should take necessary steps to explore the possibility of identifying the well-defined subsea cable corridors so as to streamline the sea cable laying operations and make them marine animal environment friendly in future project. The progress made in this direction should be intimated to the IRO of MoEFCC as part of six monthly progress reports.
10	The PP should effectively implement the mitigation measure and EMP during construction and operation phase of the project and report should be submitted to IRO of the Ministry.
11	All the mitigation measures listed in the EIA report should be implemented without any deviations.
12	Any temporary physical infrastructure setup and excavated material during construction shall not be

S. No	Specific Conditions
	dumped in water bodies or adjacent areas and the site shall be restored to its original condition after completion of construction of work.
13	No storage reservoir for sea water shall be permitted and only pipelines conveyance system shall be installed.
14	No groundwater shall be extracted within the CRZ area to meet the water requirements during the construction and/or operation phase of the project.
15	Permanent labour camp, machinery and material storage shall not be set up in the CRZ area.
16	The Project Proponent shall comply order/direction, if any, issued by Hon'ble Court / tribunal on the project.
17	All the conditions stipulated by the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority for CRZ clearance <i>vide</i> its letter No. 673/EC-3/2024-1, dated 06/06/2024 and commitments made by the PP before the TNCZMA and EAC shall be followed in letter and spirit.
18	All necessary clearance from the concerned authority, as may be applicable should be obtained prior to commencement of project or activity.

General Conditions

S. No	General Conditions
1	Management of solid waste in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 shall be strictly implemented.
2	'Consent to Establish' and /or 'Consent to Operate' shall be obtained from State Pollution Control Board under the provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and / or the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as may be applicable.
3	Disposal of muck during construction phase should not create any adverse effect on the neighbouring communities and be disposed taking the necessary precautions for general safety and health aspects of people, only in approved sites with the approval of Competent Authority.
4	All liquid waste arising from the proposed development will be disposed of as per the norms prescribed by Central / State Pollution Control Board. There shall not be any disposal of untreated effluent into the sea / coastal water bodies. It shall be ensured that the wastewater generated is treated in the STP as committed by the project proponent. The treated waste water shall be reused for landscaping, flushing and / or HVAC cooling purposes etc. within the development. The project proponent should also make alternate arrangement for situation arising due to malfunctioning of STP. There shall be regular monitoring of standard

S. No	General Conditions
	parameters of the effluent discharge from STP under intimation to the SPCB.
5	A copy of the clearance letter shall be uploaded on the website of the concerned State Coastal Zone Management Authority/State Pollution Control Board. The Clearance letter shall also be displayed at the Regional Office, District Industries Centre and Collector's Office/ Tehsildar's office for 30 days.
6	Any hazardous waste generated during construction phase, shall be disposed off as per applicable rules and norms with necessary approvals of the State Pollution Control Board.
7	A six-monthly monitoring report shall need to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry regarding the implementation of the stipulated conditions.
8	The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change or any other Competent Authority may stipulate any additional conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary in the interest of environment and the same shall be complied with.
9	In the case of any change(s) in the scope of the project, the project would require a fresh appraisal by this Ministry.
10	Full co-operation shall be extended to the officials from the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, during monitoring of implementation of environmental safeguards stipulated. It shall be ensured that documents/data sought pertinent is made available to the monitoring team. A complete set of all the documents submitted to MoEF&CC shall be forwarded to the concerned Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
11	The Ministry reserves the right to add additional safeguard measures subsequently, if considered necessary, and to take action to ensure effective implementation of the suggested safeguard measures in a time bound and satisfactory manner, including revoking of the environment clearance under the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, for non-compliance.
12	All other statutory clearances such as the approvals for storage of diesel from Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Department, Civil Aviation Department, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. shall be obtained, as applicable by project proponent from the respective Competent Authorities.
13	The project proponent should advertise in at least two local Newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded CRZ Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at https://parivesh.nic.in/ . The advertisement should be made within Seven days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry.

S. No	General Conditions
14	A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parishad/Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal.
15	The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31st March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the project proponent along with the status of compliance of clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Office of the Ministry by e-mail.
16	The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.

8. This Clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.

9. The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions, if found necessary at subsequent stages and the project proponent shall implement all the said conditions in a time bound manner. The Ministry may revoke or suspend the CRZ clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not found satisfactory.

10. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

11. Any appeal against this CRZ clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

12. The above conditions shall be enforced, *inter-alia* under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

13. This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.

(Dr. H. Kharkwal)

Scientist 'E' (CRZ)

Copy To

1. The Director, Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600015, Tamil Nadu
2. The Deputy Director General, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ist and IInd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034, Tamil Nadu
3. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032.
4. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Anna Salai, Guindy Industrial Estate, Race View Colony, Guindy, Chennai - 600032, Tamil Nadu.
5. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Ground Floor, Saidapet, Chennai-600015, Tamil Nadu.
6. Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi.
7. Guard File/ Record File/ Notice Board/MoEF&CC Website.

(Dr. H. Kharkwal)
Scientist 'E' (CRZ

