

F. No. J-11013/77/2004- IA II (I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(I.A. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi – 110 003

Dated 2nd December, 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Accreditation of the EIA Consultants with Quality Council of India (QCI)/
National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET)**

The Environmental appraisal of Development Projects is undertaken as per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 based on the EIA and EMP Reports prepared by the project proponents in assistance with their Consultants. It has been felt in the Ministry that there is a need to enhance the quality of EIA Reports as the Consultants generally, undertake preparation of EIA / EMP Reports in many sectors and in some instances without requisite expertise and supporting facilities like laboratories for testing of samples, qualified staff etc. The good quality EIA Reports are pre-requisite for improved decision making.

2. In view of the above, a series of discussions were held with the National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET) and the Quality Council of India (QCI) to evolve a framework for registration of the Consultants including those working in Public Sector Undertakings/Laboratories.

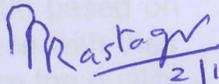
3. After detailed consideration of the issues relating to accreditation of the Consultants, following decisions have been taken:

- All the Consultants/Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) working in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment would be required to get themselves registered under the scheme of Accreditation and Registration of the NABET/QCI.
- Consultant would be confined in the consultancy only to the accredited sectors and parameters for bringing in more specificity in the EIA document.
- The QCI would put in place detailed procedure for registration of Consultants for taking up the assignments in category 'A' and 'B' projects as detailed in EIA Notification, 2006. The QCI would maintain full transparency on accredited Consultants, procedure followed for accreditation, feed back and evaluation mechanism for Consultants for quality of EIA / EMP Reports.

- After accreditation, the Consultants would need to include a Certificate in this regard in the EIA/EMP Reports prepared by them and data provided by other Organizations/Laboratories including their status of approvals etc.
- The EIA Consultants may like to see further clarification on the subject through the website of NABET/QCI (www.qcin.org).
- All the Member Secretaries of various Expert Appraisal Committee (EACs) would inform the Consultants in their respective meetings, the need to get accredited with NABET/QCI.

4. It is decided, in the above factual matrix that no EIA/EMP Reports prepared by such Consultants who are not registered with NABET/QCI shall be considered by the Ministry after 30th June, 2010.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


21/12/09
(Dr. P.B. Rastogi)
Director