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Educating & Informing Stakeholders on Energy, Environment & Thermal Power Plants

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Relevant Websites & Contacts

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FLY ASH UTILISATION NOTIFICATION - PART 2

Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate change (MoEF & CC) had issued Fly ash utilisation notification in 14th September 1999, subsequently amended in 2003, 2009, 2015. The Notification gives shared responsibilities between the stakeholders.

Manufacturers and Agencies:

- Manufacturing units within three hundred kilometers of coal or lignite based power plant should manufacture bricks or tiles or blocks which should be used in construction activities, by mixing at least 25% of fly ash as their raw materials.
- All the construction agencies (Central or State or Local Government and private or public sector) within the radius of three hundred kilometers from the coal/lignite based power plants should use only fly ash based products for construction or a combination or aggregate of them in every construction project. The responsibility of ensuring this lies with the authority which is undertaking construction or the one which approves the design or both. These authority should submit an annual report regarding the returns to the concerned pollution control board or committee.
- Minimum Ash content for materials or products to qualify as fly ash based product is given

Serial Number	Building Materials or Products	Minimum % of fly ash by weight
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Fly ash bricks, blocks, tiles, etc. made with fly ash, lime, gypsum, sand, stone dust etc. (without clay).	50% of total input materials
2.	Paving blocks, paving tiles, checker tiles, mosaic tiles, roofing sheets, pre-cast elements, etc. wherein cement is used as binder.	Usage of PPC (IS-1489: Part-1) or PSC (IS-455) or 15% of OPC (IS-269/8112/12269) content.
3.	Cement.	15% of total raw materials
4.	Clay based building materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, etc.	25% of total raw materials.
5.	Concrete, mortar and plaster.	Usage of PPC (IS-1489: Part-1) or PSC (IS-455) or 15% of OPC (IS-269/8112/12269) content.

- Management of the thermal power plants shall facilitate in making available land, electricity and water for manufacturing activities and provide access to the ash lifting area for promoting and setting up of ash-based production units. The authority responsible should act within thirty days on the application to establish fly ash based products manufacturing units.
- Dispute Settlement Committee should ensure unobstructed shipping of fly ash. This Committee will have general manager of the thermal power plant and representatives of the relevant construction and brick manufacturing industry association. State level or Union territory level monitoring committee will look into the unresolved dispute.
- Regional officer of the State pollution control board should make sure that manufacturing units are using specified quantity of fly ash.
- Soil reclamation or compaction of low lying area should be done only with the fly ash, the process should follow the guidelines and specification given by the concerned authority. (To be continued)

Coal powered thermal power plants accounts for 61.3 percent of total installed capacity in India.

Green panel rejects proposal for power plant in Tamil Nadu

An environment ministry panel has rejected a proposal for a 4,000-mw power plant worth Rs30,827 crore in Tamil Nadu as all the three shortlisted sites are in an ecologically sensitive marine national park area and close to coral reef island ecosystems.

The expert appraisal committee (EAC) on thermal power and coal mining, which considered the project at its 30 August meeting, has asked the state government to explore new sites.

Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa had announced the project in September 2015, after which the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation shortlisted the three sites.

The state power distribution company had sought terms of reference from the EAC to set up the thermal power plant based on sea water.

Terms of reference are guidelines for conducting environmental impact assessment studies of projects, based on which the environment ministry grants or rejects green clearance.

As per the minutes of the EAC meeting, reviewed by Mint, the proposed sites are Tharaikudi and Kannirajapuram Narippaiyur villages (Site 1), Kondalampatti village (Site 2) and Valinokkam and Siraikulam villages (Site 3), all in the Kadaladi taluka.

The panel noted that all the sites are in the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu and located within the buffer zone of the marine national park in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.

"Further, all the three sites are located within 5.5 km – 11 km from biologically rich coral reef island ecosystems of the Marine National Park of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve," according to the minutes.

The Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park has a core area of about 560 sq. km, from Rameswaram to Tuticorin, which is within the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve that covers an area of 10,500 sq. km on the south-east coast of India.

It is one of the world's richest regions from the marine bio diversity perspective and the first marine biosphere reserve in Southeast Asia. The reserve comprises 21 islands with estuaries, mudflats, beaches, forests of the near shore environment, including marine components such as algae communities, sea grasses, coral reefs, salt marshes and mangroves.

Among the gulf's 3,600 plant and animal species are the globally endangered Sea Cow (Dugong dugon) and six mangrove species endemic to peninsular India. According to the Tamil Nadu forest department, there are around 125 villages along the coastal part of the biosphere reserve that support about 100,000 people, which along with mechanised fishing boats, destructive types of fishing nets and over harvesting of fish make conservation efforts challenging in the region.

Live mint September 23, 2016

CEA seeks removal of 25 megawatt renewable cap on hydro projects

All hydro power projects in the country may get renewable status to boost the sector.

"We have already written to the committee on measures to expedite hydro projects to remove the 25 mw cap for hydro power projects to treat it as renewable and treat all hydro power projects, including large ones as renewable," Central Electricity Authority chairman S D Dubey told PTI.

He said the communication had been forwarded to the power ministry and would now require cabinet clearance.

If hydro power projects gets renewable status then the 1000 mw Turga pumped storage hydro power project in West Bengal, which already received CEA approval, is likely to get a boost.

The Bengal government is banking on grant from green energy fund of the Centre for the project.

The state was demanding funding for the 1,200 MW solar power project to feed the Turga pump storage project. The renewable tag is likely to encourage investors to set up hydro projects. Currently, India has some 43,000 mw installed capacity of hydro power projects.

Dubey said about 13,000 MW worth of projects are under construction while projects totalling 25000 mw are been approved.

In the pumped storage power sector the total potential is 90,000 mw and current installed capacity is close to 4500 mw. The Financial express September 4, 2016

RENEWABLES SHORT OF TARGETS, SAYS IEA

For coal-exporting countries such as Indonesia and Australia the past few years have been little more than an endless stream of bad news. Coal prices have hit record lows, exports have plummeted and financially leveraged mining giants have watched their balance sheets slide precipitously from black to red.

No surprise then that for coal producers the sudden uplift in global coal prices in June and July felt like awakening from a nightmare.

But it is a false dawn. And ignoring reality, however unpalatable, will only result in longer-term economic pain. The driver of the structural decline of seaborne thermal coal is a global energy transition away from polluting power toward renewable energy, combined with energy efficiency. Coal is being overtaken by a better technology, like your smartphone replacing a phone box.

As countries shift, inevitably, the first casualty will be expensive imported resources such as coal and gas. These seismic changes can be witnessed acutely in China and India, which are the primary importers of Indonesian coal.

Indian Energy Minister Piyush Goyal has made it repeatedly clear that India's reliance on coal imports is not sustainable. In May 2015, the minister stated: "We are confident that in the next year or two, we will be able to stop imports of thermal coal".

Many in the international community greeted these claims with skepticism, but it is impossible to ignore the data. India's coal imports declined 6 percent year on year in 2015/2016 to 200 million tons (Mt). Minister Goyal forecast this month that imports will fall another 20 percent to 160 tons in 2016/2017. India is also firmly on track to develop 100 GW of solar power by 2021-2022. Billions of dollars in private corporate capital has poured into India over the last two years from major global players and as consequence of the growth, solar power is now cheaper than new imported coal-fired power generation. The impact on imports is the predictable decline.

The story in China is similar. Aiming to cut pollution and emissions, and compounded by a decline in demand for energy due to the shift to less resource intensive development in the country, China's coal usage peaked in 2013 and has dropped steadily ever since. In the first six months of 2016 alone, China installed a record 20GW of solar.

Which leads us to the reason coal prices have risen in June and July. The drive for cleaner energy has had a devastating effect on the domestic Chinese coal industry, leaving the sector in a financially parlous state that is putting systemic pressures on the Chinese banking system. In order to slow the coal crash and implement a more measured phase out, the Chinese government in April 2016 stepped in to reduce the number of days mines can produce coal from 330 to 276 in a year.

As a consequence, China has found itself in a short-term situation where the decline in coal production is outstripping the decline in demand and hence imported coal has been required to make up the shortfall. As a result, thermal coal imports in July 2016 rose 31 percent year-on-year to 9.3 million tons, the first increase in 30 months.

Coal will remain the dominant source of power in China for decades to come. But as the Chinese Government prioritizes its struggling domestic suppliers, we will quickly see this temporary imbalance rectified and the demand for seaborne thermal coal will once again drop.

The worst case scenario for Indonesia would be to now increase domestic production, which in itself would serve to once again depress prices. The best approach, as with all things, is to take a clear-eyed view of the forces at play. The days of a profitable seaborne thermal coal sector are over. But for those who take on the challenge, such as India, the investment opportunities from the global transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency are there for all to see.

Instead, the Indonesian coal mining industry is hoping for a massive increase in domestic consumption to boost its waning fortunes. If President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's 35 GW program is completed, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources estimates that thermal coal demand will grow from 82.6 million tons to 179.4 million tons by 2020. Yet the likelihood of all these coal plants attracting the necessary foreign financing and resolving the myriad land and permitting issues in the next few years is low.

In addition, the implication of this approach is that Indonesians would be saddled with worsening air and water pollution and increasing carbon emissions in order to prop up a sunset industry that is on its way out in most parts of the world. Is this really worth the sacrifice?

The sooner Indonesia too embraces this shift away from coal, the sooner it can transform its energy system and economy. The Jarakata post September 7, 2016

Five star rated appliances, as certified by BEE consumes lesser energy, when compared to appliances with less star(s) with same capacity.

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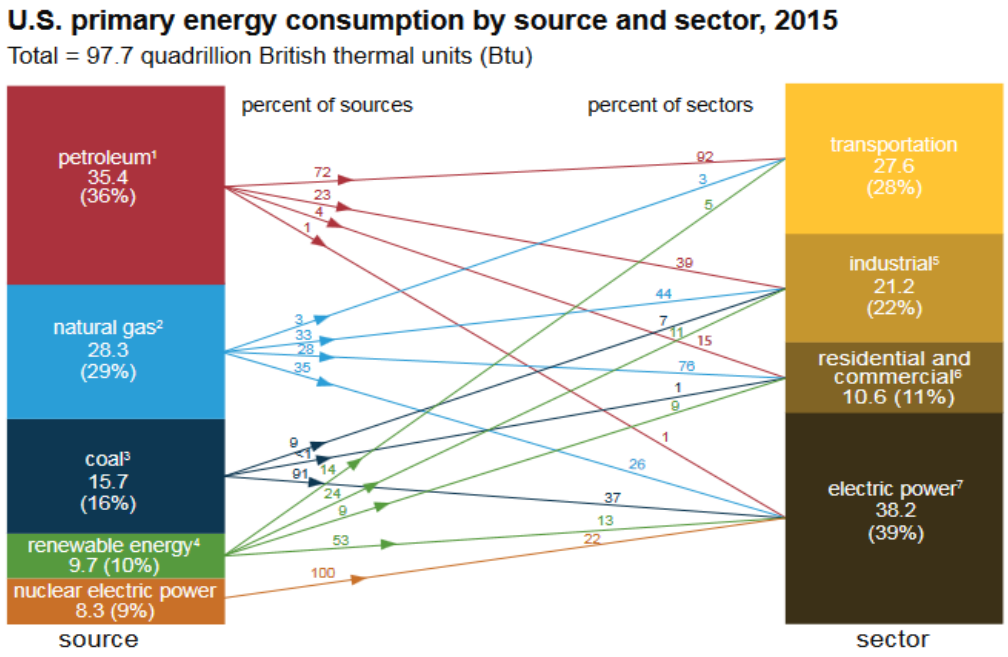
30 years of CAG
Citizen consumer and civic Action Group

Citizen consumer and civic Action Group (CAG) is a non-profit, non-political and professional organization that works towards protecting citizens' rights in consumer and environmental issues and promoting good governance processes including transparency, accountability and participatory decision making.

PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION, EIA BY U.S IN 2015, EIA



REGULATIONS AND CASES

- Toxics link Vs. Union of India & Ors.[2016], Seeking guidelines for safety disposal of CFL and Mercury, *Original Application No.188/2014*, 02 September 2016 Click here
- M/S. Empee Power and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd, VS Government of Tamilnadu[2016], Appeal for modifying G.O, Application No. 39 of 2015(SZ) Click here

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- Central Electricity Authority (2016), *Report on Fly ash generation at coal/lignite based thermal power stations and its utilization in the country for the first half of the year 2015-16*. [online] New Delhi Click here

MISCELLANEOUS

- 6th International symposium on energy from biomass and waste, Venice, Italy, 14—16 November, 2016 Click here
- Light Energy and the Environment Congress, Leipzig, Germany, 14—17 November, 2016 Click here