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HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN OF UTTARAKHAND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (UEPPCB)

AMIT DUMKA DY. MANAGER (EXTENSION & TRAINING) **GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE** HALDWANI

DR. AJAY GAIROLA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING IIT ROORKEE

ABSTRACT

Uttarakhand, a newly formed state of Union of India has raised several issues of environmental concern due to rapid increase in population and caused industrial development. The environment includes water, Air, Land and inters relationship which exists among and between water, air and land and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organism and properties. In amendment to the Indian constitution makes provisions for protecting and improving the environment. The state policy in which enjoins the state to make endeavour for protection and improvement of the environment, safe guarding for the forest and wild life of the country. Yet another amendment which stipulates that, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forest, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for leaving creative. After the Stockholm conference on human environment in June 1972 it was considered appropriate it have uniform laws all over the country for broad environmental problem endangering the health and safety of people as well as flora and fauna. To ensure the sustained compliance of such laws is a great challenge. The present paper discusses the capacity building of Uttarakhand Environment Protection & Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) by implementing Online Consent Management System to ensure transparent and efficient and monitoring of environmental laws and waste management rules enforcement.

KEYWORDS

E-Governance in Environment Management, Environmental benefits of e-governance, online consent management, Offline consent Management, eXtended Green Node (XGN).

INTRODUCTION

ttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board is an autonomous regulatory body under the EP Act - 1986. It is mandatory to implement specific provision of the acts and the rules made thereof. In exercise of its power the board under the acts has certain roles and functions to perform.

Among the various, the regulatory and monitoring of the industries, is an important role and function of the Board. This involves scrutinizing a large numbers of applications received from the industry desirous for seeking permission from the board for establishing and operating an industrial unit within the geographical boundary of the state. It is mandatory that the decision for consenting or rejecting be taken within a stipulated period of time. This decision making requires time bound coordinated inputs from different levels of officials. Under various constraints the response time in taking the decision would normally spill over the mandatory time schedule. It was felt that primarily this is responsible to refrain the whole system in effectively regulating and monitoring the expected ecofriendly development. This led to explore the possibilities of developing system facilitation for the governance of environmental concerns. This paper illustrates a unique comparison between the traditional mechanism of processing the application of industries and IT-enabled processing. This paper has shown useful conclusion highlighting environment benefits of e-governance.

METHODOLOGY

The mechanism involved in processing the application has been illustrated in this section.

- TYPE OF CONSENTS: The industry approached the UEPPCB broadly for three types of consents:-
 - NoC To establish the unit. COP To operate the unit.
 - COR Renewal to continue the operations. NoC and COP are then sub-categorized for Expansion and Modernization as NoC-Exp To establish the Expansion/Modernization.
 - COP-Exp To start the operation of expansion/modernization.
- FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT: On the basis of consent type form should be obtained from board or downloaded from board's website and duly filled application from should be submitted to the Board.
- SCRUTINY: Scrutiny is done as per the statutory norms laid down in the respective acts/notifications. Criteria are based on:-
 - Location of industry.
 - Site suitability
 - Project Cost. Manufacturing Process.
 - Product and Raw material used.
 - Water and Air pollution control measures and its adequacy.
 - Air and water quality through various parameters.
- DECISION MAKING: It involves the physical inspection of the site, where primary data provided in application form is monitored/inspected and supplemented by secondary data generated through analysis report of the parameters of drawn samples. The final decision on grant/reject is arrived at through a number of steps including the evaluation of project report/compliance of the issued consents etc.
- MONITORING PLAN: Monitoring should be done as per the schedule provided based on the colour categorization (Schedule V):

Red Category (17) every 90 days. Red Category (54) every 120 days. Orange category every 180 days. **Green Category**

Monitoring enables the Board to review the quality of pollutants (emissions and effluent) generated by the unit.

DEVELOPMENT OF ALGORITHM

CONSENT MANAGEMENT TRADITIONAL (OFFLINE) SYSTEM

- Industry has to collect the consent application form from Board's office or download from Board's website. There are three types of form for seeking
 - NOC Form: For those units who want's to establish a new unit or expansion/modernization/change of product mix in the existing unit.
 - Form I (Air) and Form I (Water) form: For those units who wants to start operations for newly established unit or for expansion/ modernization/change of product mix in unit and also for continuing the operations of the unit.
- Along with the duly filled application form, the supporting documents as annexed and demand draft of the prescribed fee be submitted to the Board's office in three sets. The bunch of documents may vary from 300-1800 pages depends on type of project/unit. Requires 5-10 days to file the application at Regional Office and the process is completely physical/human interaction based.
- Then in an indexed file as per the type of consent, the submitted documents are put up to the Regional officer (RO). The case is then referred to the technical staff at RO for scrutiny and Inspection. The process is time taking as depends on number of application in current movement and number of tables/desks for movement. Completely human interaction based and some errors results in dumping of file, which may be due to scarcity of time, multitasking nature of job profile of the staff.
- Technical staff then scrutinizes application, in case if some additional information is required then query is raised to the applicant, else inspection of the unit is planned to verify the information provided by the applicant and to check whether unit/applicant has implemented proper measures for emission and effluents.
- For NoC/CTE, during inspection the site suitability; adequacy of water pollution control measures and air pollution control measures are verified. Whereas, for CCA's (COP/COR) along with above samples are drawn as per requirement. Along with samples, the compliance of earlier issued consent is also
- Inspection Report along with analysis report is put up to the decision making authority through Regional Officer (as per the delegation of power). If all the parameters of analysis report are under the permissible limits and all parameters of inspection report are complying with the norms laid in the acts, consent with conditions is issued to the applicant.

IT ENABLED (ONLINE) SYSTEM

- Uttarakhand the Adobe of the gods, the home of Himalayas and truly a paradise on earth, allures everyone from everywhere. The fresh air, the pure water, the chilling snow, the adverting mountains, the scenic beauty, the small villages, the simpler people and a tougher life-style is what that distinguishes Uttarakhand from rest of the world.
- In this context Board had an important role in facilitating and nurturing the eco-friendly industrial development to harmonize the natural ethnicity and economic growth of the state. A key initiative has been taken up by the board to bring SMART governance (i.e. Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology) by implementing IT enabled consent management system through the Ganga-XGN (Developed by the NIC, Gujarat).
- Virtual office on the web has been introduced through the Online Consent Management System named Ganga-XGN.
- Industry/Applicant has to register on the website to get username and password.
- Applicant has to update the Industry master data viz. Industry profile, Product and Raw material, Air/Water/Hazardous waste related information.
- Duly filled up application form's (which can be collected from Regional Office or download application form from Board's website) scanned copy and supporting documents in PDF format are then uploaded and by clicking a button online application is submitted to the Board.
- Application will be accepted only when all the required documents are uploaded. Once the application is accepted, a SMS will be sent to the applicant to for entering the fee details.
- Time for processing the application will be calculated after the physical acceptance of the demand draft along with system generated Forwarding Letter and FORM-D/I/1.
- Online processing sheets will be generated based on the logics provided for the consent and indicates type of consent and its status along with date wise chronology of the steps taken.
- When final consent will be granted applicant be informed through a SMS and after appropriate formalities consent order will be sent to industry/applicant.
- The system was adopted in UEPPCB on July 06, 20009. It was made mandatory to submit the application through this system from the date.
- By December 31, 2009 400 applications were accepted through this system and on 230 applications decision was taken.



FLOW CHART

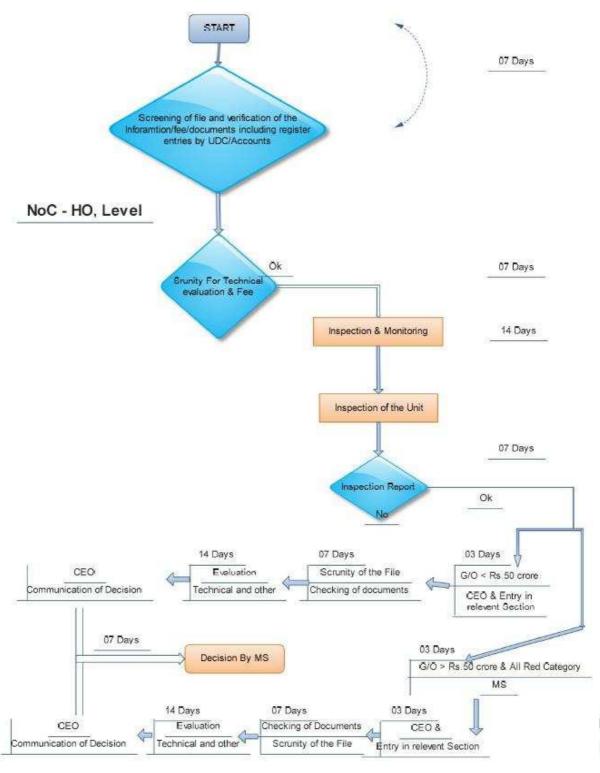


Figure 1:- Procedure for NoC Decision Making at Head Office

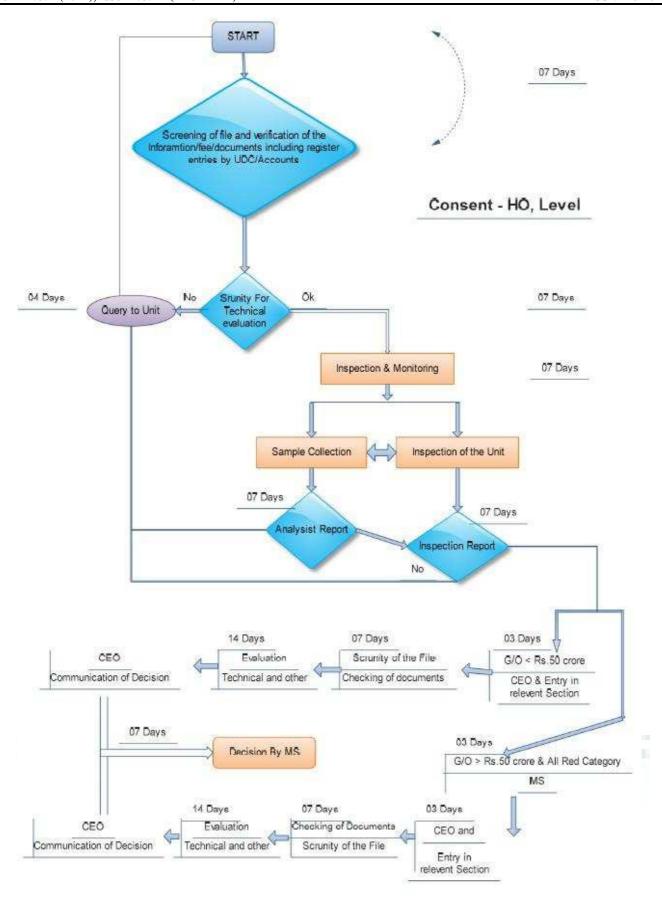
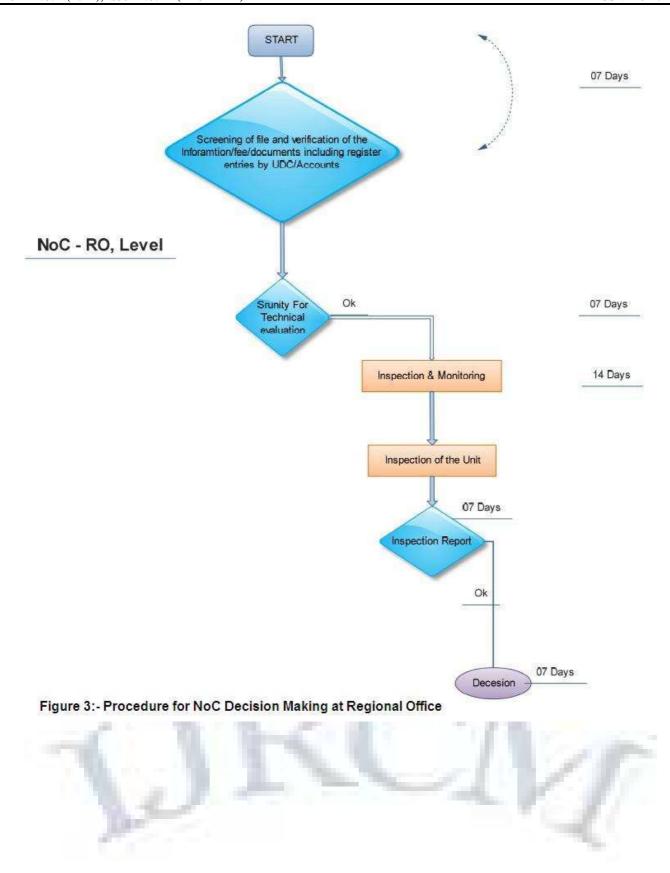
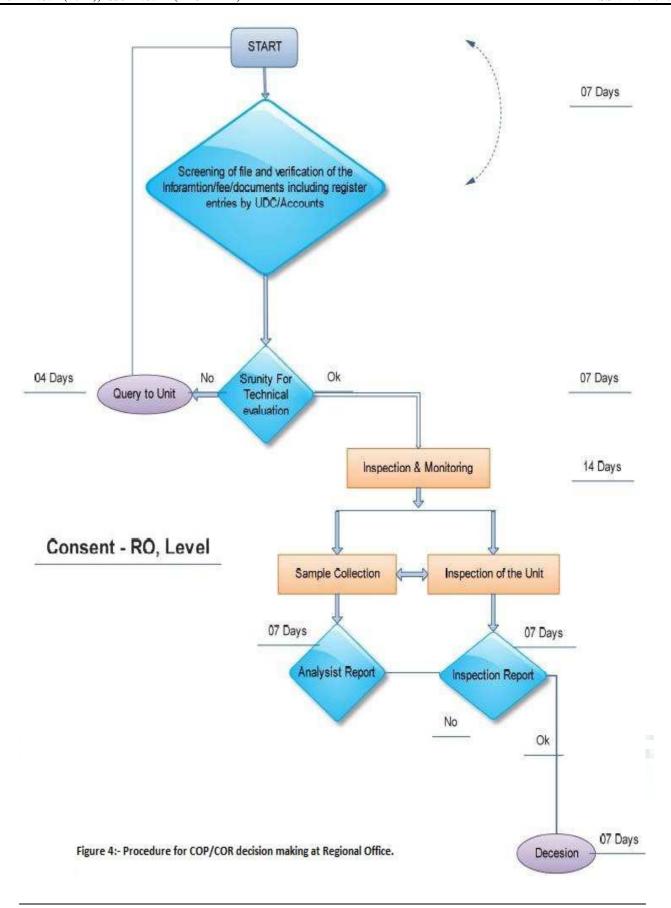


Figure 2:- Procedure for COP/COR decision making at Head Office.





COMPARISON BETWEEN OFFLINE AND ONLINE SYSTEM

Sr.No	Particulars	Off-Line System	On-Line system
1	Total Applications for submission	3000	3000
2	No. pages per application for submission	300 – 1800 (in triplet) 70% are 0f 300 and 30% 1800 pages.	0
3	Average Number of pages with Application	450	0
4	Average Number of pages for Office use	30	15
5	Total consumed pages*	1440000	30000
6	Total Trees fell down Per Annum#	173	4
7	Released CO2 in Air (in Pounds per year)	2544	59
*	Total consumed pages = (3+4) X 1		
#	1 tree = 8333 Nos of Sheets (A4 Sheets)	8333	

CONCLUSION

- Standardization for transparent and efficient disposal of consents.
- > Applicants along with the Board officials are the custodian of the file. Human interaction has been reduced.
- A Transparent e-Movement from all levels. Loss of information/documents, miss-managed file management will be reduced to zero.
- Strengthening the Monitoring role of the Board.
- Monitoring of Technical Parameters related to Air/Water/Hazardous Pollution.
- Reviews of previous inspection and Samples.
- Timely Alerts for Renewals/Expiry of Consents / NoC & Payment Dues.
- It is in alignment with RTI act..
- Future scope: Since Online Consent Management System's database at Board contains primary data related to the Industry viz. location, products, quantity and quality of effluents and emissions etc. which needs to be integrated with GIS based remote sensing database so as to provide dynamic and time related properties/parameters. It will help in analysing the environmental parameters and its local as well as neighbour impacts on environment.

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