



**न्यूक्लियर पावर कॉर्पोरेशन  
ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड**

(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

**NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION  
OF INDIA LIMITED**

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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**नलिनीश नगाइच**

अधिष्ठापी निदेशक (सी पी एवं सी सी)

**Nalinish Nagaich**

Executive Director (CP & CC)

NPCIL/ ED(CP&CC)/2011/ M/ 196

October 11, 2011

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the column titled "For Nuclear Sanity" authored by Shri Praful Bidwai printed in Volume 28 – Issue 21 October 8-21, 2011 in your esteemed magazine Frontline.

We would like to bring out that Department of Atomic Energy/Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (DAE/NPCIL) had undertaken an extensive and focused public awareness programme right from the conception of the project at Kudankulam site. Soon after signing of Inter Governmental Agreement in 1988 between erstwhile USSR and India, a series of interactive meetings and seminars were organized covering Chennai, Madurai, Tuticorin, Radhapuram (consisting of 5 panchayats and 27 villages), Kanyakumari, Nagarcoil, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Coimbatore. A number of exhibitions also were organized at these places. During our outreach programme all the aspects of nuclear power plant/Russian VVER technology were freely discussed.

The above activities were followed with a number of visits by academicians, social activists, fishermen, members of public etc. to the operating nuclear power stations of NPCIL. Incidentally, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) authorities have detailed records of these activities in the form of photographs, video films etc. This was helpful in presenting the facts about the proposed nuclear power plant at Kudankulam site.

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We have interviews and signed documents of a large number of local residents getting fully satisfied and extending support for the project. These efforts continued throughout the execution phase of the project and a very cordial relationship that of a joint family has been there. NPCIL had also implemented many schemes in the area of education, drinking water, infrastructure and community development projects. These were implemented in a very innovative fashion with full participation of local representatives both elected representatives and other community leaders in the neighbouring villages. More than 10000 students and a large number of public from the neighbouring areas of the project, different parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have visited the project.

The author had mentioned about the special report presented by the nuclear safety experts to Russian President, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, regarding the safety aspects of all Russian Nuclear Reactors. We would like to submit that a much more extensive safety analysis of all the reactors in Russian Federation comprising of different technologies such as RBMK (graphite cooled), VVER 440 different versions and serial design of VVER 320 after Chernobyl incident done by International Atomic Energy Agency, European Union and USA were available with DAE/NPCIL at the time of finalization of technical assignments of KKNPP. The reactors which have been set up at KKNPP are of a different mark (VVER 92), which have not only addressed the deficiencies indicated in the report but also incorporated many innovative safety features. In fact the reactors at KKNPP stand out to be one of the reactor designs with passive features. Incidentally all those back fits which are being considered based on the learning from post-Fukushima viz. maintaining cooling of the core in the event of non-availability of motive electrical power both internal and external, management of hydrogen, including concentration and any possibility of hydrogen blast both responsible for Fukushima incident, are already part of KKNPP design. 31 serious flaws mentioned by the author in his column are either site specific or pertain to old vintages of reactors in Russian Federation and has no connection with the plants set up recently in Russian Federation, China and at KKNPP.



With regard to the environmental assessment for obtaining MoEF clearance for setting up of Units-1&2 at KKNPP, all the due processes/procedures have been followed and complied with various environmental requirements prevailing at that time. However, an extensive environmental impact assessment report covering KKNPP-1&2 was prepared for seeking approval for setting up of additional units at KKNPP site. These reports were made public and the process of public hearing was duly completed and all the observations made during the public hearing and obtained subsequently were satisfactorily resolved/replied. Similarly all the statutory requirements were complied while seeking approval from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for obtaining consent for establishment of the project at KKNPP. All the above documents are available in the public domain.

With regard to the high population density surrounding KKNPP site, it may be mentioned that the land acquired at KKNPP site is of 2 kms. radius and there is absolutely no habitation within 1.6 km zone. With regard to different population centers in the vicinity of the plant, there are no mandatory regulatory requirements for this purpose.

There are certain desirable population numbers mentioned in the regulatory document, which take into account future growth in the population. So it is natural that after the start of the plant, the numbers residing in the vicinity will change with time. Detailed safety analysis done in different maximum design credible accidents, no radioactivity release is envisaged outside the containment of the reactor. As such no intervention in the public domain will be required.

During the last 8 – 9 years of project implementation, the work has been going on smoothly with total harmony with the neighboring population. The project is in advanced stage of completion and is ready for power production to meet the much needed requirement of electrical power in southern states of the country especially Tamil Nadu.

We have been taken by surprise with the present agitation but we are confident that once we talk to the local population, which we consider as a part of our family, we will be in a position to allay their fears.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(N. Nagaich) 11.10.2011

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PS: We are enclosing sample materials covering the public awareness efforts; including visit by neighbouring village persons to our operating nuclear power plants; CD-Rom used for the public awareness and films on the thermal ecological studies done to allay fears about impact on marine life including fish.