

Pollution control board asked to reconsider order

Order withdrew board's consent for BMIC project

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BANGALORE: The Karnataka State Environment Appellate Authority has asked the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to reconsider its September 20 order withdrawing consent for the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project promoted by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE).

At its hearing on Thursday, the authority, headed by retired High Court judge H N. Narayana, said, "We don't propose to express our opinion on the merits of the case as the same is liable to

be reconsidered by the respondent board after hearing the appellants' case."

NICE had appealed to the authority against the KSPCB order withdrawing consent for the 111-km BMIC project and the 47-km peripheral road linking Tumkur Road and Hosur Road.

In the order, the KSPCB

• NICE took case to environment appellate authority

• Board told to give the company a chance to be heard

had said "the board has compared the alignment submitted for seeking consent for establishment (CFE) with the alignment approved by the BMIC Area Planning Authority on February 12, 2004, and finds that the latter alignment is significantly different and in variance with that submitted to the KSPCB for grant of CFE and the environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests."

NICE had contended before the appellate authority that the KSPCB withdrew the CFE for the project without given the company an opportunity to state its case. The authority said the KSPCB,

which is a quasi-judicial body, may exercise its powers and authority to reconsider the withdrawal of consent, after issuing notice of hearing to the appellant, give the company an opportunity to be heard and pass appropriate orders within three months.

Affidavit

In its affidavit before the authority, NICE had sought that the KSPCB order withdrawing consent be stayed, saying that the entire project would be brought to a standstill and a huge amount of loss, hardship and inconvenience would be caused not only to the company but also the general public.

According to NICE, it has spent Rs 600 crore on the project since the CFE was granted on September 11, 2000.

Based on the CFE, it obtained permission and clearance from other authorities, including the Ministry of Environment and Forests