

**TAMIL NADU ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION****Regd. No. 181-8524/1998 – CIN.No. U37102TZ1998GAP008524**

1st Floor, SIEMA Building, 8/4, Race Course, Coimbatore - 641 018

Phone: (0422) 4351400 Mobile No. 9787299000 E-mail: [teca@tecaonline.in](mailto:teca@tecaonline.in)Web: [www.tecaonline.in](http://www.tecaonline.in)

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30 Jan 2026.

**CIRCULAR**

To All Members

Dear Members,

**Sub:**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) issues Guidelines towards Control of Air/Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Amendment Guidelines 2026-Comments.

**Ref:**

- 1) The Notification No. G.S.R. 62(E). dated 23.01.2026 of the MoEF&CC for Air Pollution.
- 2) The Notification No. G.S.R. 63(E). dated 23.01.2026 of the MoEF&CC for Water Pollution.

Dear All,

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has issued notifications that are being shared here for all members' information. These notifications outline the new Guidelines regarding Air and Water Pollution, specifically concerning the Grant, Refusal, or Cancellation of Consent. The guidelines involve amendments to Section 27-A of both the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which will take effect from January 23, 2026. The main features of these amendments are summarized below.

- **Long-Term Consent To Operate (CTO) Validity:** Consent to Operate, can be granted for 5–25 years, on one-time fee and is made valid until it is cancelled.
- **Renewal concept removed:** The present practice of Routine CTO renewals goes eliminated. There will be only extensions of CTO on / after its expiry.
- **Registered Environment Auditors (REA) introduced:** Industries and SPCBs, may rely upon the Third-Party Environmental Audits.
- **Deemed CTE for MSMEs:** Micro & Small Units in notified Industrial Estates get automatic CTE, on Self-Certified Application.
- **Single-Window Mechanism:** Integrated consent under the Air Act and the Water Act, with authorisations under Waste Management Rules.
- **Reduced Regulatory Discretion:** Defined Timelines and Third- Party Verification.
- **Unified Online Portal:** Mandatory Digital Processing of all consent-related actions.
- **Clear Fee & Capital Investment Norms:** Rationalised calculation, including leasehold projects.
- **CTO duration:** One-time approval for 5–25 years, with post- expiry extension option.

These Guidelines serve as enabling provisions, so the TNPCB must establish detailed procedures and practices for implementation in Tamil Nadu. Until then, actions must remain within the scope of the General Guidelines. Members will be updated once specific



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Procedures and Practices are notified; for now, members may review the Guidelines for their reference.

Thanking You,

With Regards,

L SANTHOSH  
President