

2022/35

**Confidential**

पूर्व तट रेलवे /EAST COAST RAILWAY  
सतर्कता विभाग /VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT

महाप्रबंधक सतर्कताका कार्यालय  
प्रथमतल, रेलसदन, चंद्र खरपुर, भुवने वर..१७  
Office of the General Manager (Vig)  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur,  
Bhubaneswar- 17.  
Dt. 20.10.2022.

No- GM/Vig/ECOR/PC/468/18 | 2980

To  
The Chief Administrative Officer/Con,  
East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar.

**Sub :** System improvement for Setting up of Field laboratories at major work sites of construction/Open line organization, in connection with various field tests as per Para 3.1 of GE-G-0011

**Ref :** Execution of Earth work in formation and minor bridges & other miscellaneous works in section between Sambalpur-Jujumura including Sambalpur City station Yard, Maneswar Station yard and Hatibaari station yard from Ch.00 to Ch.38400 and from SBP end in connection with Sambalpur-Talcher Doubling Vide LoA No. CE/CON/III/BBS/T/33/2016/1373/SBEPL/03240 dated 05.07.2016

During a preventive vigilance investigation of the above said work under reference, for execution of earth work for doubling work in SBP division, it is observed that the soil samples were tested in Govt. approved labs(NABL approved labs) though facilities at Government Labs/railway Geo-lab was available for testing of materials. In detailed scrutiny, it was noted that the inadvertent delay in testing of soil samples in govt. and Railway Geo-lab laboratories necessitated officials to test in Govt. approved labs(NABL approved Labs) during execution of earth work in formation.

The average time taken per soil sample, by the Govt./Railway Geo-lab laboratories, for testing of a soil sample is about 14 days, whereas the average time taken for testing of a soil sample by one Govt. approved (NABL approved) Laboratory is 1.2 Days. The demand for better quality works and its assurance lies with the field executives and volume of earth work dealt per day in such construction projects is voluminous. The frequency as stipulated in the Conditions of contract & specifications requires number of soil samples per day for approval in



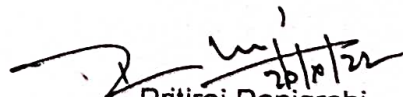
the site of work to carry on the work ensuring proper quality (e.g., considering lowest progress of 10000 cum per site of work will require minimum of 2 tests).

As a system of practice, the soil samples are being tested outside Railway Geo labs and Govt. Labs at various state govt. approved laboratories. The authenticity of test result of soil samples conducted in other than Railways/ Govt. Labs is dependent on the competency of the person who tested the sample. Further, no clear cut guide line in the conditions of contract has been framed listing the railway approved laboratories suitable for testing of soil samples, which in turn may lead to fake documentations. In this regard, it is suggested that

1. CAO/Con may suitably identify & decide locations for setting up of various Scale-1 laboratories in field suitably so as to cover the entire scope of major works like doubling & new lines of ECOR as defined in GE-G-0011 duly utilizing provisions for setting of Temporary establishment, provided in the Estimate, which could also be used by open line officials of ECOR.
2. Furthermore, setting up of Scale-2 laboratories, appropriately at field is also required to ensure good quality & pace of work. The number of such labs may also be explored.
3. The testing can be conducted by the adjacent AXEN/Dy.CE of the project at requisite intervals to avoid influence on reports and extract better quality of work, apart from check by higher officials during their visit. Technicians for testing can be hired on outsourced basis, utilizing the D&G charges of the construction estimate.
4. Till such time, the laboratories are set up, Open line & Construction organization may identify appropriate reputed Laboratories with test facilities in and around the projects for the connected items of work & which have technician expertise, for inclusion in the approved List of laboratories & reflected in the special conditions of contract to restrain personal discretion of officials in choosing the laboratories. The list can be revised annually/biannually, or as decided by the PCE/CAO (Con).

This is issued with the approval of SDGM.

Copy to **PCE/ECOR/BBS** for kind information & necessary action for similar action for open line works

  
Pritiraj Panigrahi  
Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (Engg)  
East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar