VIGILANCE ALERT

No.: 02/2024

Date: 18.01.2024

Sub: Vigilance alert in the matter of deviation in tendering process from the Guidelines issued by CIL/ CCL.

During a vigilance investigation, notable deviations have been identified in adherence to the "Guidelines for e-procurement of works and services." These discrepancies specifically pertain to the publication of tenders, evaluation of tender, constitution of tender committee, and use of Digital Signature Certificates (DSC). The irregularities noted during the investigation are outlined below:

- 1. Irregularities in Tender Publication: As per the "Guidelines for e-procurement of works & services," the responsibility to publish tenders rests with the Head of the Department of the tender-inviting department. In the course of the investigation, the Vigilance department has uncovered that a Staff Officer from a specific area of CCL initiated and published tenders at the Project level. However, these tenders were supposed to be initiated by the Project Engineer, who functions as the head of the tender-inviting department at the project level.
- 2. Irregularities in Selection of TC Members and Bid Openers: According to Clause 1.3, Part-I, Chapter 3 of the "Guidelines for e-procurement of works & services," it is specified that during the tender creation process, "Bid Openers" must be identified, and they must essentially belong to the Tender Committee. In the case of tenders issued by an Area, the Bid Openers should be executives posted at the Area office, while for Project-level tenders, the designated Bid Openers should be executives posted at the Project office. However, the investigation has revealed a discrepancy wherein an official posted at the Area GM office was appointed both as a Tender Committee member and a bid opener for tenders issued at the Project level, contravening the prescribed guidelines.
- 3. Irregularities in DSC Usage During Tendering Process: Discrepancies have been revealed concerning the utilization of DSC by individuals in the capacities of Creator, Publisher, and Evaluator. The investigation uncovered instances where the DSC of an official other than the designated Tender Inviting Authority was used for the publication of tenders. Additionally, the online evaluation of tenders was done using DSC of official other than the designated evaluator. As per the "Guidelines for e-procurement of works & services," the role of an EVALUATOR is to be assigned to a member of the Tender Committee from the tender-inviting department.

(Pankaj Kumar, IRTS)

Chief Vigilance Officer/CCL

Copy To:

- 1. Chairman cum Managing Director/CCL For Kind Information
- 2. Director (T/O)/(T/P&P)/(Pers.)/(Fin.) For Kind Information and Further Necessary Action
- 3. All Area General Managers for necessary action
- All Concerned for necessary action