

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 6th July, 2021

To,

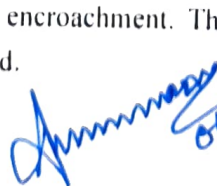
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Sub: Diversion of 301.96 ha forest land for the construction of MP-30 Gandhi Sagar off-stream Pumped Storage Project (1440 MW) by M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited, Hyderabad in Neemuch Forest Division, Neemuch District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online proposal No. FP/MP/HYD/116943/2020) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-4/23/2021/10-11/2058 dated 28.06.2021 on the above cited subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to request that on examination of the proposal the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. In the justification for locating the project on forest land and the alternatives explored is based on economic criterion i.e. on the basis of shorter period of construction and lesser cost. Reasons/rationales for finalization of locating proposal in forest land based on minimum forest area involved has not been accounted. State Government may submit a detailed justification.
- ii. Approved copy of the CAT Plan need submission.
- iii. In case of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) it has been observed that:
 - a. In the Inspection report of DFO concerned, it has been mentioned that the CA has been proposed in Eleven patches on NFL, however as per kml files submitted the CA has been proposed on four patches only. The anomaly needs clarification.
 - b. Irregular shapes of NFL pledged for compensatory afforestation where non acquired patches are falling within acquires patches may further make proposed CA patches liable to encroachment. This issue needs clarification. Copy of DSS analysis is enclosed.


06/07/2021

- iv. In the online Part-II Sr no 8(v) the query "*Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area*" has been answered in affirmative. The state govt. may submit details regarding the same with a plan for conservation of the same.
 - v. The justification for construction of two Roads i.e. Kemla Block to Upper Reservoir & along Gandhi Sagar periphery comprising an area of 16.49 ha need submission.
 - vi. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Agriculture fields in the forest area sought for diversion which needs clarification vis-a-vis applicability of R&R plan, if needed.
 - vii. NOC from authorities managing Gandhi Sagar Dam existing nearby need submission. And if, forest land was diverted earlier for Gandhi Sagar Dam copy of approvals need submission.
2. It is therefore requested that the information on shortcomings, as indicated above, may be submitted for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The P.C.C.F & HoFF, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
3. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading on PARIVESH portal.