

Tour Note of Divisional Forest Officer, Billawar Forest Division on visit to submergence zone of Ujh Multipurpose Project on 07-02-2020


The undersigned, accompanying the Conservator of Forests, East Circle Jammu and the Chief Engineer, J&K SPDC, and other officers of the various Engineering Deptts. associated with the Ujh Multipurpose Project, visited the Panjtirthi area adjacent to the proposed Dam Axis in order to provide the Conservator and the Chief Engineer, a holistic ground view and wider perspective of the proposed area under submergence. On way to Panjtirthi, the team visited the areas belonging to *Durang* and *Dungara* villages expected to come under the Submergence Zone of the proposed Dam.

The Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Jammu had a close interaction with the field staff of the Billawar Forest Division involved in the process of enumeration at FRL (608 m MSL). The undersigned showed the FRL and the corresponding demarcated Submergence Zone to the Conservator in Compartments No. 37/Blr and 46/Blr encircling the Panjtirthi area. The undersigned apprised the Conservator and the Chief Engineer that as per the mandate given by the PCCF, J&K, the enumeration in forest compartments under FRL has already been completed by 31-12-2019. A total of 2,96,943 trees/poles/saplings of different species have been enumerated in the area coming under submergence zone.

The Conservator was further apprised by the undersigned of the fact that vide his letter No: 4195-4202/BLR Dated: 28.12.2019, the User Agency was asked to immediately carry out the delineation of the 'FRL-2 meters' and 'FRL-4 meters' levels on ground as the enumeration list already prepared by this division at FRL has to be trifurcated in light of the **Forest Conservation (Rules), 2003 [Para 7 (vii) of Appendix to Rule-6]**. The Conservator, accordingly, sought the immediate intervention in this regard from the Chief Engineer, I&FC/RTIC, Jammu on the spot. The Chief Engineer apprised the Conservator of the fact that the e-tender for the work of installation of permanent concrete pillars has already been effected and the installation work of concrete pillars on ground shall commence within 15 days. The Conservator directed the undersigned to keep close liaison with the officers of the User Agency for the installation of the concrete pillars and ensure that the additional enumeration lists in respect of FRL-2 meters and FRL-4 meters are prepared in time.

The undersigned further brought it to the notice of the Conservator and the Chief Engineer that the User Agency has to expedite the process of obtaining the certificate regarding availability of State Land in lieu of the forest area proposed to be diverted for the Ujh Project. It is pertinent to mention here that in the absence of the said certificate, the undersigned shall not be in a position to prepare and submit the Compensatory Afforestation Plan which is mandatory under the **Forest Conservation (Rules), 2003 [Part-ii of Form-A]**.

Place: Billawar
Date: 07-02-2020

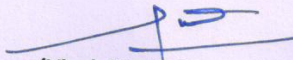

Divisional Forest Officer
Billawar Forest Division
Billawar

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

S. No.	Items	Observation and Remarks				
1	Name of the Project and location (Range, Round, Beat)	Diversion of 609.41 ha. of forest land for non forest use from Billawar Range and Ramkot Range of Billawar Forest Division.				
2	Name of User Agency	Chief Engineer CI & D Wing , JKSPDC				
3	Date(s) of Site Inspection	07.02.2020				
4	Extent (ha) and legal status of Forest land proposed for diversion	609.41 ha.				
5	a) Details of Forest land proposed for diversion and activity wise breakup of forest land.	The Forest Land proposed for diversion falls in the category of "Reserved Forest"				
		Name of Range	Items of work/purpose	Forest Land Required		
				Compartment No.	Area	
					Sq. m.	Ha.
		Billawar Range	Reservoir (Submergence Zone)	37/Blr	2760000	276
				38a/Blr	87900	8.79
				39/Blr	15000	1.5
				46/Blr	1080000	108
				47/Blr	341800	34.18
		Ramkot Range		3/Rkt	15000	1.5
				4/Rkt	202000	20.2
				5/Rkt	1310000	131
				6/Rkt	221100	22.11
				7/Rkt	61300	6.13
Total area required for the project		6094100		609.41		
b) Density and Eco- value class						
Density - 0.8 and Eco-Class -III						
6	Whether the requirment of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col. 2 of part - I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item - wise details of alternative examined.	Yes				
7	Whether the proposal involves any construction of building (including residential) or not? If yes details thereof.	No				
8	a) Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view of not.	No				
	b) Detail of any rare or endangered or unique speices of flora and funa in proposed forest land. If so, the details thereof.	No				
	c) Arial distance from nearest boundary of any portected Area (Km)	7.8 kilometers from Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary				
	d) Remarks about sensitivity of the forest area likely to be affected due to project.	Proposed forest area is not sensitive				
	e) Whether wildlife mitigation plan is required ? If yes, reasons thereof.	No				

9	Details of vegetation:	Proposed Forest Area identified for diversion is bears the vegetation in the nature of Forest Type 'Siwalik Chir Pine Forests 9/C1a' (Champion & Seth's Classification of India's Forests, 1964)
	a) Total number of trees to be felled	296914
	b) Number of trees to be felled of girth below 60cm	263007
	c) Number of trees to be felled of girth above 60cm	33907
	d) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area.	The removal of trees from such a vast forest area is sure to have far reaching effects on the micro-climate of the area. At the same time, the felling is likely to displace a large number of birds and big cats like <i>Panthera pardus</i> . The fellings are also likely to curtail the supply of firewood to local inhabitants.
10	Back ground note on the proposal (Short Summary)	The Ujh Multiurpose project has been planned to utilize water resource potential of river Ujh, a tributary of River Ravi, which is one of the three eastern Rivers of Indus Basin system. The Project has been declared as a National Project as it allows India to utilize its share of Indus River system as per provisions of Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan. The project entails not only hydro power generation in power-deficit region but also catering to the drinking water requirement as well as meeting the irrigation demand of the area, and thus, will pave the way for overall socio-economic development of the region. The project envisages construction of 116m high Concrete Face Rockfill Dam (CFRD) across the river Ujh, a power house of installed capacity 186 MW and one toe power house of 26 MW and a barrage 11.5 km downstream of the dam. The irrigation benefits will comprise of annual irrigation to area of 31380 ha. besides the drinking water supply to the Kandi region.
11	Whether the proposal involves any violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980? If yes, a details report of violation including action taken against the concerned officials to be attached.	No
12	Whether the proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced person. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been approved by the State Government?	Yes
13	Details of catchment and cultivable command area under the project (if applicable)	The Catchment Area of the Submergence Zone or the Reservoir broadly falls in the river basins of the River Ujh, River Bheni and the Naaj Nullah. The extent of Catchment area is 854 sq. km. The Command Area falls in the Samba & Kathua Forest Divisions and its extent is 31380 hectares.
	Status of catchment area treatment plan to prevent silation of reservoir (if applicable)	CAT Plan has reportedly been prepared by WAPCOS Consultancy hired by the User Agency. However, the copy of the same has not been received by this office so far.

14	Utility of the Project	The utility of the Ujh Multipurpose project is in the form of generation of 212 MW of power, 31380 hectares of irrigation potential, provision of drinking water to Kandi areas besides improvement in socio-economic status of locals
15	Whether land being diverted has any socio- cultural / religious values? Whether any scared groves or very old growth trees / forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion.	No
16	Any other important information related to project (Separate note may be attached, if required)	No
17	Details of documents and photographs enclosed:	Attached
18	Recommendation of the Inspecting officer (DCF)	In view of the national importance and urgency related to it, the project is recommended for grant of Stage-I approval subject to clearance of various shortcomings on part of the User Agency as mentioned in the Detailed Recommendation Note


 (Vivek Modi) SFS
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Billawar Forest Division
 Billawar

Place: Billawar
 Date: 30.06.2020