

No. HPSEBL/ESDS/DB-94/2021-22-  
To

2438

Dated:- 11-10-2021.

**The Divisional Forest Officer  
Shimla Forest Division (Rural)  
Khalini, Shimla**

Sub: - Diversion of 02-89-75 HA forest land for the construction of 220/66kV sub-station at Nadukhar (Basantpur) in the jurisdiction of Shimla Forest Division.

Sir,

May please refer to your office letter No. FCA/4218 dated 13.09.2021 vide which shortcomings in the subject cited case were notified. The detailed submission is as under: -

SJPNL has requested HPSEBL to provide power to its upcoming water supply scheme at Shakrori (1<sup>st</sup> stage) & Devidhar (2<sup>nd</sup> stage) for meeting the water requirements of Shimla town and its surrounding areas in near future. The nearest source for supplying requisite power is 66kV Jutogh-Gumma line, but it is already overloaded and hence it was not possible to meet the power requirement of SJPNL. Accordingly, it was envisioned to construct a 220/66kV sub-station at Nadukhar to meet the power requirements of SJPNL and improvise the existing voltage profile in surrounding areas of Shimla District.

Earlier, it was being planned to construct a conventional 220/66kV sub-station. However, since environmental footprint (land requirement) of a GIS sub-station is 5-7 times less than a conventional sub-station, it was decided that HPSEBL shall construct a GIS sub-station to further reduce the environmental impact. Subsequently, the following factors were considered for land selection: -

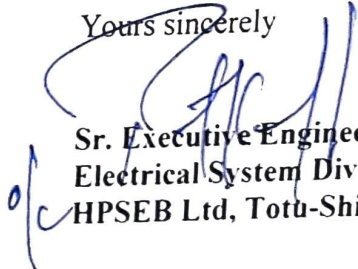
- 1.) The length of 220kV line, which shall act as power source of the sub-station shall be kept as short as possible to avoid lengthy network of 220kV line and land required for its construction in the area.
- 2.) The pumping sites of SJPNL are in close proximity of the sub-station site so that 66kV lines which shall emanate from the sub-station are as short as possible for avoiding construction of lengthy 66kV lines in the area. This would have also ensured that least amount of land and Right of Way is required while construction.
- 3.) Least amount of trees are encountered at site.

Keeping in view the above factors, various sites (pvt./govt.) were explored in Sunni and its surrounding regions. However, in maximum sites that were identified the issue of excess trees at site or construction of lengthy 220kV & 66kV network (forest/ govt./pvt. land) arose. Eventually, land selection in both the cases would have resulted in excessive felling of trees.

Finally, two sites were surveyed and selected and subsequently the existing site was selected in such a way that minimum forest land is required, lengthy line network is avoided and shall result in minimum environmental impact. Further, the 2-89-75 Ha area not only includes land for sub-station construction but also involves the land required for construction of 0.5 km 220kV line alongwith its Right of Way. Even though 2 No. trees and 1650 saplings have been considered in tree remuneration, the actual cutting of saplings shall be carried out only in the piece of land where sub-station and 220kV towers are to be constructed (not underneath the ROW of line). Eventually, the actual number of saplings to be cut down shall be very less as compared to what has been considered in the actual evaluation. Furthermore, the land required for construction of the sub-station is inadvertently forest land as there is no other suitable/feasible non-forest (private/govt.) land available in the surrounding areas and there is no escape from using forest land for which the NAC has already been issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Shimla (**copy enclosed**).

DA: As above.

Yours sincerely

  
Sr. Executive Engineer,  
Electrical System Division,  
HPSEB Ltd, Tolu-Shimla.