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No. Ft. 48-1730/2016(FCA)
FOREST DEPARTMENT, HIMACHAL PRADESH

From Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)
Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla

To

1. The Engineer-in-Chief, HPPWD, Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-1.
2. The Engineer-in-Chief, IPH, Kasumpti, Shimla-9.
3. Managing Director, H.P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.
HIMFED Bhawan, Tutikandi, Shimla-4.
4. Managing Director, H.P. Power Corporation Ltd, New Shimla-171009.
5. Director of Industries, Udyog Bhawan, H.P. Shimla-1.
6. Director Tourism & Civil Aviation, H.P. Shimla-9.
7. Director, Health Services, H.P. Shimla-9.
8. Director, HIMURJA, Urja Bhawan Kasumpti, Shimla-171009.
9. Managing Director, H.P. State Electricity Board, Vidyut Bhawan,
Shimla-171004
10. Director, Technical Education, Vocational & Industrial Training,
Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (H.P)
11. The Director, Directorate of Energy, Shimla-2.
12. Project Director, National Highway Authority of India, Rishikesh
Bhawan, Chakkar, Shimla-171004.
13. Director, Higher Education, H.P. Lalpani, Shimla.
14. The Secretary, H.P. State Agriculture Marketing Board, Khalini,
Shimla-2.
15. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Shimla-1.
16. G.M. H.P. Bus Stand Management Authority, TutiKandi, Shimla.
17. Managing Director, HP State Forest Development Corporation Ltd
Kasumpti, Shimla-9

Dated Shimla-171001, the

Subject: Minutes of Review Meeting held on 18th July, 2018 with Nodal
Officers designated by the major user departments to discuss the
pending proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Sir,

The minutes of Review Meeting for working out strategy to expedite
the approvals of the important pending proposals under FCA, 1980 of major user departments
for various developmental activities held with Nodal Officers of major user departments at
3.00 PM on 18th July, 2018 in the Conference Hall, State Forest Headquarters, Shimla are
enclosed herewith for information and further necessary action

Yours faithfully,

Encls. as above

SV
Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA)
O/o Pr. CCF(HoFF) H.P.

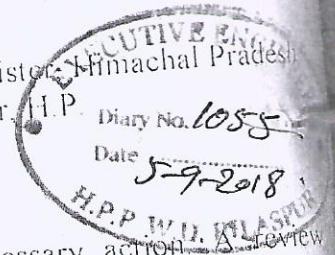
Endst. No.No. Ft. 48-1730/2016(FCA)

Dated Shimla-171001, the

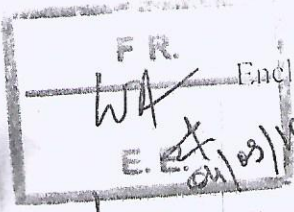
14 AUG 2018

Copy along with a proceedings of the meeting is forwarded to :-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests) to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2 for information and kind perusal.
2. The Sr. Special Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Forest Minister, H.P. for information and kind personal of Hon'ble Forest Minister.
3. Superintending Engineer, 10th Circle, HPPWD, Bilaspur
4. CF Bilaspur & DFO Bilaspur for information and necessary action. meeting to discuss the pending priority proposals under PMGSY may be convened with HPPWD authorities within a week and report compliance.



Archan
Addl. Pr Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA)
O/o Pr CCF(HoFF) H.P.



Encls as above

H.P. P.W.D.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Proceedings of the Meeting of Nodal Officers of all the Major Departments held in the office of Pr.CCF (HoFF) H.P under the chairmanship of Smt. Archana Sharma, IFS, Addl. Pr. CCF (FCA) for expediting approvals of the important pending proposals under FCA, 1980 at 3.00 PM on 18th July, 2018 in the Conference Hall of Forest Headquarters at Talland Complex, Shimla.

The detail of participants of the meeting is placed at Annexure-A.

At the outset, the chairperson extended a warm welcome to all the participants and underlined the need to process the forest clearance cases pertaining to important development projects, in the larger interest of the State and its people, by reducing the time spent in back & forth communication. Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting was taken up for deliberations.

DFO (FCA) gave a detailed presentation on the forest clearance process and explained all components of the Part I of the FCA proposal, which have to be filled in by the User agency. He explained the mechanism to upload the proposal online on the web portal www.forestclearances.nic. It was clearly indicated that no column may be left blank or incomplete, as the proposal uploaded by the User Agency is monitored by the Ministry of Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India and liable to be returned with observations.

The chairperson asked the Nodal Officers of the departments to explain the difficulties and constraints experienced by them in submitting forest clearance proposals and also exhorted them to expedite proposals which are the priority of the Government, as well as to withdraw long pending proposals, which are no longer relevant or of prime concern to their respective departments. Some departments posed queries before the chairperson on the Forest Clearance procedure, which were replied according to the existing provisions. The major shortcomings in the proposals were discussed at length and the following decisions to expedite the clearance of pending proposals were taken -

1. Deposit of Compensatory levies

The Chairperson explained the importance of Stage-I (in-principle) approval and the need to comply with the stipulations contained therein. It was made clear that, in cases where compliance of conditions stipulated in the "in-principle approval" is awaited for more than 5 (five) years from the User Agencies, the Stage I approval would summarily be revoked. After the revocation of in-principle approval, if the State Govt / User Agency is still interested in the project, they would be required to submit a fresh proposal which shall be considered de-novo. It was advised that if the User agencies are not in a position to fulfill the all stipulations, they may at least deposit the compensatory levies within the prescribed time limit and other stipulations may be completed simultaneously/ subsequently, to avoid revocation of their proposal. It was pointed out that nearly 185 cases are pending for Stage II clearance, only for deposition of Compensatory levies, which need to be settled at the earliest.

2. Submission of FRA Certificate, 2006

The submission of FRA certificate 2006 with proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose is mandatory requirement under FCA, 1980. No proposal can be processed without obtaining the FRA Certificates, 2006 by the User Agency. The User Departments highlighted the difficulties in obtaining the FRA Certificate from the concerned Committees.

(s). In this context, it was informed that the Forest Department, as a supportive measure, may initially process the proposal without FRA certificate, for obtaining the recommendation from the State Govt. and forwarding it to the Regional Office, Govt. of India, provided the User Departments submit an undertaking to the effect that the FRA certificate would be submitted within a month. It was emphasized that FRA certificate being a mandatory requirement, the proceedings of Forest Village Committee, Sub Divisional Committee and District Level Committees, in original form, as the Govt. of India does not entertain photocopies of these documents. Attested copies of these proceedings are also entertained by the Govt. of India only if these are attested by the office of issuing authority.

3. Submission of replies to queries raised by the Govt. of India within the prescribed time limit:

After submission of the proposal to Govt. of India, the proposal is examined at the level of Govt. of India and some queries are raised in the proposals which are required to be replied in the prescribed time limit of 60 days or 90 days. It has been noticed that reply of the queries is often not submitted within the prescribed time limit, which may lead to revocation of proposal by Govt. of India, as per the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2004 Rules 14.12 & 14.14.

4. Liaison & Consultation with DFO and Conservator of Forests:

It is noticed that when the proposal is sent to Govt. of India for approval under FCA, 1980, the User Departments do not follow up the progress of the proposal on a regular basis. The Nodal officers of all departments were advised that User Agencies representatives at the field level should be in constant touch with field DFO and CF and ensure that complete reply of shortcomings are furnished on priority basis, not leaving the compliance solely to the DFO/CF concerned.

5. Monitoring the proposals on the web portal:

All progress, queries, approvals etc. relating to a proposal are uploaded by the Govt. of India online on the webportal i.e. www.forestclearances.nic. For the speedy disposal of the proposal, User Departments are requested to visit the site regularly and get themselves updated about the status, essential details sought (EDS), queries raised by the various offices including Govt. of India. They should not only depend upon the DFO or Nodal Officer by sending the queries to them, to save time in replying the queries posed by the Govt. of India.

5. Any other item:

The Superintending Engineer, HPPWD, Bilaspur, citing time constraints in clearing proposals of roads under PMGSY desired that a meeting be convened between DFO Bilaspur and Executive Engineer, HPPWD to fast-track the proposals which are in the pipeline. He was assured that directions will be given to DFO Bilaspur to do the needful on priority basis.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair