

Name of Project - Diversion of Forest Land for Construction of Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in Thane & Nashik Districts of Maharashtra State

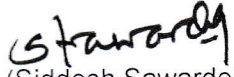
Site Inspection Report

1	Name of the Project and location (Range, Round, Beat)	Construction of Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in Thane & Nashik Districts of Maharashtra State																																														
	Location:- j) Division vi) Range vii) Round viii) Beat ix) Survey/ Gut No.	West Nashik Forest Division Igatpuri Kaluste (Kushegaon) Bhavali 42																																														
2	Name of User Agency	JSW Energy PSP Two Limited, Mumbai																																														
3	Date of Site Inspection	24 /01/2025																																														
4	Extent (in Ha) and legal status of forest land proposed for diversion	Reserved Forest 62.29 Ha.																																														
5	a) Detail of forest land proposed for diversion and activity-wise break up of forest land b) Density and Eco-value class	<table><tr><th>Sr</th><th>Items</th><th>Village</th><th>Forest Land</th><th>Non Forest Land</th><th>Total area</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Upper Dam & Reservoir</td><td>Jamunde</td><td>58.42</td><td>29.15</td><td>87.57</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Approach Road to Upper Dam</td><td>Jamunde</td><td>0.77</td><td>1.93</td><td>2.70</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>HRT (Under-ground)</td><td>Jamunde</td><td>2.18</td><td>00</td><td>2.18</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Saddle Dam</td><td>Jamunde</td><td>0.11</td><td>00</td><td>0.11</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Service Corridor</td><td>Jamunde</td><td>0.81</td><td>00</td><td>0.81</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>TOTAL</td><td>62.29</td><td>31.08</td><td>93.37</td></tr></table> Density:- 0.5 Tropical Semi- evergreen Forests Class I					Sr	Items	Village	Forest Land	Non Forest Land	Total area	1	Upper Dam & Reservoir	Jamunde	58.42	29.15	87.57	2	Approach Road to Upper Dam	Jamunde	0.77	1.93	2.70	3	HRT (Under-ground)	Jamunde	2.18	00	2.18	4	Saddle Dam	Jamunde	0.11	00	0.11	5	Service Corridor	Jamunde	0.81	00	0.81	6		TOTAL	62.29	31.08	93.37
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6	Whether the requirement 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 with details of alternative examined.	Yes, the requirement of Forest Land is unavoidable and barest minimum.																																														
7	Whether the proposal involves any construction of building (including residential) or not? If Yes, details thereof.	The project involves construction of Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500MW) Components of the project are furnished in the Area Statement attached herewith page no..																																														
8	a) Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not. b) Details of any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in proposed forest land.	a)Yes, the area of the project falls within Igatpuri Conservation Reserve. b) The presence of animals such as Leopards, hyena, wolf, jackal, hares, wild boar, Porcupine & birds such as bee eater, grey hornbill, Sunbirds is observed in this area.																																														

	c) Aerial distance from the nearest boundary of any Protected Area (km) d) Remarks about sensitivity of the forest area likely to be affected due to the project. e) Whether wildlife mitigation plan is required? If yes, reasons there for.	c) The Kalsubai Harishchandra Gad WLS and its ESZ is located 2.27 Kms and 12.5 m. away respectively from the closest point on the boundary of the project. The area of the project falls within the notified area of Igatpuri Conservation Reserve. d) The area is good habitat for wildlife. e) Yes. Wildlife mitigation Plan is required.
9	Details of vegetation a) Total No. of trees to be felled. b) Number of trees to be felled of girth below 60 cm c) Number of trees to be felled of girth above 60 cm d) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area.	No of trees enumerated is 7546 6235 4985 1250 Loss of tree cover in submergence area is envisaged. However, the CAT plan is proposed by the Project Agency to mitigate this.
10	Background note on the proposal (Short summary)	The proposed Bhavali pumped storage is a self-identified green field project by the JSW Energy. The Government of Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with JSW on 14 th September, 2021 for facilitating setting up of a Hydro Energy Project 1500 MW in Thane & Nashik district of Maharashtra State as per existing policy framework.
11	Whether the proposal involves any violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980? If yes, a detailed report on 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.	According to User Agency, the project consists of construction of two dams & reservoirs. A survey & study of the people likely to be affected by the project is being carried out by the project proponent and submitted that the claims, if any, will be processed expeditiously in conformity with National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and applicable laws.
13	Details of catchment and culturable command area under the project (If applicable) Status of catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir (If applicable)	A Catchment Area Treatment Plan has been submitted by the project Agency (attached on page no.88/22).

14	Utility of Project	The project will provide cheap energy option to the State of Maharashtra and Government of India,
15	Whether the land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious values? Whether any scared grove or very old growth trees / forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion?	No
16	Any other important information related to the project (Separate note may be attached if required).	No
17	Details of document and photographs enclosed.	Annexed hereto as below: Detailed Area Statement (Appendix-I) and Geo-tagged photographs of Site Inspection (Appendix-II)
18	Recommendations of the inspecting officer (DCF)	The project involves construction of tunnel work as one of the component which may necessitate stability studies from national level institution. Also in the case of land that were allotted prior to 1980, lying in the project area, the user agency shall not utilize/acquire said land parcel without a separate/additional diversion proposal. Considering the above, project is recommended for approval (62.29 Ha.)

Place: - Nashik
Date: - 24 /01/ 2025


(Siddesh Sawardekar)
Deputy Conservator of Forest
West Division Nashik