Site Inspection Report of DCF

Date of Inspection: 9.12.2021, 19.12.2021 and 24.12.2021

Name of project: Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana: Installation of new 11 KV Line for electrification in the 15 villages and 1 religious site located inside Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.

The site has been inspected in presence of the representative of user-agency, Assistant Engineer Electricity. The proposal of 11 KV Electricity line is proposed to run along the 109.8 km stretch of already existing Forest roads passing through Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in order to provide 24 hour electricity to 15 vilages and 1 religious site (Guptadham) located inside Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary. The total proposed area for diversion is 4.94 hectare out of which 4.355 Ha is located inside Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary and 0.585 ha area is in Koriyari Protected Forest outside Sanctuary area. The user agency has taken 0.45 metre as right of way (RoW) for calculation of area for diversion because it proposes to use Arial Bunching Cable/Insulated Conductor for the 11 KV Line.

The user agency has taken a stand that since the proposed new 11 KV line will run along the existing forest roads, therefore it will not involve felling of any trees.

Comments on Right of Way: As per the directions given in Handbook of guidelines for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 dated 28.03.2019, it is mentioned that:

> *"In case of the demand for reduction in the width of Right of Way (RoW) of transmission lines in forest areas in the cases where Aerial Bunched Cable (ABC) are used in place of overhead lines, it is clarified that as per definitions in* ***Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply, Regulations, 2010*** *conductor is defined as bare or insulated and as such the vertical & horizontal clearance specified in Regulation 61 have to be maintained for both bare and insulated conductors like ABC etc."*

In regulation 61(3) in ***Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply, Regulations, 2010***, *it is mentioned that:*

(3) The horizontal clearance between the nearest conductor and any part of such building shall, on the basis of maximum deflection due to wind pressure, be not less than-

(i)	for lines of voltages exceeding 650 V upto and including 11,000 Volts	-	1.2 metres
(ii)	for lines of voltages exceeding 11,000 V and up to and including 33,000 V	-	2.0 metres
(iii)	for lines of voltages exceeding 33 kV	-	2.0 metres plus 0.3 metre fore every additional 33kV or part thereof.

Therefore, it appears that the user agency should have taken the RoW as 1.2 metres instead of 0.45 metres and **the total forest area for diversion taking RoW as 1.2 metre as per site verification comes out to be 13.176 Hectare.** Similarly, to maintain 1.2 metre RoW along the transmission line, there will be a number of trees which will be liable for felling along the forest road. The erection of electricity poles all along the forest road will also rob the Sanctuary of its aesthetic look as well as interfere with side drains network created to protect forest roads from washing away in monsoon.

The major faunal species found in the area are Leopard, Sloth bear, four-horned antelope, Indian pangolin and other common species of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary. The villagers are predominantly graziers and agriculturists. There is a viable chance of use of live wire fencing by villagers to protect their fields from crop raiding once the project is executed successfully apart from creation of inherent light and sound pollution sources which accompany a lined 24-hour electricity supply. Therefore, the execution of the project will be detrimental to the sanctity of Kaimur wildlife sanctuary in general and wildlife of the area in particular. There is plenty of government non-forest land available around many villages proposed for electrification. This could be utilized for setting up of solar plants as an alternative to the current project. Also, since the villages are sparsely distributed at distant locations inside the sanctuary, there will be considerable transmission losses in power through the 11 KV line while delivering power to various settlements. The regular maintenance of these lines will require frequent movement of electricity department personnel and workers into the core and undisturbed area of the Sanctuary. **Therefore, the requirement of forest land for the project is avoidable.**

There are a number of archaeological/heritage sites located in the area proposed for electrification. Rohtasgarh fort, Chaurasan temple and pre-historic megaliths are found in the area.

The user agency has not done any work on the site in violation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as on date of inspection.

28/12/21

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