

PART-IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest department)

17. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).

Proposal No:- FP/AS/TRANS/152968/2022

The forest diversion proposal of 61.6 Ha. forest land for construction of 400KV DC Bongaigaon to Nangalbibra Transmission line in Satbhandi RF, Bhairab RF, Panchratna RF, Sagunbasi RF, Zangrazangsa RF, Bogulamari PRF & Rakshasini PRF under Haltugaon Division (area- 0.666Ha), Aie Valley Division (area- 19.187 Ha.) & Goalpara Division (41.747 Ha.) in favour of Nangalbibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd.

Haltugaon Division:- Diversion area 0.666 Ha.

Considering the importance of the project for supply of power to the NE region, the proposal is recommended

Aie Valley Division:- Diversion area 19.187 Ha.

As per the site Inspection report of DFO, Aie Valley Division the proposed area for the transmission line is having dense forest and 2330 numbers of trees mainly Gamari, sal, Taeak, koroï and Demaru to be felled in the proposed RoW (46m width) of Transmission Line . Further the DFO stated that the Bhairab RF is a potential habitat of the endangered Golden Langur and home to 150 no of individuals and are also in increasing trend. He further observed that the enumerated 2330 trees to be felled in the proposed ROW may adversely affect the habitat and survivability of the endangered species and as well as may lead to the scarcity of food source. The Conservator Forests concerned also stated on the same lines as DFO.

The matter was referred to the CWLW Assam for his scrutiny and comments. The CWLW convened a meeting on 06/01/2023 with all the officers concerned and User Agency (MoM in **Annexure I**). User agency presented the case and elaborated the reasons for choosing the alignment passing through the forest area under Aie Valley forest division RF. All the technical feasibilities and constraints in shifting the alignment further were also discussed in the meeting and it was informed by the user agency that due to presence of scattered settlement, the proposed alignment is best suitable keeping in view the minimum

involvement of forest area. It was informed that a total 2330 No of trees were enumerated in the entire 46 meters corridor of the transmission line as per MoEFCC guideline but actual tree felling shall be much lesser and shall not be more than 30-35% of the total enumerated trees. It is also seen that Tower spotting has been planned on elevated locations (on hilltop) to achieve maximum ground clearance (15 mtr – 100 mtrs) and to minimize tree felling. An additional 6 meters ground clearance to be provided over and above the desired clearance of 9 meters which shall ensure minimum ground clearance of 15 meters at null point, in order to ensure safe movement of wild animals and minimal tree cutting.

The undersigned also visited the proposed area on 14 Oct 2022 and seen that the proposed alignment is placed carefully in the periphery of the Bhairab RF (**Annexure II**).

After the elaborate scrutiny and discussions, the CWLW suggested the following conditions or measures for implementing the project

- Ground clearance shall be minimum of **15 meters** as proposed by the UA
- Three- layer protection measures as proposed to be adopted. Three-layer protection measures will be adopted to ensure complete safety and minimum interference with fauna. The measures include barbed fencing of tower area, Special tower design having soft material anti-climbing guards & anti-climbing canopy will be installed in Bhairab RF area which will restrict any arboreal animals including golden Langurs from climbing on towers.
- User agency shall prepare and submit WL Management Plans suggested by Forest & WL department
- User agency shall deposit 2% project cost for implementation of WL management plan in consultation with the Forest & Wildlife department.
- User agency shall do plantation of fruit bearing trees specially for Golden Langur in and around Golden Langur habitat through Forest Department
- User agency shall provide fund and support **10 nos of JFMCs** for five years in and around the Bhairab RF and other nearby forest which are habitat for Golden Langur for taking up Entry Point Activity, livelihood activities , ecotourism facilities and capacity building for local youth
- Felling of trees will be resorted **only at proposed Tower locations** and other areas shall be avoided

Therefore considering the importance of the project for supply of power to the NE region, the proposal is recommended subject to incorporation and implementation of all the conditions suggested by the CWLW Assam.

Goalpara Division:- Diversion area 41.747 Ha.

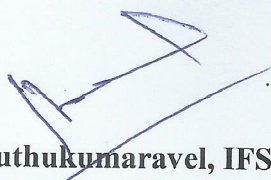
As per Site Inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Goalpara Division & Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Assam Circle. The proposed transmission line passes through Panchratna RF, Bogulamari PRF, Sagunbasi RF, Rakhsyini PRF and Zangrazangsa RF where there are 2431 nos. of standing trees were found in the area of 41.747 hectares. Only 30 to 35% tree felling shall be required for placement of tower and to maintain electrical clearance (tree to conductor) only. Since two transmission line a) 220 KV Salakathi to Agia and b) 400 KV Salekathi to Mirza already running through the Panchratana RF this 400 D/C transmission line also run parallel to above transmission line keeping basic height of each tower a minimum of 42 to 48 mts. and the ground clearance of the span of the conductor minimum 15 mts. and above. Though proposed Forest Diversion area is frequented by Wild Elephant and other wildlife but due to sufficient clearance between Ground and Span of the Conductor (15 mts and above), the new transmission line will not hinder the movement of wild Elephant and other wild animal in Proposed Forest area. As per DFO report enumerated **2431** Nos. of trees/pols/etc to be felled in the proposed transmission line.

Therefore considering the importance of the project for supply of power to the NE region, the proposal is recommended subject to ear marking of 2 % of Project Cost for HEC mitigation and wildlife conservation and also felling **of trees to be allowed only at proposed tower locations** and avoid other part of RoW

Recommendation: The proposal for the forest diversion proposal of **61.6 Ha. Forest** land for construction of 400KV DC Bongaigaon to Nangalbibra Transmission line is recommended subject to all the conditions suggested above

Date:- 10/1/2023

Place:- Guwahati


(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)
Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FCA), Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari
Guwahati-781037

Minutes of the Meeting held on 07.01.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Conference Hall of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam pertaining to forest diversion proposal for construction of 400 KV double Circuit Bongaigaon- Nangalibibra Transmission line

Following members were present:

1. Mr MK Yadava, PCCF & CWLW, Govt of Assam (through video conferencing)
2. Dr C Muthukumaravel, Nodal Officer, FC Act, Govt of Assam
3. Sri. D.D. Gogoi, IFS (Retd.), Consultant Wildlife, O/o PCCF & CWLW, Assam.
4. Mr Rajen Choudhary, CF, LASFC, Bongaigaon
5. Sri K.N.Das, AFS, Senior Wildlife Warden, O/o the PCCF & CWLW, Assam
6. Mr. Subodh Talukdar, DFO, Aie Valley Division.

User Agency:

1. Mr. Ankur Vashishtha, Project Director, Nangalibibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd
2. Dr JK Thakur, Head Forest & Wildlife, Nangalibibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd
3. Mr Bhaskar Singh Rawat, Chief Manager, Nangalibibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd
4. Mr Nobendu Nath, Chief Manager, Nangalibibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd
5. Mr Ranjeet Kumar Rajak, Chief Manager, Nangalibibra Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd


The meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt of Assam

Following matter was discussed in the meeting:

Proposal for diversion of 61.6 ha forest land for Construction of 400 kV DC Bongaigaon Nangalibibra Transmission Line passing through Bhairab Reserve Forest under Aie Valley Forest Division.

User agency presented the case and elaborated the reasons for choosing the alignment passing through the forest area under Aie Valley forest division RF. All the technical feasibilities and constraints in shifting the alignment further were also discussed in the meeting and it was informed by the user agency that due to presence of scattered settlement, the proposed alignment is best suitable keeping in view the minimum involvement of forest area. User agency also explained the facts and possible impact of the transmission line on flora and fauna of Bhairab RF. It was informed that a total 2330 No of trees were enumerated in the entire 46 meters corridor of the transmission line as per MoEFCC guideline but actual tree felling shall be much lesser and shall not be more than 30-35% of the total enumerated trees. User agency also informed about the mitigation measures have been proposed to minimize the impact on Forest, Golden Langur and its habitat which includes:

- Tower spotting has been planned on elevated locations (on hilltop) to achieve maximum ground clearance (15 mtr – 100 mtrs) and to minimize tree felling.
- An additional 6 meters ground clearance to be provided over and above the desired clearance of 9 meters which shall ensure minimum ground clearance of 15 meters at null point, in order to ensure safe movement of wild animals and minimal tree cutting.
- Three-layer protection measures will be adopted to ensure complete safety and minimum interference with fauna. The measures include barbed fencing of tower area, Special tower design having soft material anti-climbing guards & anti-climbing canopy will be installed in Bhairab RF area which will restrict any arboreal animals including golden langurs from climbing on towers.
- Preparation of WL Management plan by carrying out detailed Environmental & Social Impact Assessment of the project area by engaging a reputed independent consulting agency.

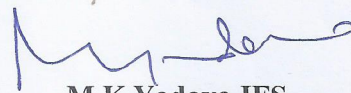


It is seen that the current route alignment is placed along the periphery of the RF and does not bifurcate the forest much. Further, the height of towers and conductor is presently placed much higher than the average height of trees in the area.

After detailed deliberations, it was concluded in the meeting that:

The project is recommended with appropriate mitigation measures as follow :

- Ground clearance shall be minimum of 15 meters as proposed by the UA
- Three-layer protection measures as proposed to be adopted. Three-layer protection measures will be adopted to ensure complete safety and minimum interference with fauna. The measures include barbed fencing of tower area, Special tower design having soft material anti-climbing guards & anti-climbing canopy will be installed in Bhairab RF area which will restrict any arboreal animals including golden langurs from climbing on towers.
- User agency shall prepare and submit WL Management Plans suggested by Forest & WL department
- User agency shall deposit 2% project cost for implementation of WL management plan in consultation with the Forest & Wildlife department.
- User agency shall do plantation of fruit bearing trees specially for Golden Langur in and around Golden Langur habitat through Forest Department
- User agency shall provide fund and support 10 nos of JFMCs for five years in and around the Bhairab RF and other nearby forest which are habitat for Golden Langur for taking up Entry Point Activity, livelihood activities , ecotourism facilities and capacity building for local youth
- Felling of trees will be resorted only at proposed Tower locations and other areas shall be avoided



M.K Yadava IFS
Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam

Memo No.FG.27/FCA/Proposal/Nangalbibra-BongaigaonTrans Ltd.

Dated 9.1.2023

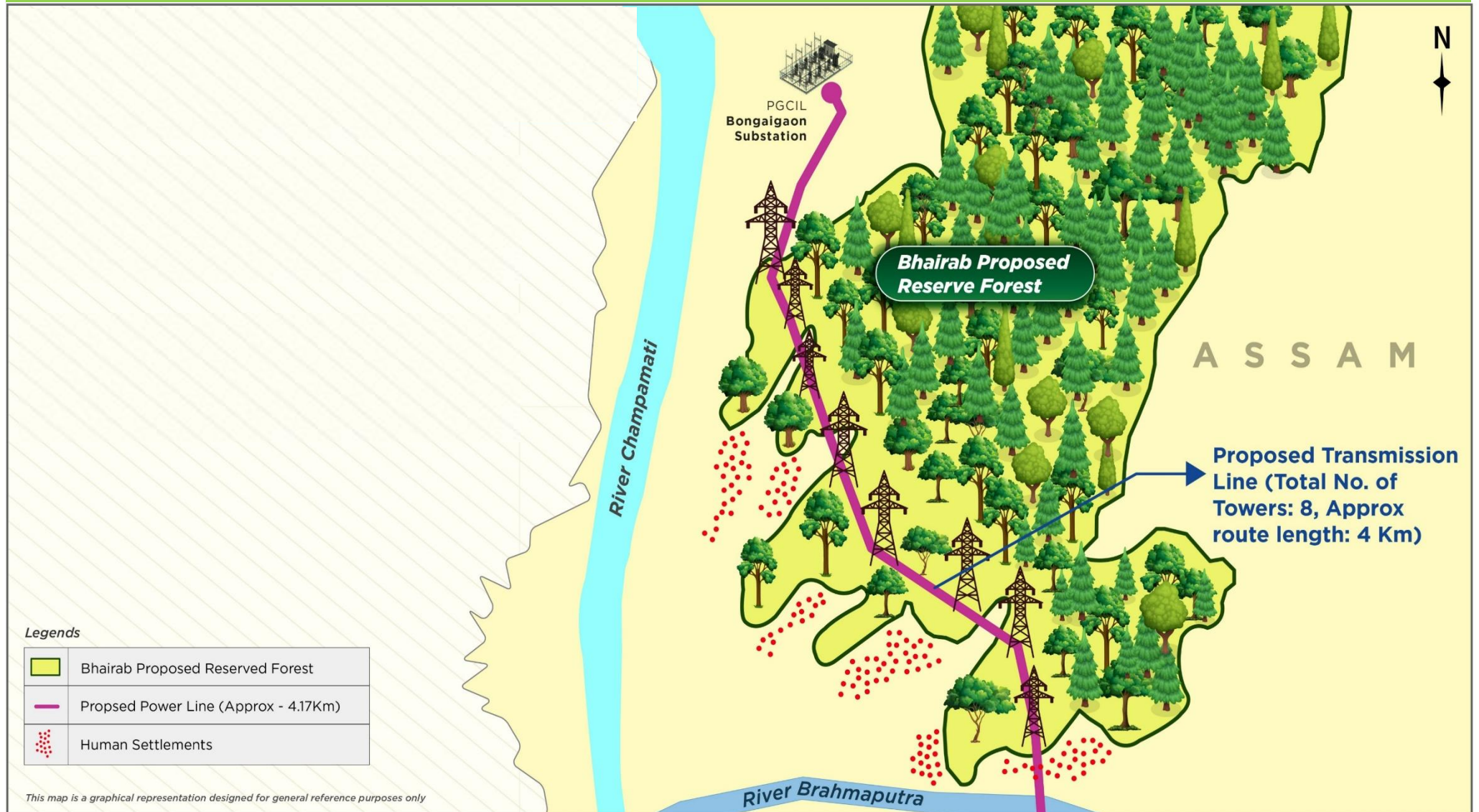
Copy to:

1. The Conservator of Forests, Lower Assam Social Forestry Circle, Bongaigaon.
2. Sri. D.D. Gogoi, IFS (Retd.), Consultant Wildlife, O/o PCCF & CWLW, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37.
3. Sri K.N.Das, AFS, Senior Wildlife Warden, O/o the PCCF & CWLW, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Aie Valley Division, Bongaigaon.
5. The Chief Manager, Nangalbibra- Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd., 2nd Floor, Samriddhi Complex, New Market Pancharatna Road, Goalpara, Assam- 783101



(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)
Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Location of Proposed Transmission Line in Bhairab Proposed Reserve Forest



Human settlement in the Vicinity of Bhairab PRF- as per Revenue Map

