

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

I inspected the site along with the Asst. Executive Engineer, KSEB Ltd. on 29/10/2020. Valanthode Small Hydro Electric Project is a run off-the-river scheme which envisages construction of a diversion weir of maximum height 8.5 meter and length 101 meter across the Kuruman Puzha, tributary of Chaliyar. This will results in water impoundment of 0.22 Ha. of forest land which spread over river bed rock. It aims at generation of power in monsoon season only. The water stored in monsoon season is directed through the intake to the canal for power generation. The water after power generation is let into the same river through the tailrace channel. The excess water will spill over the weir to the river itself. The project with on installed capacity of 7.5 MW is expected to generate 15.291 Million units per year as per KSEB proposal.

The KSEB Authorities is informed that in rest of the months after monsoon season water accumulated in reservoir will be released through adjustable out let provided down side of the weir. The water utilized for the project will be diverted through closed canal which runs mainly through private areas.

During summer season power generation not envisaged and there is no diversion of water to the canal from the reservoir. So the project can ensure the presence of water in Kuraman Puzha round the year.

While implementing the project 20 Nos of trees are to be felled in area proposed for diversion and 11 trees, 6 clumps of reeds and some undergrowth expected to be submerged in FRL water level. The trees and other vegetal species present in the locality are not coming under endangered/threatened categories.

The area proposed for diversion is a wildlife habitat, their presence of wild elephants, wild boar, Bonnet macaque etc. are noted. But implementation of the project will not affect the free movement of wild elephants as project area is located along the boundary of forests.

The forest land required for the project is 0.9354 Ha. as per the proposal. The authorities of KSEB Ltd. have clarified during my site inspection that no need of any forest land for constructing approach road to the project site and drawing transmission line to the substation.

The project may helpful in reducing the scarcity of power in the state, and may not have a significant ecological impact on forests and wildlife. Hence the proposal is recommended.



K.J. Martin Lowel, 29/10/20

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