



Government of West Bengal

Directorate of Forests

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer

Kurseong Division, Dow-Hill, Darjeeling, Pin - 734204

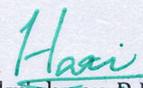
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**Report on Site Inspection of the proposed forest land of 1.75 ha for diversion under the jurisdiction of Kurseong Forest division for Construction of Sevoke - Rangpo New Broad Gauge Railway Line Project.**

**The site inspection was undertaken by Divisional Forest Officer, Kurseong Division on 27.03.2022 and the following observations were made:-**

1. The proposed area falls under Setikhola Block of Kalijhora beat, Sevoke Range of Kurseong Division.
2. The location is well placed at the right bank of Kalikhola and free from any threat of landslide. Kalikhola is a tributary of Teesta river.
3. The said piece of land measuring 1.75 ha was diverted by NHPC Ltd. (Primary user Agency) in 2006 for using muck dumping site for TLDP IV project. The Secondary User Agency, IRCON is now proposing for re-diversion of the same land for a period of 3-4 years in connection with the construction phase of Sivoke-Rangpo New Broad Gauge Railway Line Project. The Primary user agency, NHPC Ltd. has also consented to it, provided IRCON fulfill all the stipulated conditions.
4. The rare/endangered species of flora and fauna found in the proposed area are Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*).
5. The area is not a designated wildlife corridor and a National Highway passes through the area. But Common Leopard, Barking Deer and Himalayan Black Bear are recorded in the area.
6. The area proposed does not form any defence installation or establishment of Archeological heritage site, monuments, protected area i.e., National park/Wild life Sanctuary etc. However this patch of Reserve Forest Land is approximately 20m from the nearest boundary of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary and falls within the Ecosensitive Zone of the Sanctuary.
7. There are no other alternate sites available adjacent to the project area suitable for the above project. The proposed site was already under use as muck dumping site by NHPC Ltd. for TLDP-IV project and there is no tree felling involved in the proposed site.
8. Precautionary measures need to be taken by the user agency against environmental degradation.
9. The proposed use of the area may cause siltation in the river and hence sufficient precautionary measures need to be adopted by the user agency.
10. The Secondary User Agency IRCON Ltd. has to carry out stabilization and reclamation of the site by raising plantation of suitable species at their own cost under the supervision of State Forest Department before handing over the land back to forest department at the end of re-diversion period.

  
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