



May to October
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Lalit Grand Palace
Srinagar-
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November
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Jammu - 18000
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**Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Chief Wildlife Warden**

The Executive Director (P)
Regional Office,
National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.
Srinagar.

WLP/Tech/2020/ 125-27
Dated 05.11.2020

Subject :- NOC for construction of Approach Road with Avalanche Protection Works from Z-more Tunnel to Zojila Tunnel Western Portal (near Baltal camp) in the Ganderbal District, J&K

Ref :- Your No. NHIDCL/SGR/GEN/2020-21/46 dated 14.10.2020

Sir,

In reference to the above cited subject, I am directed to convey that the issue mentioned in the subject has been examined in this Department. On the basis of ground report and standing Government guidelines and procedure, the Wildlife Warden, Central under whose jurisdiction the area under the subject falls, has submitted a comprehensive report vide his No.WLWC/Estt/2020-21/1833-34 dated 02.11.2020 duly endorsed by Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir vide his No. RWLW/K/Tech/20-21/F-140/1780 dated 03.11.2020, copy of the same is enclosed for your record and reference.

On the basis of the abovesaid report from Regional Wildlife Warden/Wildlife Warden, Central, I am directed to convey that your proposal mentioned in the subject, does not require wildlife clearance and hence there will be no hindrance to the Project in this behalf.

Encls: AA

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Arun Gupta)
Wildlife Warden
Headquarter

Copy to the:

1. Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir. This is in reference to his No. RWLW/K/Tech/20-21/F-140/1780 dated 03.11.2020.
2. Wildlife Warden, Central. This is in reference to his No.WLWC/Estt/2020-21/1833-34 dated 02.11.2020.

Department of Wildlife Protection
Office of the Wildlife Warden Central Division Srinagar
New Theed Harwan, Dachigam Pin-191123

Email: wlwc786@gmail.com
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The Regional Wildlife Warden,
Kashmir Region,
Srinagar.

No. WLWC/Estd/2020-21/ 1833-34

Dated 2-11-2020

Subject: NOC for construction of approach Road with avalanche protection works from z-more tunnel to zojila tunnel western portal near Baltal camp in the Ganderbal District J&K.
Reference: Your office endorsement No. RWLW/K/Tech/2020-21/1065 dated 17/10/2020.
Sir,

Regarding the subject matter, the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) here on in termed as user agency is going to take up the expansion/bypass of National Highway-1 from Z-Morh tunnel to Zojila Tunnel (near Baltal Camp) in Ganderbal District J&K. In this project there are two things that are of interest as far as our department and wildlife clearance is concerned, that are as under:

1. A stretch of existing road, 220 meters in length and 11 meters in width falls within the demarcated boundary of Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Proposed expansion/bypass of national highway-1 is 17.8 Km's in length with the maximum width of 59 meters (right of way) as per the proposal of NHIDCL. This whole stretch of 17.8 kms falls within the 10 Km's of demarcated boundary of Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary and, therefore, in absence of final eco sensitive zone notification said highway falls within the eco sensitive zone of Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary.

A joint survey of the road was conducted on 25/7/2020 by the officials/officers of the various departments that included officials/officers of Wildlife Protection Department, Forest Department, Revenue, NHIDCL and representatives of DPR consultant (SMEC). As per this survey report it was found that 216 meters stretch of existing road with width 11 meters passes through Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary and survey report is enclosed herewith (Annexure 1).

One more survey was carried out on 21/10/2020 by a team comprised of undersigned, Mr. Shabir Ahmad I/C ICT Lab, Range Officer Wildlife Range Ganderbal, Mr. Anand Kumar, Executive Director NHIDCL, Mr. Manesh Sharma, Manager NHIDCL, Mr. Ravi, DPR Consultant (SMEC), Mr. Radhey, DPR Environmental Consultant (SMEC) and Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Land Acquisition Expert NHIDCL to finalize the ground trothing of the information submitted by user agency to this office from time to time. Based upon the information submitted by the user agency and data collected from the ground a fresh digitized map was generated for the proposed National Highway expansion/bypass in question.

Said proposal was analysed in the light of EIA notification 2006, MoEF notification issued vide SO No. 2559(E) and minutes of 55th meeting of standing committee of National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) issued vide FNO 6-122/2019 WL dated 17/9/2019 and consequently following outcome is put forward:

- A. In the minutes of 55th meeting of SCNBWL, issued vide FNO 6-122/2019 WL dated 17/9/2019, agenda item No. 3 (55.3.1) (iii), reads that resurfacing and strengthening of existing highways, not involving widening within protected areas will be possible without reference to

standing committee of National Board for Wildlife. As already mentioned a stretch of 216 meters of existing road with width 11 meters passes through the Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary and whereas user agency is not intending to go for any kind of widening or additional right of way except for resurfacing and strengthening, which in turn means that this activity will not fall under the purview of SCNBWL, therefore, wildlife clearance shall not be required.

B. In the Annexure of EIA notification 2006 that deals with list of projects or activities requiring prior environmental clearance, sub term (f) of item 7 in column (3) for entry (ii) deals with expansion of National Highways. Said part of this annexure has been substituted by a new regulation in term of threshold parameters for prior environmental clearance issued vide notification SO 2559 (E) dated 22/8/2013 wherein threshold for prior environmental clearance for expansion of National Highway has been set as 100 KM involving additional right of way or land acquisition greater than 60 meters on realignment or by passes.

As per the proposal of the NHIDCL, maximum length and maximum width of the road are 17.8kms and 59 meters respectively and, therefore, is below the threshold limit as set by EIA notification 2006 and MoEFCC notification SO 2559 (E) dated 22/8/2013 for environmental clearance. Now with regard to the clearance from SCNBWL for the projects falling within 10km of National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary, clarification has been provided MoEFCC (Wildlife Division) vide F.NO 6-60/2020WL part(10) dated 16th July 2020 wherein part 3 (ii) reads that "proposal involving activity project located within 10 km of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary wherein ESZ has not been finally notified and listed in the schedule of EIA Notification of 2006 and requiring environmental clearance, prior clearance from standing committee of National Board for Wildlife will be required" copy enclosed herewith.

In view of above, the case does not fall within the ambit of environmental clearance and hence wildlife clearance may not be required. However, EIA report and EMP would be required and that has been already submitted by user agency.

Hence submitted for the favour of information and further necessary action at your end please.

Yours faithfully

Wildlife Warden
Central Division Srinagar

Copy submitted to the worthy Chief Wildlife Warden J&K Government Jammu for favour of information please.

Wildlife Warden
Central Division Srinagar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Wildlife Protection
Office of the Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Region Srinagar

No: RWLW/K/Tech/20-21/F-410/1780

Dated: 03/07/2020

1. Copy of the detailed report alongwith enclosures (maps) received from Wildlife Warden Central Division submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K Govt. Jammu for information and further necessary action at your end please.

End:-12 lines

maps:- 4 nos.

6/c

Yours faithfully
Regional Wildlife Warden
Kashmir Srinagar