



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division
Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong:: 734301

Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255496. Email Id-dfokpgdiv@gmail.com/dfokalsc-wb@nic.in

Memo No. 729 /9-46

Dated, Kalimpong, the 22/02/2023

To,
The Chief Conservator of Forest,
Forest Conservator Act,
West Bengal.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 2.939 ha of forest land in favour of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) For Muck Dumping for construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of two lane with paved shoulder of NH 717A under Kalimpong Forest Division of West Bengal.

Ref : i. Your office letter no 12041/L & LT/2M-86/2022 dt 21/02/2023.

ii. Govt. of India, MoEF& CC, Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata letter No. IRO/KOL/WB/ROAD/154398/2022/24 dt 25.01.2023.

iii. Letter from the General Manager (P) vide letter no NHIDCL/PMU-Kalimpong/NH-717A/Forest/2023/1344 dt 20/02/23.

Sir,

With reference to the above, kindly find herewith the point wise information/documents mentioned in the said letter against the queries raised by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. In this regard the point wise reply are as follow :-

SL. no	Observation	Compliance
1	Please submit the Action Taken Report against the violation of the Act or guidelines over 9 ha of forest land and present status of the case of violation. Also, submit the list of the trees destroyed by the User Agency during this illegal use of the forest land.	Action taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work on area of violation has been stopped.2. Joint inspection to show the official from NHIDCL the violation on date 12/07/213. 4nos of letters and one joint inspection from this office to bring out the extent of damage to the ecosystem and forest land.

		<p>4. Clarification to the User Agency the extra land to be diverted via Parivesh without fail.</p> <p>5. Repeated letter to the User Agency for preparation of comprehensive soil moisture conservation plan taking this damage into consideration. (Annexure I)</p> <p>6. Asking the User Agency to give designated sites for muck dumping which is being complied with. <i>(all above letter are enclosed in Annexure II)</i></p> <p>❖ The total no of trees is 50 nos which are destroyed by the User Agency during this illegal use of the forest land. (list are enclosed Annexure III)</p>
2	Comments of the Nodal Officer (FCA), West Bengal regarding violation of the Act or guidelines and recommendations regarding penal provisions.	NA.
3	Site specific Muck Dumping Plan for each sites including provision of retaining structures, scientific muck stabilization procedure to prevent landslide and plan for reclamation of the site by raising plantation of suitable species at the cost bearing by the User Agency needs to be submitted.	Submitted by User Agency (enclosed Annexure IV)
4	Comments of the User Agency regarding violation of the Act or guidelines.	
5	Whether provision of the Muck Dumping sites was explored/ examined by the State Government at the time of giving final approval for diversion of 116.001 ha forest land for the construction of road. If so, details of the Muck Dumping sites may be submitted.	Submitted by User Agency (enclosed Annexure IV)
6	As submitted by the DFO, Kalimpong FD, the road widening works are being taken up in an unscientific method which has resulted huge landslides at many locations. The State Forest Department/ User Agency needs to submit a detailed report in this regard.	<p>Submitted by User Agency (enclosed Annexure IV)</p> <p><u>Comment by Divisional Forest Officer</u></p> <p>Huge area around 12ha damage due to for muck dumping is not only due to rainfall as claimed by the User Agency but also due to unscientific management and also no restoration by the land was done by the User Agency.</p>

7	As per condition no.11 of the final approval issued by the State Forest Department for diversion of 116.001 ha forest land, submit the implementation status of Comprehensive Soil Conservation Plan by the User Agency in consultation of State Forest Department.	Submitted by User Agency (enclosed Annexure IV in serial no III.)
8	Uploaded kml file of the forest land proposed for diversion is not corrected. Corrected one needs to be uploaded.	Submitted by User Agency (enclosed Annexure IV)

This is for your kind information and taking necessary action.


 Divisional Forest Officer
 Kalimpong Forest Division.

Memo No: 729/9-46

Dated, Kalimpong, 22/02/2023

Copy forwarded for kind information to

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,
FCA, 1980, West Bengal.
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal, West Bengal.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, West Bengal.
4. The General Manager (P), NHIDCL PMU, Kalimpong, West Bengal.


 Divisional Forest Officer,
 Kalimpong Forest Division.



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests

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Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong:: 734301

Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255496. Email Id-dfokpgdiv@gmail.com/dfokalsc-wb@nic.i



Memo No. 2460 / 9-33

Dated, Kalimpong, the 23 /11/2021

To,
The General Manager (P)
NHIDCL Ld Project Monitoring Limited,
Dr. B.L Dixit Road, SSB Ground
Kalimpong.

Sub: Reminder regarding Status of Soil Moisture Conservation Plan.

Ref: i) APCCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, WB. Letter No.2463/L</2M-1358/2017 dt 06.08.2021.
ii) Your Office Letter No. NHIDCL/PMU-KALIMPONG/NH-717A/Forest/2021/691 dt 29.09.2021.

Sir/Madam,

With reference to above, kindly submit the Status regarding SMC Plan for the proposal for diversion of forest land for muck disposal in construction, rehabilitation and upgrading to 2 lane with paved shoulder configuration of Bagrakot to Kafer Section of NH-717A under Kalimpong Forest Division in the State of West Bengal.

This is for your kind information and taking necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer
Kalimpong Forest Division

Most Urgent



Reminder



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata:: 700 106
Phone - Fax:: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : nscawb@gmail.com
Visit us at: www.westbengalforest.gov.in

No- 2463 / L</2M- 1358/2017

Dated: 06 .08.2021

To The General Manager (P)
NHIDCL, Corporate Office, 3rd Floor, PTI Building,
4 Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001

Sub.: Proposed Diversion of 116.001 ha. of forest land in favour of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) for realignment, rehabilitation and up gradation to 2(Two) lane with paved shoulders configuration of Bagrakot to Kafer & Kafer to Reshi Border of NH-717A in West Bengal under Kalimpong Forest Division.

Ref.: This office letter no. 7090/L</2M-1358/2017 dt. 01.03.2021

Sir,

In the context of above mentioned subject & reference you are requested to prepare a comprehensive soil conservation plan in consultation with the CCF, Hill Circle and DFO, Kalimpong and formally submit the same for its approval at this end. This is mandatory as per condition no. 11 of Stage-II/final approval for the said project and is unduly pending at your end for quite sometime.

Encl.: As stated.

No- 2464 / L</2M- 1358/2017

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division.

APCCF & Nodal Officer,
FCA, WB

Dated: 06 .08.2021

APCCF & Nodal Officer,
FCA, WB



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division

Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong:: 734301

Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255496

Email:dfokalsc-wb@nic.in/dfikpgdiv@gmail.com

Memo No. 14701

Dated, Kalimpong, 28/07/2021

From: The Divisional Forest Officer
Kalimpong Forest Division

To : The General Manager
NHIDCL Ltd, Project Monitoring Unit
Dr. B.L Dixit Road, SSB Ground
Kalimpong

- Ref: 1. APCCF NB letter vide CAMP/2/June 2021 on 07/06/21
2. CCF Hill Circle letter number 638/C2-224/2021 dated 10/06/21
3. DFO letter number 1142/9-33 dated 11/06/21
4. DFO letter number 1242/9-33 dated 28/06/21
5. DFO letter number 863/9-33 dated 22/04/2021
6. Joint Inspection attended by CCF WL (N), GM NHIDCL and DFO kalimpong dated 10/07/2021

Sub: Extra diversion of land from the proposed 116.001 ha of land for realignment, rehabilitation and upgrading to 2 lane with paved shoulders configuration of Bagrakote to Kafer and Kafer to Rishi Border of NH 717 A in Kalimpong Forest Division in the state of West Bengal

Sir,

It has come to the notice of the undersigned that a large amount of area has been used by NHIDCL over its allowed land use of 116.001 ha. The extra area has been used up is in tune of 11.7542 ha (Details in annexure

1. This has happened chiefly due to unscientific mud disposal at various sites. This has resulted in severe loss of indigenous flora and fauna. Not only that several streams and ponds have been polluted because of the same causing damage to aquatic fauna and flora as well.
2. Lack of proper Soil Moisture Conservation has caused erosion and landslides in a large stretch of area as well. Retaining walls have been either absent or has been inadequate resulting in huge landslides.
3. Temporary labour sheds still persist despite prior communication in this regard.

These actions violate the conditions laid out by both the In-Principle Approval and also the Stage II approval accorded by the stage of West Bengal viz. Moreover, prima-facia it also violates the Clause 2(ii) of Forest Conservation Act 1980.



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal
Upper Nivedita Road, P.O. Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri (W.B.)-734003
E Mail: apccfnb-wb@nic.in



No. CAMP/2/June/2021

Dated 07.06.2021

To
Sh Ganga Chettri IFS
CCF Hills

Sub: Bagrakote-Algarha Road widening Project by NHIDCL in Kalimpong Division-FCA Matters

In reference to the above, on 06.06.2021 undersigned inspected Bagrakote-Algarha Road widening project being implemented by NHIDCL as already approved under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. DFO Kalimpong also accompanied me during my field inspection.

Following observations are made for doing needful from your end.

1. Actual area excavated for road widening seems to be much more than approved road width of 24 metres at many places.
2. Road widening works are being taken up in an unscientific method which has resulted in huge landslides at many locations. No retaining /protection walls were constructed to prevent major land slides by the user agency.
3. Unauthorised Muck disposal & temporary labour sheds noticed in many forest areas.

You are requested to kindly look into the matter and take appropriate action to prevent any damage to the forests. Detailed assessment of actual area used by the user agency may be made and user agency should be instructed to stop works outside areas approved under FCA immediately and submit revised proposal for additional diversion of forests, if required.

This is for your kind information & taking necessary action.

Your's sincerely,

Dr V.K.Sood IFS
Additional PCCF, North Bengal

Copy forwarded for information to:

1. Nodal Officer, FCA, W.B.
2. DFO Kalimpong Division

Additional PCCF, North Bengal

Clause 9 of In-principle Approval and Stage II Approval

Forest Land utilized for the creation of Border Infrastructure Projects shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in approval accorded by the state government. Any change in land use without the prior permission of the State Government shall amount to the violation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Thus the undersigned wants to know why the project should not be stopped as it violates several sections of FCA 1980 and also the approvals granted to the project by the State Government and the Central Government.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

No 1470/

Dated: Kalimpong, the : 28.07.2021.

Copy forwarded for kind information to:-

1. APCCF and Nodal Officer, FCA
2. APCCF North Bengal
3. CCF Hill Circle
4. CCF WL(N)


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

No	Chainage	Area In Ha	Remarks
1	3+450	.057	Soil Dump
2	3+450 (Beside Culvert)	.851	Soil Dump
3	3+ 600	.162	Soil Dump
4	3+800	.1	Soil Dump
5	3+830	.106	Soil Dump
5	3+950	.04	Soil Dump
7	4+050	.2002	Soil Dump
8	S7	.12	Soil Dump
9	4+750	.2	Soil Dump
0	5+160/5+385	.225	Soil Dump
1	5+385/600	.415	Soil Dump
2	5+800/6+050	.45	Soil Dump
3	6+050/090	.16	Soil Dump
4	8+650/9+100	3.15	Soil Dump
5	Hill Top left Side	.5	Soil Dump
6	9+350/650	2.1	Soil Dump
7	12+000	.2	Soil Dump
8	12+000/350	.7	Soil Dump
9	13+900/14+300	.4	Soil Dump
0	15+100/450	.45	Soil Dump
1	15+700/16+200	.5	Soil Dump
2	29+930	.092	Boulders out of ROW
3	34+520	.396	Sand and Boulders
4	35+360	.080	Soil dump
5	35+950	.040	Material Stacking
6	38+560	.060	Material Stacking
	Total Area in Ha	11.7542	



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division,
Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong - 734301

Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255463. Email Id- dfokpqdiv@gmail.com/dfokalsc-wb@nic.



Memo. No: 1142/9-33

Dated: 11 / 06 / 2021

From : The Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division

To : The General Manager(P),
NHIDC Ltd, Project Monitoring Unit,
Dr B.L. Dixit Road, SSB Ground,
Kalimpong

Sub : Joint Inspection of Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A

Ref : APCCF, North Bengal letter no CAMP/2/June/2021 dated 07.06.2021
&
CCF, Hill Circle Letter no 638/C2-224/2021 dated 10.06.21

Sir,

Apropos this is to inform you that during field visit of widening Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A road project by Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal accompanied by the undersigned on 06.06.21 the following facts were observed.

1. Actual area excavated for road widening seems to be much more than approved road with of 24 meters at many places.
2. Road widening works are being taken up in an unscientific method which has resulted in huge landslides at many locations. No retaining/protection walls are constructed to prevent major landslide by the U.A
3. Unauthorized muck disposal & temporary labour sheds noticed in many forest areas

A letter from this office was also issued regarding the matter of temporary labour shed vide this office memo no: 863/9-33 dated 22.04.21 compliance report of which is still pending from your end.

Now, as per section 3B(1)(a)(b) of The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 any deviation from the conditions laid down at In-Principle Approval shall be liable to be prosecuted.

Hence, you are now requested to fix a date for joint-inspection of the Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A to measure the width of land excavated and landslide areas caused due to absence of retaining/protection walls.

Enclosed:

- As stated
- Photographs with Geo References of the excavated area and temporary labour camps.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

Dated: 11 / 06 / 2021

Memo. No: 1142/9-33

Copy Forwarded For kind information to

1. The Addl. PCCF, North Bengal, Siliguri
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, Darjeeling.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division,
Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong - 734301
Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255463. Email Id- dfokpgdiv@gmail.com/dfokalsc-wb@nic



Memo. No: 12479-33

Dated: 28/06/2021

To
The General Manager(P),
NHIDC Ltd, Project Monitoring Unit,
Dr B.L. Dixit Road, SSB Ground,
Kalimpong

Sub : Joint Inspection of Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A

Ref : i) APCCF, North Bengal letter no CAMP/2/June/2021 dated 07.06.2021.

ii) CCF, Hill Circle Letter no 638/C2-224/2021 dated 10.06.21.

Sir,

Apropos this is to inform you that during field visit of widening Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A road project by Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal accompanied by the undersigned on 06.06.21 the following facts were observed.

1. Actual area excavated for road widening seems to be much more than approved road with of 24 meters at many places.
2. Road widening works are being taken up in an unscientific method which has resulted in huge landslides at many locations. No retaining/protection walls are constructed to prevent major landslide by the U.A
3. Unauthorized muck disposal & temporary labour sheds noticed in many forest areas

A letter from this office was also issued regarding the matter of temporary labour shed vide this office memo no: 863/9-33 dated 22.04.21 compliance report of which is still pending from your end. One more letter was issued from our end vide letter no 1142/9-33 dated 11.06.2021.

Now, as per section 3B(1)(a)(b) of The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 any deviation from the conditions laid down at In-Principle Approval shall be liable to be prosecuted.

Hence, We have fixed the date for joint-inspection on 08/07/2021 of the Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A to measure the width of muck disposal, extra land excavated beyond 24 meter, and potential landslides caused due to absence of retaining/protection walls.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

Dated: 28/06/2021

Memo. No: 12479-33

Copy Forwarded For kind information to
1. The Addl. PCCF, North Bengal, Siliguri
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, Darjeeling.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division

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Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalimpong Forest Division,
Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong - 734301
Phone - Fax:: (03552) 255463. Email Id- dfokpqdiv@gmail.com/dfokalsc-wb@nic.



Memo. No: 1142/9-33

Dated: 11 / 06 / 2021

From : The Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division

To : The General Manager(P),
NHIDC Ltd, Project Monitoring Unit,
Dr B.L. Dixit Road, SSB Ground,
Kalimpong

Sub : Joint Inspection of Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A

Ref : APCCF, North Bengal letter no CAMP/2/June/2021 dated 07.06.2021
&
CCF, Hill Circle Letter no 638/C2-224/2021 dated 10.06.21

Sir,

Apropos this is to inform you that during field visit of widening Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A road project by Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal accompanied by the undersigned on 06.06.21 the following facts were observed.

1. Actual area excavated for road widening seems to be much more than approved road with of 24 meters at many places.
2. Road widening works are being taken up in an unscientific method which has resulted in huge landslides at many locations. No retaining/protection walls are constructed to prevent major landslide by the U.A
3. Unauthorized muck disposal & temporary labour sheds noticed in many forest areas

A letter from this office was also issued regarding the matter of temporary labour shed vide this office memo no: 863/9-33 dated 22.04.21 compliance report of which is still pending from your end.

Now, as per section 3B(1)(a)(b) of The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 any deviation from the conditions laid down at In-Principle Approval shall be liable to be prosecuted.

Hence, you are now requested to fix a date for joint-inspection of the Bagrakote-Kafer NH 717A to measure the width of land excavated and landslide areas caused due to absence of retaining/protection walls.

Enclosed:

- As stated
- Photographs with Geo References of the excavated area and temporary labour camps.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

Dated: 11 / 06 / 2021

Memo. No: 1142/9-33

Copy Forwarded For kind information to

1. The Addl. PCCF, North Bengal, Siliguri
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, Darjeeling.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division

Memo. No: 863/19-33

Dated: 22/04/2021

From : The Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division

To : The General Manager(P),
NHIDC Ltd, Project Monitoring Unit,
Dr B.L. Dixit Road, SSB Ground,
Kalimpong

Subject : "Proposed Diversion of 116.001 Ha of Forest land for Realignment, Rehabilitation
and Upgrading to 2 lane with paved shoulders configuration of Bagrakot to Kafer
& Kafer to Rishi border of NH-717A Kalimpong Forest Division in the state of
West Bengal"

Sir,

It has come to the knowledge of the undersigned that labour camps have been
constructed along the Bagrakote-Kafer diverted forest land. The residents of the labour camps
have been using firewood for cooking purposes as well. This is in violation of the conditions as
laid down in Stage II clearance vide Memo No 250-For/FR/O/L/10T-2/2019 dated 19.02.19.

Hence, you are instructed to dismantle the all the labour camps/structures immediately

Enclosed:

1. Photographs of Labour camps along with Lat and Long.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

Dated: 22/04/2021

Memo. No: 863/19-33

Copy Forwarded For kind information to

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, Darjeeling.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests
Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Hill Circle, West Bengal
Shankar Villa, Ladenla Road, Darjeeling-734101
Phone : Office - 2234-1855, 2225-7487, 2234-1856,
e-mail : ccfshewb@gmail.com; ccflic.frd-wb@bangla.gov.in



Dated, Darjeeling the 10.6.2021.

No.638/C2-224/2021,

To : The Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division.

Sub : Bagrakote- Kafer road proposal.

Ref : Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal's letter no.
CAMPA/2/June/2021 dated 07.06.21

Kindly refer to the letter of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal as mentioned above and take action accordingly. You are requested to issue them a letter asking them to follow the points mentioned in the in-principle approval of the project. You are also requested to measure the width of the road they have excavated and if found more than the approved one, a letter to be issued asking them to explain the matter.

Again if the land slides are being noticed due to unscientific method of road cutting, they should be asked to construct protection walls first.

Furthermore, if unauthorized construction of labour huts or un-authorized muck disposal is seen along the length of the road that has to stop immediately and such labour huts to be removed and such muck disposal by the side of road to stop at once.

If, after your notice also such unauthorized/unscientific activity is not stopped then the project may be stopped and a complaint may be given to higher authority for taking necessary action.

This is for your kind information and taking necessary action.

Sd/- G. P. Chhetri, IFS.
Chief Conservator of Forests
Hill Circle, West Bengal

Dated, Darjeeling the 10.6.2021.

No.638/C2-224/2021,

Copy forwarded to:-

- 1) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, North Bengal in reference to his letter mentioned above.
- 2) The General Manager (Projects), NHIDCL, Sikkim, 1st floor, 5th mile, M.P. Goali, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim-737102.

OK

Chief Conservator of Forests
Hill Circle, West Bengal

Number of trees damaged due to Muck Dumping beside NH717A (CLF road) under Chel Range.

SL No.	Range	Species	Number	Remarks
1	Chel	Teak	32	Total Dumping area = 2,939 ha.
2		Maina	1	
3		Sal	4	
4		Lampatay	3	
5		Siris	1	
6		Chilouni	3	
7		Bahera	1	
8		Champ	4	
9		Pakasaj	1	
		Total Damaged Trees- 50		

Burung
Beat Officer
Chunavatti Beat
Chel Range

Nt. Waki
Range officer
Chel Range
Kalimpong Forest Division

Antersign
by *A*

B
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
Kalimpong Forest Division
Kalimpong

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग एवं अवसंरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India

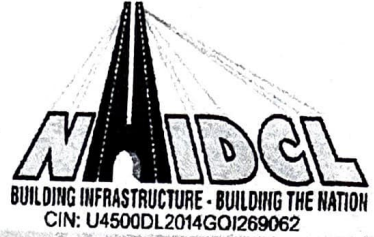
परियोजना अनुवीक्षण इकाई / Project Monitoring Unit

माउंट कार्मेल स्कूल के पास, एसएस वी हाउस, वार्ड-13, डी. बी. एन. रोड, कलिम्पोंग (पश्चिम बंगाल) - 734301

Near Mount Carmel School, SSB Ground Ward-13, Dr. B. L. Dixit Road, Kalimpong, West Bengal - 734301

Email: pmu.kalimpong@nhidd.com Phone: +91-3552-350001

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Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



No: NHIDCL/PMU-Kalimpong/NH-717A/Forest/2023/1344

Date: 20.02.2023

THROUGH EMAIL

To,

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Kalimpong Forest Division,
Department of Forest,
Kalimpong (West Bengal).

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 2.939 Ha and 10.646 Ha of forest land in favour of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) for Muck Dumping for construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of two lane with Paved shoulder of NH-717A under Kalimpong Forest Division of West Bengal-Reg.

Ref: Your office Memo no. 331/9-44 dated 27.01.2023

Sir,

Please refer to the letter under reference wherein you have requested to submit the point wise information/documents mentioned in the said letter against the queries raised by Ministry of Environment, forest, and Climate Change.

2. In this regard, the point wise reply of points iii, iv, v, vi, vii, viii and ix are as follows:

Sr. No	Observation	Compliance
iii	Site specific Muck Dumping Plan for each sites including provision of retaining structures, scientific muck stabilization procedure to prevent landslide and plan for reclamation of the site by raising plantation of suitable species at the cost bearing by the User agency needs to be submitted	Noted. Will be submitted shortly. However, an undertaking for the same was submitted.
iv	Comments of the User Agency regarding violation of the Act or guidelines	There is no violation of the Act or guideline, as the landslide was caused due to heavy exceptional rainfall and cloud burst, which has occurred in the Kalimpong District in April 2021.
v	Whether provision of the Muck Dumping Sites was explored/examined by the State Government at the time of giving final approval for diversion of 116.001 Ha Forest land for the construction of road. If so, details of the Muck Dumping sites may be submitted.	No muck disposal sites were considered at the time of granting final approval for diversion of 116.001 Ha of forest land

The Executive Director(P), NHIDCL, Regional Office-Gangtok

Copy to:

For General Manager (P)

Manager(P)

(Pratap Sharma)

Yours Sincerely,

mentioned forest land.

3. In view of the above, it is requested to take further necessary action for providing the subject-

ix	Cost benefit analysis needs to be submitted	Noted and will be submitted shortly
viii	Uploaded kmf file of the forestland proposal for diversion is not correct. Correct one needs to be uploaded	Due to technical glitch in the site (Parivesh Portal), the kmf files (which were uploaded) were corrupted. So, the same files were sent to DFO and Nodal officer through email. However, the file will be sent again through Compacted Disc.
vii	As per condition no. 11 of the final approval issued by the State Forest Department for diversion of 116.001 ha forest land, submit the implementation status of Comprehensive Soil Conservation Plan by the User Agency in consultation of State Forest Department	Request for preparing the Comprehensive Soil Conservation plan was submitted to National Institute of Technology, Sikkim. After getting no response from the NIT, this office has put all efforts for preparing the Soil Conservation plan and contacted another agency i.e., M/s Everain Global Services for preparing the same. The agency will prepare the Soil Conservation plan in consultation with DFO Kalimpong FD after necessary approval of the Competent Authority at NHIDCL. It may also be noted that protection work (Breast wall, Retaining wall and Special Hill protection) to protect the forestland was taken into consideration in the Contract Agreement as a mitigation measures out of which currently 50% of the protection work has been completed by the executing agency.
vi	As submitted by the DFO, Kalimpong FD, the road widening works are being taken up in an unsystematic manner. The State Forest Department/User Agency needs to submit a detailed report in this regard.	717A, but also NH-10 (the connecting road to Sikkim) and other neighbouring roads were closed for one week or so due to heavy landslide caused by heavy rainfall. It is also to mention that hill cutting by the agencies involved is being done as per specification given in hill manuals of IRC which stipulates "Type of cutting involved and proposed cut slopes shall be provided in accordance with the nature of the soil encountered. Where required, benching including use of slope stability measures like pitching, breast walls, etc. shall be adopted to make the slopes stable and safe." Also, as a landslide mitigation measures 22 nos of Major bridge, 3 nos Minor bridge, 245 nos of culverts, 9960 mtrs of retaining walls, 38390 mtrs of breast walls and additional special protection work has also been taken in the Contract Agreement.