

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Nalanda Forest Division, Biharsharif, BiharSite Inspection report of DCFInspection Date :-15.11.2021 & 29.11.2021

The Proposed pipe line (project area) is passing through notified protected forest i.e. Ekangarsarai-Islampur-Rajgir-Giriyak-Parwatipur Road, Rajgir to Viraytan Road, Rajgir to vanganga/Rajgir-Hisua-Gaya road, Rajgir-Biharsharif road, Swarn Bhandar road, in Nalanda District is notified as Protected Forest by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar through vide S.O. No. 1647 E, dated 20.12.1994, the alignment passing through Rajgir PF is notified as Protected Forest by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar through vide notification C/F-7068/3438-R.O. No. CF-17069/55-3966 dated 19.12.1955 as well as Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary vide vide S.O. No. 727 dated 25.05.1978 and the alignment passing through Jethian PF is notified as Protected Forest by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar through vide notification C/PF-10148/52-25R dated 02.01.1953 in which the present proposal is total about 1.7533 ha is submitted for diversion. The proposed area has been visited by the undersigned along with survey team and verified the facts in proposed site and found 2.1666 ha. has to be required to complete the proposed project.

- Rajgir Nagar Panchayat and surrounding area facing acute water shortage every year. In order to meet the water requirement the User Agency Irrigation Department, Biharsharif has entrusted to ensure water supply through pipe line as part of Ganga Water Lift Project through underground pipeline. The pipeline has to be passed along with different road sides of notified protected forest as well as Rajgir PF area (Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary).
- Water Resource Department has to use of Forest land for laying of pipeline under Ganga Water Lift Project Phase-I for Rajgir water distribution system under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for 2.1666 ha of Protected Forest land which is inclusive of 0.3147 ha. Sanctuary land for non-forestry purpose. Sufficient alternate arrangements has been tried during the inspection to lay pipeline to avoid acquisition of forest land located along pipe line alignment. However, some forest area falls in the project which is unavoidable as the project facilitate drinking water supply to the water deprived Zoo Safari and Nature Safari which are Forest areas. The requirement of forest land as proposed is unavoidable due to non-availability of any alternate land and is barest minimum required for the project.
- The diversion of 2.1666 ha of protected forest land is proposed to for the laying of underground Pipe line in the above mentioned alignment to provide safe drinking water to Rajgir and surrounding areas as well as forest department establishments.
- The area of diversion of 2.1666 ha user agency requires forest land does not proposed for felling of any tree species presence. Since the user agency proposed for underground pipe line no need to utilize other than road side flank area to complete the project and does not require any pruning etc. No endangered and rare tree/ species found in the proposed area. Density of Vegetation is approximately 0.2 for the purpose of NPV calculation. Bamboo, Beal, Chakundi, Gulmohar, Khair, sal, and karanda are commonly found. In all places the weeds and grass of grazing height also person present. Liner Iron Gabion Plantation also found near by the proposed alignment.
- The major forest type of the surrounding proposed area is 5/DS1 Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests, 5B/C2 Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests and 5B/C1 Dry Peninsular Sal Forest.
- This is bare minimum forest area required along with Existing ROW, along with forest road for Laying Pipe line and the detail of forest land involved is as follows:

Sl No	Purpose	Status of Forest Land		(Area In Ha)
		Type	Status	
1	Laying of pipeline	Linear	Notified As PF- Road	1.8059
2	Laying of pipeline	Linear	Rajgir wildlife sanctuary and Rajgir PF	0.2247
3	Construction of ESR & Sump	Block	Rajgir wildlife sanctuary and Rajgir PF	0.0900
4	Laying of pipeline	Linear	Notified As Jethian PF (Natural Forest)	0.0060
5	Construction of GLSR	Block	Notified As Jethian PF (Natural Forest)	0.0400
Total Area (in Ha.) =				2.1666

- 2.1666 Ha land is mainly required by the user agency to complete the project. No other alternative to the user agency to avoid this bare minimum land.

- Other than this alignment no other alignment available in-front of the project authorities due to natural landscape and actual status of forest land.
- Since this project is aiming for supply of drinking water to zoo safari as well as nature safari it requires normal gradient so it can be possible to supply water without any major construction like overhead tank, sump etc. except present alignment and it also technically not feasible to find out other alternate alignment in the hilly track. The other alignment in forest area may incur huge expenditure and also breaking of new area causes erosion in the sanctuary. In any case this pipe line passes through Sanctuary/Forest Land for drinking water supply in forest establishment. So this present alignment is shortest and only available alignment for easy execution without any damage to forest area.
- In this alignment no needs to utilize other than road side flank area to complete the project. For construction of ESR and sump and GLSR the forest area required are very minimum and devoid of any trees. The Jethiyan PF has been transferred to Nalanda Forest Division as part of Nature Safari in which 0.0460 ha. has to be required for Laying of pipeline and Construction of GLSR.
- The proposed area is notified protected forest areas of road side, Natural Forest and sanctuary area. The proposed diversion of land in road side is situated approximately 0.1 km to 5 km. from the boundary of Rajgir and Ghora Katora PF. The proposed area also falls within Eco-sensitive Zone of Rajgir Wildlife sanctuary as well as Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary area. Rajgir PF which is natural forest is part of Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary falls all along the proposed area.
- The proposed project area has involved Rajgir Protected Forest which is part of RWLS as well as Eco Sensitive Zone, Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary and not forms part of any National Park, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. As per the final notification of the Eco sensitive Zone (S.O. 71(E) [10.01.2017] Final Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar) an area up to 3 km in all villages and up to 100 m in Nagar Panchayat, Rajgir, from the boundary of the protected area of the Rajgir WLS, Rajgir has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone.
- Surveys carried out by TERI (2015) indicated that the Sanctuary is endowed with a diversity and abundance of wildlife characteristic of the area. There are 28 species of larger mammals, over 183 species of birds, 39 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, 13 species of fishes, 51 species of butterflies and 6 species of scorpions. Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Neelgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Cheetal (*Axis axis*), Jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus murghi*), porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*) are the species are found in the Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The undersigned is of opinion that the instant proposed project will no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found. So far no such any cases of wildlife death reported in the in the proposed alignment area. The crop raiding Nilgai is also present adjoining areas of the proposed road.
- Generally the project area vulnerable to medium soil erosion due to intrinsic geological features of the substrate during rainy season.
- As per field inspection Maniyar Math, Swarn Bhandar, Kita Maidan, Rajgir, Ajata Shatru's Kila, Jarasant akhara etc. are the protected archaeological site/ important monument located nearby area of the proposed project.
- The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in Col. No. 2 of Part – I is unavoidable and barest minimum of the project and only viable option.
- The User Agency has not violated the prescribed provisions of the Forest conservation Act and Indian Forest Act at the time of inspection.
- This instant proposal for diversion of 2.1666 ha forest land may be approved with necessary conditions and directions.

(Dr. Nesamani.K)

Deputy Conservator of Forest
Nalanda Forest Division, Bihar Sharif.

