

Site Inspection Report of Chief Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle, Kottayam on 26.05.2021

Inspected the site of proposal No.FP/KL/HYD/11977/2015 Thottiyar Small Hydro Electric Project power house site and the site through which the line connects the power house to the existing power line.

Government of India had sanctioned Stage-I clearance for 3.8134Ha Forest land in Neriamangalam Forest Range, Munnar Forest Division for Thottiyar Hydro Electric Project (14MV) as per letter No.4-KLB-0500/05-BAN dated 23.09.2005 and Stage-II clearance as per letter No.4-KLB-0500/05-BAN dated 11.07.2007. Later an additional .9996Ha was recommended for the same project and Stage-I and Stage-II approval were given as per letter dated 11.07.2009 and 09.07.2012. Now the present proposal submitted vide No.FP/KL/HYD/11977/2015 is for diversion of 0.7945Ha of forest land for the transmission line connecting the power house to the nearest existing transmission line of KSEB.

I have inspected the area on 26.05.2021 along with Divisional Forest Officer, Staff and the Assistant Executive Engineer, KSEB. The main project area was in Adimali Range, Malayattoor Reserve Forest. From there the line starts and crosses Priyar River which is also part of the Reserve forest to Nagarampara Reserve forest in Nagarampara Station of Neriyamangalam Range. Other than the river and its banks which remain as forest the rest of the area in Nagarampara Reserve is encroached upon. Part of this area is already given patta based on FC Act diversion, which are excluded from the calculated area for diversion. Rest of the area which is encroachment area not regularized is included in the diversion proposal. The details are given in the detailed sketch of the land to be diverted. Thus out of total 1.225Ha land required, excluding patta land in 9 plots totaling 0.4305Ha, which includes the existing Neriyamangalam – Cheruthoni road also, the final area for diversion is 0.7945 Ha.

There are only few trees present in the area to be diverted because majority of the area is either river bed or encroached forest land. Wildlife present is minimum but the project area including already diverted area is part of a connection between Idukki Sanctuary, Palkulamedu area which is

having an isolated elephant population with the main elephant population in Neriyamangalam, Adimali area. However the present diversion being an over head line across the river and cultivation, does not interrupt animal movement additionally. The area to be diverted do not have any rare, endangered or unique types of flora and fauna. There are no protected/ archaeological/ heritage sites/defence establishment located in the area to be diverted. Since the proposed 0.7945 Ha area is the minimum required for the project, it is recommended to divert 0.7945Ha of the forest land for drawing 220KV line for power evacuation for Thottiyar Project. The Previous diversions in this project were done with compensatory afforestation on double the forest land. It is not recommended to do so now since degraded forest areas are difficult to find out in Kerala and already there are enough revenue Puramboko lands which can be mutated in favor of Forest Department in Chinnakanal Village which is in elephant habitat.



Chief Conservator of Forests
High Range Circle, Kottayam