

Brief note on Vulnerability of Forest area to erosion

Government of Himachal Pradesh has policy on Catchment area treatment of the Basin where the project proponent is liable to pay 1.5% of the project cost towards the treatment of Catchment. As the Project is of greater capacity of 500 MW, the project would contribute enormous amount towards the same. Further, the project proponent would perform the Reservoir Rim Treatment which is a part of Environment Management Plan prepared by the Project proponent. A reservoir would be formed submerging 160.45 ha of land, the reservoir spread would be extending along the river Chenab up to approx. 10.3 km stretch, the maximum width of the reservoir at FRL of 2114 m is expected to be about 200 m. The reservoir rim area is sparsely vegetated and mostly inaccessible. The upper reaches of reservoir rim can be approached via Killar, Chamba and Punto roads. The geological mapping has been carried out with particular reference to reservoir competency aspects like landslides, permeable rock beds, presence of economic minerals etc. Lithologically, the reservoir is located in massive crystalline rocks of gneisses, micaceous quartzite and schist.

In general, the valley slopes are found to be stable. In the entire mapped area only one small landslide has been found along the Killar road, located on the left bank of Mahal nala and restricted to its slide slope at El. 2250 m i.e., about 160 m above the FRL (El. 2114m). This landslide at present is fairly stable and otherwise also has no implication of any kind whatsoever on the competency of the proposed reservoir.

Therefore, the stabilized rim post its treatment and the good rock profile of the valley would pose less challenge on vulnerable of Forest area to erosion.


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