

## **Forest Diversion Proposal under FC Act, 1980**

### **(Construction of 132kV D/C LILO of one circuit of Pare HEP – North Lakhimpur (AEGCL) line at Nirjuli (POWERGRID) substation in Arunachal Pradesh)**

#### **JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING OF THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA**

##### **1. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

WRSS-IXI & NERSS-IX is a System Strengthening Project of Western and North Eastern Grid for the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam & Arunachal Pradesh being developed on built own operate and maintain basis through tariff based competitive bidding. This prestigious project is a part of National Grid and a vital link for bulk power transfer in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam & Arunachal Pradesh by creating strong transmission link with adjoining states. The proposed 132kV D/C LILO of one circuit of Pare HEP – North Lakhimpur Transmission Line is passing through the Drupong Reserve forest and Unclassified State Forest under Banderdewa and Sagalee Forest Division respectively in Papum Pare District of the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

##### **2. JUSTIFICATION**

Three alternative route corridors were studied largely by maximizing linear sighting opportunities, such as following existing roadways and power line corridors, negotiation with river, railway, road, electric power, and telephone line crossing and least crossing of notified/ reserved forest areas. All efforts have been made to provide minimum numbers of angle points and utmost care have been taken on the ground with possible angle of deviation. Similarly, power line crossings have been fixed as close as possible to the right angle but not less than the 60-degree crossing.

The LILO line passes through Banderdewa and Sagalee Forest Division of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. Every effort has been made to avoid and minimize the forest area but considering the technical feasibility of the alignment and space constraints, forest area could not be avoided completely. The alignment with minimum crossing of the forest and having minimum length has been selected as the proposed alignment. After detailed analysis, it was observed that Alternative-1 among the 3 alternative routes has the minimum involvement of forest area and is best suitable for construction point of view. Alternative-1 is also best in terms of approachability for construction as well as maintenance purpose

as well. Keeping the above points in consideration, Alternative - 1 is proposed as the final route alignment.

**Comparative Statement for Alternative-1, 2, 3 Routes: -**

| Comparative Statement of 3 Alternative Routes                    |                           |              |              |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Description  | ALT-1<br>(Proposed Route) | ALT-2        | ALT-3        |
| Bee Line Length (Km)   | 12.086 Km.                | 12.086 Km.   | 12.086 Km.   |
| Total Line Length (Km)   | 16.452 Km.                | 16.268 Km.   | 16.729 Km.   |
| Length of Transmission Line in Forest Area (Km)                  | 11.463 Km.                | 13.011 Km.   | 13.128 Km.   |
| Forest Area (Ha.)  | 30.950 (Ha.)              | 35.130 (Ha.) | 35.446 (Ha.) |
| Density of Forest Area   | Moderate                  | Moderate     | Moderate     |
| Protected Area   | NA                        | NA           | NA           |
| Places of Archaeological Importance                              | NIL                       | NIL          | NIL          |
| Places of historical / cultural / religious / tourist importance | NIL                       | NIL          | NIL          |
| Line Pass through any Town/ City                                 | NO                        | NO           | NO           |
| Line Pass through any Defense establishments                     | NO                        | NO           | NO           |

**3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The Prior approval of the Government of India under Section 68 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 2003 for the subject project has been obtained vide MoP's letter dated 07.01.2019. It is proposed to execute the transmission scheme as provision contained in the Indian Electricity Act, 2003 and the rules made there under and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1910 and 1948, in so far as these are applicable.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK**

Transmission line Projects are environment friendly and do not involve any disposal of solid effluents and hazardous substance in land, air and water. Moreover, in forest areas, trees are felled at the tower spotting area and below each conductor to facilitate tower erection and stringing work. On completion of construction activity, only one strip is

maintained for O&M purpose and natural regeneration of vegetation is allowed in rest of the corridor area. Therefore, the actual impact on the Environment and Forest is temporary and minimal as it is restricted to some selected area only. However, as per the requirement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 approval of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India for diversion of forest land shall be taken before construction of line in forest area. Further, compensatory afforestation shall be done in double the degraded forest land to compensate the loss of vegetation, due to diversion of forest.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The route alignment has been made with a goal of minimizing the Forest and Wildlife area. After detailed analysis, it is observed that the Alternative-1 (Proposed Route) has the least route length and forest area involvement. **Hence, the Alternative -1 (Proposed Route) has been selected as final route as it contains minimum forest area and has least No. of trees to be felled.**

**Place:** Lakhimpur  
**Date:** 20.10.2021

**Signature & Seal** :



**Name**  
**Designation**  
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