

Justification for locating the Project in Forest Land and Details of alternate examine:

Name of the Project: Erection of 765 KV D/C Transmission Line from Virudhunagar to Coimbatore Reach - I which passes over the Uthappanaickanur RF.

Details of the Project:

Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation is erecting 765/400 KV SS at Virudhunagar and its associated 765 KV and 400 KV transmission lines in Tirunelveli Region at an estimated cost of Rs.3713.33 crores approved vide (Per).FB TANGEDCO PROCEEDINGS No.18 (Tech.Branch), Dt :03.03.2018. The works were permitted to be executed vide G.O.(MS) No.35, Energy (A1) Department, Dt:24.05.2019.

Necessity:

The above work is envisaged as a system strengthening measure for evacuating power from following

1. Proposed Uppur Thermal Power Project (2 x 800 MW)
2. Existing/future Solar energy generation of about 3500 MW including 500 MW at Kadaladi and Kamuthi
3. Wind energy generation of about 1000 MW evacuated through Kayathar and Thappagundu 400 KV substations.

Considering the huge penetration of renewable energy, a 765 KV SS is necessitated to handle such quantum of power to the tune of 8000 MW including future generation at Virudhunagar.

For establishing this project, about 220 Acres of private patta land was purchased near Kottur village (Near RR Nagar) in Virudhunagar Taluk.

The project's impact is aligned to enhance the industrial development and renewable energy generation in Tamil Nadu. The project's outcome is to

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improve and cater power supply to industrial demand centres in Chennai - Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor. The Project's main aim is to serve the following.

- i. As a transmission link from the energy hub in southern CKIC to load centers in northern CKIC.
- ii. A pooling substation for renewable energy established in southern CKIC.

Benefits of Projects:

The proposed project will improve operational efficiency, quality of power, reliability of the system and reduced losses leading to better voltage profile in Tamil Nadu. Evacuation of surplus renewable energy within Tamil Nadu and to regions outside the state will boost overall economic development of the Nation.

The above project's associated 765 KV and 400 KV lines are passing through six districts of Tamil Nadu namely (i) Virudhunagar (ii) Tiruppur (iii) Thoothukkudi iv) Ramanathapuram, v) Madurai and vi) Dindigul.

Funding Agency:

The Entire Project is majorly financed by the Asian Development Bank (ie.ADB) for an amount of 451 Million US Dollar. The erection of 765 KV line from Virudhunagar – Coimbatore having a length of line is 253.04 km. **Out of which Reach-(1) having a route length of 87.0 km was awarded to M/s. KPTL at an estimated cost of Rs.442 crores is passing through the certain portion of Uttappanaickanur Reserved Forest area.**

Social Impact Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment:

Since the Entire Project is majorly financed by the Asian Development Bank (ie.ADB), the environmental impact and Social impact assessment is also being monitored by that mission. In the transmission, there are no significant environment issues associated with

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the Project. TANTRANSCO has submitted safeguard monitoring reports for period February 2020 – July 2020 to ADB and the next safeguard monitoring report for the period from August 2020 – January 2021 is due by February 28, 2020.

The area required for the project is bare minimum, which is a part of the protected forest land. The project area does not involve any diversion of forest area in any manner.

No alternative was considered, as the project is site specific.

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