

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

(A PART OF 400 kV D/C SILCHAR – MISA TRANSMISSION LINE NEAR MISA SUB-STATION)

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A comprehensive scheme for strengthening of transmission & distribution system in NER & Sikkim was conceived as a consequence of Pasighat proclamation in 2007. A sub group under the chairmanship of Member (PS), CEA was constituted by Ministry of DoNER to address the issue of recommendation of sub-group, Ministry of DoNER asked Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) to prepare a detailed project report for strengthening of transmission & distribution system for each state of NER & Sikkim as well as Inter-state works in NER. POWERGRID submitted the DPRs to Ministry of Power in year 2010.

Subsequently, the intra-state scheme was taken up through grant/loan by Govt. of India/World bank. The scope of intra-state works was taken up as North Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-II (NERSS-II).

The NERSS-II (Part-B) scheme already notified for implementation through TBCB route was reviewed in the 5th Standing Committee Meeting on Power System Planning of North Eastern Region and Ranganadi-Nirjuli 132 kV D/C was dropped. Further, Surajmaninagar - PK Bari 400 kV D/C line (charged at 132 kV) was revised in the meeting & proposed to be directly charged at 400 kV along with new 400/132 kV substation at Surajmaninagar & PK Bari was decided to be implemented as NERSS V.

2. JUSTIFICATION

The construction of 400 kV D/C Silchar-Misa line along with 400 kV operation of Palatana-Surajmaninagar & PK Bari - Silchar line would provide alternate 400 kV corridor viz. Palatana-Surajmaninagar- PK Bari- Silchar in order to improve reliability of power evacuation from Palatana generation project. This transmission network would definitely strengthen our Grid network in North East region.

The construction of this line was not an easy task due to hilly terrain, dense vegetation, approachability issue along with other local issues. But as we are committed to empower humanity by addressing the toughest challenge of energy delivery, so we have taken this opportunity & worked out for best possible route and possible alternatives from Srikona S/s (POWERGRID) to Misa S/s (POWERGRID) for laying of transmission line. Accordingly, proposal for diversion of 108.162 ha forest land was submitted **vide Proposal No.: FP/AS/TRANS/27721/2017, dated 04.08.2017** for construction of the transmission line passing through forest land of Dima Hasao West division, Haflong, Hamren division Hamren and Nagaon South division, Hojai.

The transmission line is link between the two 400 kV sub-stations owned by the POWERGRID viz, Silchar and Misa. During survey the actual terminating point of the line at Misa sub-station was not confirmed so, the line was surveyed up to the boundary of the sub-station and now the Bay and Gantry positions in the switch- yard have been finalized by POWERGRID where the line shall be connected with power system.

Detail exercise has been carried out to find the best possible way to connect the line with

Gantry considering permissible technical parameters and found that, a small portion of line shall pass through Doboka RF in Nagaon Division which is unavoidable. The comparative statement of proposed route and two other alternatives from outside the boundary of sub-station to Gantry point are given below.

Comparative Statement of 3 Alternative Routes			
Description	ALT-1(Proposed Route)	ALT-2	ALT-3
Bee Line Length	0.737 Km	0.737 Km	0.737 Km
Line Length	1.026 Km	1.228 Km	1.137 Km
Angle Points	5 Nos	8 Nos	7 Nos
Forest Length	0.322 Km	0.642 Km	0.376 Km
Forest Area (Ha.)	1.483 ha	2.953 ha	1.729 ha

In view of all above, it is concluded that, the best possible efforts have been made to avoid / minimize involvement of forest land to terminate the transmission line at Misa Sub-Station which could not possible without including 1.48 ha additional forest land for the project.

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 07.02.2017. Subsequently, Government of India, Central Electricity Authority, confers, under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003, all the powers which the telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on 31st August, 2018. 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 area trees are felled below each conductor to facilitate stringing. On completion of construction only one strip is maintained for O & M purpose. Therefore, the actual loss of forest is restricted to some selected area only. However, as per the requirement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 approval of Ministry of Environment & Forest, 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.


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