Justification of Locating the Project in Forest Land

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited, (OPTCL) is a Govt. of Odisha undertaking organization. This proposals formulated to supply power from 132 KV Grid Sub-Station Boudh to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at- Phulbani Township and adjoining areas in Phulbani District over a distance of 65.374 KM.

In order to eradicate low voltage problem in the Southern Part of Odisha, it is felt essential for Construction of 132 KV DC line on DC tower from existing 132/33 KV Phulbani grid Sub-Station to 132/33 KV grid sub-station at Boudh and 2nos feeder by extensions at Phulbani Grid Sub-Station and 2nos of feeder by extensions at Boudh Grid Sub-Station.

Day today Govt. offices like Tahasils, Blocks, Hospitals, Colleges are expanding resulting increase of commercial houses, Business activities, Small to medium industries and lift irrigation activities for agricultural purposes.

This project in meant for uninterrupted, reliability and quality power Supply in the District of Kandhamal & Boudh. This project will also help in improving Irrigation, Agriculture, Industry and other Small Scale Industries which will improve the living standard of the public.

The main objects of this project are:-

1. Improvement of power supply will overcome low voltage problems, reduce outage thus improving the efficiency of the domestic and agriculture appliances.
2. Quality Power will encourage small scale & Medium scale industries which will generate employment in the district of Kandhamal & Boudh and its associated areas.
3. Due the Electrification of the Villages and Cities with quality power, this will reduce growth of criminal activities
4. Quality power supply will facilitate Administration to provide common people better equipped Hospitals and help in upgraded Technical Institutions for education and administration.
5. Growth of trade & commerce will boost of due to improvement in the agricultural products, small scale industries development and increase area under cultivation due to quality supply of power.

Alternate Alignment

All possible alternative have been explored to reduce the area of forest land, avoiding thickly populated villages and thickly Forest area before finalization of the selection route. The area was studied thoroughly and found that other routes are highly impact of forest area. The suitable route is (Route-III) of the Transmission line from existing 132/33 KV Phulbani, Grid Sub-Station Phulbani Tahasil, Dist-Phulbani Grid Sub-Station to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Boudh, Boudh Tahasil, under Boudh district over a length of 65.374 Km.

(Antaryami Behera)

This project involves 146.043 Ha of Non-Forest land and 30.469 Ha.of Forest land (Phulbani Forest Division 19.563 Ha + Boudh Forest Division 10.906 Ha). This project area does not comes under any protected areas.

Route –I: -

The length of the Transmission Line is about 59.961 KMs and having 81 Angle Points. This route involved total forest area 57.773 Ha including 14.785 Ha of Reserved Forest and passing through Ranipathar R.F, Donga RF and Bankamundi RF.

Route – II:-

The length of the Transmission Line is about 64.652 KMs and having 93 Angle Points. This route involved total forest area 37.941 Ha including 8.458 Ha of Reserved Forest and passing through Khaumunda P.F, Donga RF and Sudrukumpa RF.

Route – III:-

The length of the Transmission Line is about 65.374 KMs and having 77 Angle Points. This route involved total forest area 30.469 Ha including 5.476 Ha of Reserved Forest and passing through Donga RF.

After extensive exercise 3 alternate routes (Route-I, Route-II & Route-III) are analyzed for construction of Transmission line, out of the above 3 routes, Route No. III has been finalized for the following reasons.

1. This route is Technical feasible for drawing transmission line
2. This route involves a less forest area 30.469 Ha (Boudh Forest Division 10.906 Ha + Phulbani Forest Division 19.563 Ha) compared with the forest areas of other alternate routes.
3. Other then route no. III, no alternate route can be considered to save green land and hill area.
4. This route is well located for incoming and outgoing Transmission line with a proper road connectivity with less power loss.
5. This proposed route is aligned in such a way, so that lesser no's of tress and enumeration for cutting and pruning.
6. For Construction of the Transmission line & Grid Sub-Station there is a requirement of huge employment potential. Beside we have already engaged local people for detailed survey of the proposed project area. Around 250 people will be engaged continuously for 5 to 6months during construction period. Also opportunities will be developed after strengthening of power scenario in course of construction. Local contractors shall be benefited to a large extent.

Beside the above employment indirect but continuous engagement of some local people is being generated for statutory work, maintenance work etc.

(Antaryami Behera)