

## **KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**

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UDUPI-576101

**Name of the Project :** Construction of 400kV DC line with Quad moose ACSR for a route length of 179.85km from UPCL - Nandikur generating station to 400/220kV receiving station Shantigrama.

**File No : Forest/ FP/KA/TRANS/36286/2018/ Additional proposal**

### **JUSTIFICATION**

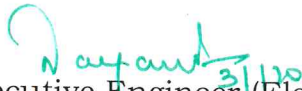
**All efforts have been made to minimize the involvement of forest land during the selection of Transmission Line corridor.**

During selection of route for this 400KV DC Transmission line from UPCL (Nandikur, Udupi) to 400/220KV receiving station at Shantigrama in Hassan district, shortest route was marked on toposheet and walkover survey was conducted in three routes. An exhaustive exercise was done to select the route with bare minimum forest land. The Main aim is to align the route through non-forest land and care is taken so that the line passes through minimum area of forest land duly consulting with forest department authorities.

The length of the 400 KV line connecting Nandikur (Udupi) UPCL generating station to 400/220KV receiving station at Shantigrama in Hassan District is 179.85 Km. 400KV towers were constructed during the period 2009-2012 and line was charged on 25.08.2012. Since then, the above said line is in a healthy working condition and is one of the significant transmission lines catering to the energy demand of the state of Karnataka. During the construction period, as per request of user agency, the forest land required for the entire project was inspected by the concerned forest department. The forest department officials had inspected the forest area, marked the area coming under forest, gave a count of the number of trees coming under forest area. Also trees coming under the government land were marked by forest department officials of concerned region. The actual requirement of forest land after survey was calculated as 172.53 Ha. Only after scrutiny of the entire requirement of the forest land by forest department, user agency had submitted the proposal for diversion of forest land for 172.53 Ha.

Subsequently, the required forest land of 172.53 Ha was diverted in the year 2012 by Government of India vide order F.No.8-29/2010-FC Dtd: 17.02.2011 & 17.01.2012 and Government of Karnataka by its G.O. No. FEE.20.FGL/2010:BANGALORE dated: 01.02.2012. So, the line was constructed abiding the laws of Forest Conservation Act 1980, only after taking required clearance from the forest department.

But after getting necessary clearance for the above said project, a letter was received from Deputy Conservator of Forest, Forest Department Kundapura on 23.05.2012 stating that an area of 7.126Ha (now revised to 2.576Ha) was pending for diversion. But by then, clearance for forest area required for the entire project was already obtained by user agency. It was learnt that 7.126Ha (now revised to 2.576Ha) of forest land was left out while marking the area of forest land because it was mistaken as government land by forest department officials. Hence, user agency was forced by forest department to again submit a new proposal for diversion of additional 7.126Ha of forest land. And thereafter proposal for additional 7.126 Ha was submitted via offline mode on 28.05.2012 to Deputy Conservator of Forest, Forest Department Kundapura. Hence there is absolutely no question of ambiguity about the additional forest land required for the project. The project was already completed by user agency, KPTCL duly agreeing to the norms of FC act and user agency is not to be held responsible for missing out an additional forest land. The present proposal for diversion of additional 2.5766 Ha (revised from 7.126Ha) of land is for seeking ex-post facto approval under Forest (Conservation) Act. In fact, a letter was on 15.02.2016 from Nodal Officer & APCCF, Bangalore to The CCF, Mangalore to set right the issue regarding necessary action for obtaining post facto approval for the forest land utilized by the user agency, in addition to the approved extent under forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with necessary coordination of user agency.

  
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