

### Justification for locating the project in forest area

The State of Himachal Pradesh has vast hydroelectric power potential in its five major rivers. The rivers and their tributaries with steep gradient continue to challenge planners and engineers for optimal exploitation of hydropower potential. Numbers of hydroelectric projects are under execution in the state by state, central, joint and private sector developers. The only strategy that is being followed in Himachal Pradesh for exploitation of hydroelectric power resources is to produce as much energy as possible, with minimum cost and less negative impacts on environment. The rapid generation of hydroelectric power as per its potential will definitely improve the economic health of the state because 12 percent free power plus 1 % LADF on all new installations will increase the resources of the state to a significant extent. The need for the project also rises from the need to fulfill a steady increase in peak electricity demand and the growing energy deficit in the Northern Region.

The present scheme with dam near Khaira village and underground power house on the right bank has been considered as the most viable proposal for Sunni Dam HEP from environmental, social and economical aspects. Efforts have been made to reduce the forest land as far as possible in the present proposal. More than 53 hect. of private land has already been considered wherever possible for execution of this project. The detail of private land is also appended in this proposal.

It is pertinent to mention here that the components of a hydro electric project are eventually to be finalized as per the geological conditions of the area and cannot be shifted. Therefore, Dam, Diversion Tunnel and Power house have to be fixed as per the topography and geology of the area. But still where ever possible various project components like dumping areas and offices have been proposed to be located in private land.

  
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