

SITE INSPECTION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 33 KV LINE TO SONGSAK THROUGH RONGRENGGRE RESERVED FOREST.

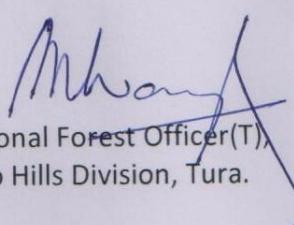
The Executive Engineer(EE), MePDL Williamnagar has proposed to replace the existing 11 KV electric line by 33 KV from Rongrenggre RF Tri-junction to Songsak village drawn along the PWD roadside. Since the transmission line is passing through the Rongrenggre Reserved Forest, the undersigned has conducted the site inspection on 14.04.2015 and 21.05.2015. The total stretch through the forest land is 3.374 km and the alignment is proposed along and also across the PWD road in certain stretches so that diversion of forest land and felling of trees is minimized. The line is proposed to be drawn between $90^{\circ} 32.044'$ and $90^{\circ} 35.709'$ East Longitude and $25^{\circ} 31.614'$ and $25^{\circ} 34.461'$ North Latitude and passes through dense forest cover of the Reserved Forest from Tri-junction locality to Khera.

The forest has Sal and Makri sal as the dominant species in natural regeneration areas. Teak has been regenerated artificially in many compartments through which the alignment is proposed for the transmission line. However, due to its proximity to Williamnagar town and other adjoining villages, the Reserved Forest is subjected to heavy biotic pressure from many angles. Large number of open spaces and patches are observed in different compartments in which plantation to improve the forest cover has been taken up both under state plan and Thirteenth Finance Commission Award during 2014-15.

Due to human interference, only very few species of animals like barking deer, wild boar and wild cats are reportedly present in the Reserved Forest. Snakes like cobra, pythons, rat snake, krait, etc are sighted quite frequently in addition to abundant birds and fishes in water bodies.

Recommendation: The electric line is the only source of hydro power to many villages under Songsak C&RD Block and the project is targeted to complete within their time schedule but has been extended due to pending Forest Clearance. The rural electrification project is aimed at improving the life of the villagers whose majority of them still live below the poverty line and since there will not be adverse impact to the forest and environment as a result of this project because it is an up-gradation of the existing line. And since, the user agency has already furnished an undertaking to compensate for the damage as per the existing guideline and other instructions that may be issued by the competent authority, I therefore recommend that Forest Clearance for diversion of the forest land measuring 2.4345 ha. may kindly be granted.

Dated Tura
The 23.05.2015


Divisional Forest Officer(T)
Garo Hills Division, Tura.