

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Date of Inspection: 01.04.2015

Background note on the proposal

The Nandan channel project commenced in the year 1970 as per the G.O.No.1947 PWD dated 26.09.1970 and was completed in the year 1976. i.e., prior to 1980. The present project proposal submitted by Executive Engineer, Lower Ponnaiyar Basin Division, PWD (user agency) aims at laying concrete pipes to the existing canal to avoid frequent siltation by flowing water which demand maintenance. Since the project is carried out in the existing canal route, alternate alignment does not arise. The project shall ensure drinking water supply to the public. It is informed by the project authorities that the pipelines will be laid using possible crane without damaging any vegetation or excavation of earth inside the reserve forest.

Legal status and area details

The Nandan channel is a minor irrigation earthen canal passing through the Pakkamalai reserve forest of Gingee range in Viluppuram division. The canal passes through the reserve forest and then through a stretch of patta lands within the reserve forest and then again through the reserve forest. Hence, there are two patches of reserve forest involved in the proposed project. The first patch of channel passes to a distance of 158m and a width of 5m thus amounting to 0.079 ha and the second patch of channel passes to a distance of 318m and a width of 5m, thus amounting to 0.097 ha. In total, an area of 0.176 ha reserved forest is proposed for diversion against the upgradation of the existing canal.

Wildlife and vegetation

The reserve forest area is a Southern tropical dry deciduous forest, 5AC3 and is habitat for wild animals including spotted deer, wild boar, mongoose, bonnet macaque, python, rat snake and cobra. The total number of trees subjected for felling is 110 trees belonging to *Ficus racemosa* and *Syzygium cumini* and some miscellaneous species of which 95 species above specified girth are included in the list. Though these trees play their role as a part of the ecosystem component, removing them is inevitable as they are located in the canal bed itself. The user agency has not yet started the work in the reserve forest area and hence, there is no violation of Forest conservation Act, 1980.

AG 26/8/15
District Forest Officer,
Viluppuram Division
Viluppuram.