

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT vis-à-vis ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

Name of Project : 800kV HVDC Transmission Line from Raigarh to Pugalur

Our Policy:

- Transmission line projects are environmentally clean and do not involve any disposal of solid waste, effluents and hazardous substances on land, air and water.
- We, as a responsible organization are utilizing all available technological resources (GIS & GPS) to optimize route alignment with emphasis on avoidance of Forest, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary and other Ecological Sensitive areas even to the extent of adopting more circuitous routes and setting up of state of the art substations enroute. However, in few cases use of forest area becomes unavoidable due to site specificities of a project and the overall topography of the area.
- We, while finalizing the route of transmission line follow the policy of Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation with following parameters:
 - ✓ As a rule, alignments are generally cited 10-15 km away from major towns, whenever possible, to account for future urban expansion
 - ✓ Similarly, forests are avoided to the extent possible, and when it is not possible, a route is selected in consultation with the local Divisional Forest Officer, that causes minimum damage to existing forest resources
 - ✓ Alignments are selected to avoid wetlands and unstable areas for both financial and environmental reasons
 - ✓ In addition, care is also taken to avoid National parks and sanctuaries and any other forest area rich in wildlife
- It is always not possible to avoid such areas completely and if any forest area is getting involved application in required format for obtaining forest clearance is submitted to the concerned Nodal Officer/DFO for processing the forest clearance within 2-3 months of detailed survey and start of the work so as to ensure forest clearance by the time we reach to the forest area.
- Transmission line projects are linear in spatial distribution and minimally invasive of permanent land use changes and are drawn substantially high above the ground avoiding possible encounter with ecological sensitive areas as well as habitations.

Route Selection for 800kV HVDC Raigarh - Pugalur Transmission Line:

The selection of route for the proposed line also is done as per our policy described above. The alternatives were considered, before choosing the optimum feasible route. The National Parks & Ecological Sensitive areas are completely avoided after careful study of the toposheets and terrain with the help of state forest officials. The line is crossing the forest stretches at a minimum width after due care. The forest stretches which were unavoidable in the state of Tamil Nadu are as below

- | | | |
|---|----|---------|
| 1. Kallapadi RF in Vellore District | -- | 2.53 Ha |
| 2. Kalappambadi RF in Dharmapuri District | -- | 6.35 Ha |

.....