

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING ADI BADRI DAM ON FOREST LAND

Sarasvati River is known as the Holy River of India, as much as it has retained its sacred character right from the Rig Vedic age to the present day. The Sarasvati river system in the Vedic period includes the rivers like Ghaggar, Markanda, Chautang, Sutlej and Yamuna. From the studies by the various eminent researchers for the past several years now, it has been clear that Yamuna as well as Sutlej were tributaries of Sarasvati River. Around 3700 BC due to tectonic disturbances in the area, Yamuna Tributary of Sarasvati was diverted to its present course and Sutlej deflected to the west from Ropar later causing disappearance of mighty Sarasvati River. Tributaries of Sarasvati River have been captured by River Yamuna in the past the nearest tributary to River Sarasvati is Somb River.

Though Adi Badri is located on the bank of River Somb and it is believed that Sarasvati River originates at Adi Badri in the lower hills of Shivalik district Yamuna Nagar in Haryana at a distance of approximately one KM from interstate boundary of Himachal Pradesh. Besides it, the presence of Holy Sarasvati River in the ancient period is also proven from the revenue record available in districts Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal and other districts of Haryana state.

Pilgrims from HP, Punjab , Haryana and other states often come at the originating place of Sarasvati River at Adi Badri for getting blessings of Holy Sarasvati River at it's Udgam Sathal Therefore, keeping in view the natural and international importance of River Sarasvati regarding heritage of the oldest civilization of the world which flourished along the bank of River Sarasvati Honorable Chief Minister Haryana in March 2015 has made an announcement for the construction of Adi Badri Dam and to rejuvenate the

Holy Sarasvati River, accordingly, it was decided to prepare feasibility report for rejuvenation of River Sarasvati linking Somb River with Sarasvati River. In light of this, Haryana Irrigation and Water Resources Department (HIWR) vide its letter No. 6840-42/17AW dated 14.09.2015 entrusted the work of preparing Feasibility Report to WAPCOS for diverting water from Somb River by constructing Adi Badri Dam on River Somb to restore and rejuvenation the Sarasvati River. WAPCOS during its investigation found that the construction of Adi Badri Dam is feasible on the forest land proposed in the feasibility report and no other suitable site of non-forest land is available for construction of Adi Badri Dam for rejuvenation of Sarasvati River. Location of the dam site is just upstream of the originating spot of the Holy Sarasvati River from Adi Badri.

"Deputy Commissioner, Sirmaur Himachal Pradesh has also issued certificate in this regard which has been uploaded in the column of additional documents".

The feasibility report of this project submitted by the WAPCOS was sent to the Central Water Commission (CWC), Chandigarh for the viability of the project. On the suggestion of the CWC the feasibility report was sent to the Geological Survey of India, regional office Chandigarh. Memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Irrigation & Water Resources Department/HSDB and Director, Geological survey of India regional office Chandigarh to check the feasibility of the project on the proposed location. As per Memorandum of understanding with GSI authorities, Geotechnical investigation/contour survey work @1m interval was completed under the supervision of GSI officer on the site

and it's upstream locations. The GSI officers after investigation has submitted their report and recommended to shift the dam axis 400 M upstream on the course of River Somb for better suitability of site and suggested/marked 5 No. drill holes on the contour survey sheet conducted in their presence for further soil investigation.

(report and drill holes location has been uploaded as additional document column of form-A)


Besides it, Memorandum of understanding was also signed between Irrigation & Water Resources Department, HSHDB and National Institute of hydrology, Roorkee for investigation/vetting of the hydrology aspects of the project as reported by the WAPCOS in the feasibility report. The National institute of Hydrology, Roorkee has submitted its report ratified the hydrology aspects as proposed/reported by WAPCOS.

For perennial flow of water in the Sarasvati River from River Somb it is necessary that the location of the dam site must be just upstream of the originating spot/place of Holy Sarasvati River and there should be sufficient height of existing embankments on either sides of the submergence area for maximum storage of water for further supply in to the Sarasvati River. After investigation it has been found that the proposed location of the dam on forest land is the appropriate location in the light of geological, hydrological, economical, tourism and other engineering point of view. During investigation no other non-forest land was found suitable for fulfilling the geological, economical, tourism and other engineering aspects for the construction of Adi Badri Dam,

"Deputy Commissioner, Sirmaur HP has issued certificate in this regard which has been uploaded in the column of additional documents". Besides it Himachal Pradesh Govt. has also already issued NOC in principle for this project and both the documents has been uploaded in the forest clearance Form-A as additional documents. All other related departments of Himachal Pradesh Government has also issued No Objection Certificates for construction of Adi Badri Dam on location of the proposed forest land and submitted their DPRs for inclusion in the final DPR of the proposed project.

The project stands approved in the Governing body meeting of the Haryana Sarasvati Heritage development Board on dated 02.01.2019 held under the chairmanship of Honorable Chairman-Cum- Chief Minister Haryana, therefore, keeping in view of the investigations of WAPCOS, Geological Survey of India and National Institute of Hydrology Roorkee, Irrigation & Water Resources Department and Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board has found that no other land either forest or non-forest land is suitable and appropriate for the construction of Adi Badri Dam for the rejuvenation of the Holy Sarasvati River other than the proposed forest land and accordingly, based on the investigations made by the Geological survey of India, National Institute of Hydrology and reports of other technical experts, Irrigation & Water Resources Department Haryana has proposed to construct Adi Badri Dam on the selected forest land.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Nahan Forest Division,
Nahan (H.P.)


Sub Divisional Officer
SARASWATI HERITAGE
Sub Divn. No. 8 Jagadhri


Executive Engineer,
Sarasvati Heritage Division No 1
Jagadhri