

JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT LOCATING IN FOREST AREA **(132 KV D/C BISWANATH CHARIALI- ITANAGAR TRANSMISSION LINE)**

PROJECT BACKGROUND

A comprehensive scheme for strengthening of transmission & distribution system in NER & Sikkim was conceived as a consequence of Pasighat proclamation in 200. A sub group under the chairmanship of Member (PS), CEA was constituted by Ministry of DoNER to address the issue of recommendation of sub-group, Ministry of DoNER asked PROWERGRID to prepare a detailed project report for strengthening of transmission & distribution system for each state of NER & Sikkim as well as Inter-state works in NER. POWERGRID submitted the DPRs to Ministry of Power in year 2010.

Subsequently, the intra-state scheme was taken up through grant/loan by Govt. of India/World bank. The scope of intra-state works was taken up as North Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-II (NERSS-II).

The NERSS-II (Part-B) scheme already notified for implementation through TBCB route was reviewed in the 5th Standing Committee Meeting on Power System Planning of North Eastern Region and Rangandi-Nirjuli 132 D/C was dropped. Further, Surajmaninagar-PK Bari 400kV D/C line (charged at 132 kV) was revised in the meeting & proposed to be directly charged at 400kV along with new 400/132 kV substation at Surajmaninagar & PK Bari was decided to be implemented as NERSS-V.

The scheme includes Biswanath Chariali - Itanagar 132 kV D/c line (Zebra Conductor) which has been planned to strengthen the interconnection between the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and also to provide an additional source of power to the capital city of Itanagar.

JUSTIFICATION

This Transmission Project would be able to minimize the Power deficit in Arunachal Pradesh. The construction of 132 kV Biswanath Chariali- Itanagar D/C line has been planned to strengthen the interconnection between Assam & Arunachal Pradesh & also to provide an additional source of power to capital Itanagar.

In this vision, Govt. of India owned REC Transmission Project Transmission Co. Ltd. has awarded this project to our company in the name of NER II Transmission Ltd. (SPV).

In-principal approval already accorded by the MoEFCC, Regional office Shillong for diversion of 48.147 ha forest land for construction of said 132 kV D/C BNC-Itanagar Transmission Line in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Necessary compensatory levies as

stipulated in IPA dated 31-01-2019 have also been deposited. Permission for commencement of work in forest land has also been accorded.

On due course, we have encountered some restrictions from Airport Authority of India towards maintaining top elevation of transmission line in line with newly declared Green field airport at Holongi near Assam and Arunachal Pradesh state boundary.

The Airport Authority of India vide their NOC ID: HOLO/NORTH_EAST/P/020419/369356 dated 12-03-2019 informed to restrict height of 11 No. of towers (from AP 59 to AP 70) of approved route in Drupong reserve forest in the state of Arunachal Pradesh (Copy of the letter is enclosed). Detailed survey activities have been done to find out best possible alternate route by shifting the concerned 11 No. of towers from hill tops to valley so that minimum deviation of approved route as well as less tree cutting can be achieved.

After detailed survey, it has appeared that maintaining technical feasibility of transmission line for 11 affected towers, total 14 No. of existing proposed towers are to be shifted from proposed locations and in new route 22 No. of towers are to be erected to maintain minimum sag of the line which will allow minimum tree felling in new route. The comparison of affected stretch vis-a-vis the identified new route is tabulated below:

S. No.	Particular	Total Line route in Forest Area (AP 53 to AP 105)		Affected Stretch for Airport Restriction (AP 55 to AP 71)		Remark
		Old Route	Revised Proposed Route	Old Route	Revised Proposed Route	
1	Total No. of Tower	56	64	14	22	22 No. of Towers are proposed in place of 14 Towers in revised route from AP 55 to AP 71 to provide Aviation clearance for proposed Holongi Airport.
2	Line Length (Km)	17.832	18.143	5.931	6.242	
3	Area (Ha)	48.147	48.987	16.014	16.853	
4	No. of Trees	431	423* (Approx.)	137	129* (Approx.)	
Additional Area required for New Route (Ha)			0.840 ha			

From the above table it is clear that, effective additional forest area required for the project in revised line route is 0.84 ha.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Ministry of Power, Govt. of India accorded approval under section 68 of the Electricity Act, 2003 on 07.02.2017 & subsequently conferred, under section 164 of the same Act, all the powers which the telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on 31st August 2018 for the project (copy of the approvals are enclosed).

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Transmission line Projects are environment friendly and do not involve any disposal of solid effluents and hazardous substance in land, air and water. Moreover, in forest area trees are felled below each conductor to facilitate stringing. On completion of construction only one strip is maintained for O & M purpose. Therefore, the actual loss of forest is restricted to some selected area only. However, as per the requirement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 approval of Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India for diversion forest land shall be taken before construction of line & compensatory afforestation shall be done double the degraded forest land to compensate the loss of vegetation.

Social Issues

As per prevailing law, land below the transmission line is not required to be acquired. However, NER II transmission Limited will pay the compensation of the damages as per prevailing guidelines & as per assessment of the state Govt.


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