

Justification for locating the Project in forest land and details of alternatives examined

The most important criteria for selection of site for Thermal Power Station is availability of land with least R&R issues, fuel availability and its transportation, water availability from a reasonable distance and the acceptability from the environmental considerations.

Alternate Sites identified for the Odisha UMPP

Alternative Site-1:

Village Bhasma in Jharsuguda District: About 2500 acres of land is available. Jharsuguda Airport having an abandoned airstrip is situated adjacent to the site. Presently, this airport is non operational. As such, this location was not found feasible for setting up UMPP.

Alternative Site-2:

East side of Village Bhedabahal in Sundargarh District: This site is proposed on the eastern side of SH-10 near village Bhedabahal and a township is proposed on the western side of SH 10 (between IB river and SH-10). Since the land available involves settlements and forestlands, therefore, this site was also not found to be suitable.

Alternative Site-2:

West side of village Bhedabahal: About 3245.96 acres of land is available out of which 2460 acres land will be used for proposed plant. Both plant and ash pond is proposed to be located on the western side of SH-10 (between IB river and SH-10).

Based on the site selection teams assessment, it was found that Site 1 was not suitable due to the airport authority's plan to utilise the air strip in near future. Further, the Site II involves displacement of large number of families as well as contains forestland. Therefore, Sites 1 and 2 were not considered.

The site 3 is single crop agricultural land and wasteland involving minimum displacement and minimum revenue forest land.

In view of the above, alternate Site 3 was considered to be more suitable for locating the proposed plant. The identified land, about 2460 acres, will be adequate for 4000 MW capacity. A sub-group of the Expert Appraisal Committee, MoEF, Govt. of India along with CEA official visited the proposed as well as both the alternate site to inspect the feasibility of sites. Finally, proposed site was considered most suitable site. The 42.05 Acres of revenue forest land falling within the project layout is indispensable minimum for the project and is proposed for diversion.


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