

## JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST LAND

## PROJECT DETAILS: - CONSTRUCTION OF 132 KV LINE FROM CHANGLANG TO JAIRAMPUR UNDER COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME FOR STRENGTHENING OF TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Forest area involved: 136.458 hectare

The proposed 132 kV Changlang to Jairampur Transmission line is a sub-project which is conceived under the govt. of India's ambitious "Comprehensive scheme for strengthening of transmission and distribution in Arunachal Pradesh". Which aims in major improvement of power scenario of the state by constructing new transmission/distribution lines and associated sub-stations. Ministry of power,govt. of India has conveyed approval of the project vide their letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 with a total financial implication of 3199.45 crore.

After careful route survey, the route alignment of the proposed 132kV line is finalized connecting 132/33 Changlang Substation (New) to 132/33 kV Jairampur Substation (New), since it is found to be the best feasible route from construction, operation and maintenance point of view. The route involves very minimum tree cuttingand hence impact to the forest and environment is also found as minimum. Except the proposed route, no other alternative is found suitable from both construction and environment point of view.

However, a section of the proposed line i.e 59.8482 Ha falls under USF (under **Changlang Forest Division**), 38.1915 Ha falls under USF (under **Nampong Forest Division**), 25.4178 Ha falls under Khamtang Reserved Forest (under **Nampong Forest Division**) and 13.0005 Ha falls under Honkap Reserve Forest (under **Nampong Forest Division**). The proposed route of the 132 kV line, could not avoid the above mentioned areas, as the land from Changlang to Jairampur are totally under forest area and avoiding the forest area is practically not possible. The forest area involved (136.458 Ha.) is the minimum requirement for the project. Since, the proposed 132 kV line is an integral part of the main project which aims at improvement of Transmission &Distribution network in the area for better and uninterrupted power availability.

Therefore, it is mooted to apply for forest clearance as per MoEF guidelines. Therefore, owing to the factors as mentioned above, it is found justifiable to locate the project in forest land but also ensuring minimum damage to the forest and environment.

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