



Justification for construction of 400 KV D/C (Twin) New Mariani – New Kohima Transmission Line (Assam Portion) in the state of Assam being located in forest land

Project Background

The subject scheme has been approved in the 5th Standing Committee Meeting on Power System Planning of North Eastern Region held on 08-08-2015 at Imphal, 15th NERPC/TCC meeting held on 21-08-2015 at Guwahati and 35th Empowered Committee meeting on Transmission held on 14-09-2015 at New Delhi.

The expansion of 400kV network in NER is planned through new 400kV line and up gradation of existing 400kV lines presently charged at 132kV to its rated voltage of 400kV. A 400kV ring is being established in Assam and Meghalaya connecting Silchar – Misa – Balipara – Bongaigaon – Azara/Byrnihat – Silchar substations. Another 400kV ring is being established interconnecting Assam and Tripura through Silchar – Palatana – Surajmaninagar – P.K.Bari – Silchar corridor.

The extension of 400kV system to the states of Manipur and Nagaland by interconnecting them with Assam has been planned through a 400kV ring connecting Silchar – Imphal – New Kohima – New Mariani – Misa – Silchar along with new 400kV substation at New Mariani and charging the New Mariani – Misa line at its rated voltage of 400kV. Additionally, the Silchar – Imphal – New Kohima – New Mariani – Misa corridor would be an alternate for Silchar – Misa line.

The present scheme will form the Imphal – New Kohima – New Mariani section of Silchar – Imphal – New Kohima – New Mariani – Misa – Silchar 400kV ring along with establishment of new 400/220kV substation at New Kohima. This would require up gradation of the New Mariani S/s of POWERGRID to 400kV and LILLO of the Kathalguri – Misa D/c line at New Mariani S/s along with charging of Misa – New Mariani section at rated voltage of 400kV (under the scope of POWERGRID). The New Mariani – Kathalguri section would be kept charged at 220kV.

The 400 KV D/C (Twin) New Mariani – New Kohima Transmission line to be constructed passes through the Golaghat division of Assam. There is no alternative available to avoid forest land. The selected route for the transmission line is most feasible with minimum number of trees and environment being affected and also affecting the least area of forest land. The forest land to be diverted for construction of the said transmission line is 264 Hectares.





Legal Framework

The Prior approval of the Government of India under Section 68 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 2003 for the subject project has been obtained vide Mop's letter dated 08.02/2015. It is proposed to execute the above entire transmission scheme as per provisions contained in the Indian Electricity Act, 2003 and the rules made there-under and the Electric Supply Act, 1910 and 1948, in so far as these are applicable.

Environmental Impact Assessment

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 areas trees are felled below each conductor to facilitate stringing. On completion of construction only one such strip is maintained for O&M purpose. Therefore the actual loss of forest is restricted to some selected areas only. However, as per the requirement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 approval of Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. Of India for diversion of Forest Land shall be taken before construction of line and compensatory afforestation shall be taken before construction of line and degraded forest land to compensate the loss of vegetation, due to diversion of forest land if there is any after detailed survey.

As per the assessment based on Detail Survey in the forest area and subsequently a joint inspection by the Forest Department and Topo-sheet reference, an area of 20.64 Hectares is unavoidably passing through Reserved Forest area of one forest division (Golaghat) in the state of Assam. The extent of the forest area is completely unavoidable owing to the physiography of the area and presence of Reserved Forest area across the route of the proposed transmission line. However, the forest area involved is minimum extent required for the execution of the project in the State of Assam.

Social Issues

As per the prevailing law, land below transmission line is not required to be acquired. However, Kohima Mariani Transmission Limited will pay the compensation of the damages as per prevailing guidelines and as per the assessment of the State Govt.

