

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi: 110003,  
**Dated:19-12-2024**

To

**The Special Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Forests & Environment,  
Government of Meghalaya,  
Shillong.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation, Limited (NEEPCO, Ltd.), Arunachal Pradesh, for non-forestry use of 22.00 ha. of Private Deemed Forest land for construction of Mawphu Hydro Electric Project, Stage-II, 85 MW (2x42.5 MW) in East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya (Online proposal No. FP/ML/HYD/15326/2015)- regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Meghalaya's letter No. FOR.20/2019/622 dated 19.07.2023 submitted the proposal to the Regional Office, Shillong seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of proposal the following shortcoming is observed :

- i. The User Agency has mentioned in their undertaking that three alternative sites for the project were studied at PFR stage of investigation. Details of the same along with reason for rejecting other alternatives and KML files needs to be submitted.
- ii. CAT plan submitted along with the proposal is not approved by competent authority. Approved copy of CAT plan needs to be submitted.
- iii. Muck Management plan submitted along with the proposal is not approved by competent authority. Approved copy of Muck Management plan needs to be submitted.
- iv. Status of Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) and Carrying Capacity Study (CCS) carried out for Umiew river needs to be submitted.
- v. The proposed area is hydel category for generation of the power. The State Government is requested to submit the detailed project report (DPR) as approved/prepared by the authority.
- vi. The State Govt. has not submitted approved copy of the land use plan. Copy of land use plan approved by competent authority mentioning all components

along with OB dump sites needs to be submitted.

- vii. The State Govt. should provide details of Forest area and non-forest area affected in each component of project separately.
- viii. If construction of Owners residential/Non-residential area is proposed at Dam site and Owners residential/Non-residential area near power house (1.5 ha each), the State Government is requested to clarify whether the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest has been explored by the State Government and if possible, revised area for diversion needs to be submitted.
- ix. Out of total area proposed for compensatory afforestation, 3 ha is classified as moderately dense forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020. As per Rule 13 (1) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, programme for improvement of forest crop needs to be submitted by the State Government.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully

*Sd/-*

**(Amit Anand)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong of MoEF&CC.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.