

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-1100 03
Dated: 20 December, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment & Forests,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar.

Sub: Seeking clarification on the Stage-I Clearance status of EHEP (3097 MW).

and

Sub: Diversion of Forest for the Etalin HEP (3097).

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the copy of the letters dated 06.12.2022 and 08.12.2022 received from Shri Tasku Tayu and other Project Affected People's Forum (PAPF), and Shri Idu Mishmi Youth, Arunachal Pradesh respectively on the above mentioned subject wrt the Etalin hydro electric project.

In view of the above the Government of Arunachal Pradesh is requested to examine the matter and furnish the comments to this Ministry.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA) Department of Forest, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati of MoEF&CC.

The Chairperson
Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
New Delhi

December 8, 2022

Subject: Diversion of forest for the Etalin HEP (3097)

Dear Chairperson and members of the FAC,

We write to you regarding the Etalin Hydro Electric Project (HEP) (3097 MW) in Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh, ahead of the Forest Advisory Committee's (FAC) meeting on Friday, 09/12/2022, in which the said project is scheduled to be discussed.

The FAC in a meeting on 11/05/2022 had decided to constitute a Sub-committee to examine the contents of all representations made against the proposed the Etalin HEP. As per FAC's decision, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) constituted a Sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr Sanjay Deshmukh. The Sub-committee held a meeting in Roing (Lower Dibang Valley district) on 09/06/2022 where many local stakeholders, including several project affected people, participated and shared their concerns related to the project. Most of this letter's authors (undersigned) also participated in the meeting. The Sub-committee's mandate was to prepare a report based on the examination of the content of all representations made to the FAC and the field visit which included the meeting in Roing. However, to our knowledge, no such report from the Sub-committee has been made public. We believe the no further decisions should be taken by the FAC regarding the Etalin HEP until the Sub-committee's report is made public and the various project affected people, both upstream and downstream of the project, have had a chance to review it and share their feedback with the FAC.

The Etalin HEP (3097 MW) will be India's largest project. It is being built on the same river, Dibang, as the recently approved Dibang Multipurpose Project (DMP) (2880 MW) by NHPC. These projects combined will have severe, irreversible, and potentially catastrophic consequences for the people, rivers, mountains, and wild animals of the twin Dibang Valley districts. Decision-making on India's largest hydropower project should not be rushed and must be done in a transparent and inclusive manner considering local sentiment, safety, and scientific evidence. Free, Prior and Informed consent should be sought from all affected communities upstream, downstream and elsewhere where the project's various components are located, including mitigative and ameliorative measures. The viability of the project must be re-examined in light of the rapidly changing river hydrology due to accelerating climate change, which puts safety of the indigenous Idu Mishmi people of Dibang Valley and millions of others downstream of the project at grave risk.

We hope the FAC will postpone any further decision-making on the Etalin HEP until the sub-committee has examined and meaningfully responded to all representations made regarding the project, its detailed report is published, and the public has had a chance to review it and provide comments on it. The FAC must follow the procedural rules that it lays down for us, as local people, to keep faith in India's environmental governance.

Sincerely

ADH (SPY)
[Signature]

Idu Mishmi youth,
Lower Dibang Valley and Dibang Valley districts,
Arunachal Pradesh



Mr Iho Tapo



Mr Aito Miwu



Ms Achili Mihu



Ms. Chamali Milli



Mr Eja Pulu



Mr Timai Miwu



Ms Moniya Umbrey



Mr Jibi Pulu



PROJECT AFFECTED PEOPLE'S FORUM (PAPF)

DIBANG VALLEY DISTRICT (ANINI)

H.Q. ETALIN

(SHRI TASKU TAYU)

(SHRI SADU MIHU)

(M) 9436048653

(M) 8416009314

SHRI ROHIT MELE,

(M) 9402484841
7629999284

SHRI RAJIV PULU

(M) 9436402836

SHRI TUNI MELO,

(M) 9402974171

SHRI JANDO TARU

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SHRI SANJA MANO

SHRI NGASI MENA

SHRI DILIP TAYU

SHRI PAILO MELE

SHRI YUPI POCHA

SHRI UMESH POCHA

SHRI RANCHI TAYU

SHRI SOKO TAYU

SHRI RAJIV TARU

SHRI AWUDA MELE

SHRI RAJEEV MANO

SHRI AJAY MISO

SHRI NEFA YALLA

SHRI TAYA MELE
ASST. CO-CONVENOR

SHRI NATRI MELE

SHRI OJOME MELO

SHRI ELA EKROYA

Ref:

Date: 06/12/2022

To,

(a) The Secretary (MoEF),

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

Jorbagh Road

New Delhi- 110003

(b) The Director,

General of Forests and Special Secretary

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

Jorbagh Road

New Delhi- 110003

(c) The Inspector General of Forest (FC)

Govt. of India

Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran, Aliganj Jorbagh Road

New Delhi- 110003

Sub: Seeking clarification on the Stage-I Clearance status of EHEP (3097 MW)

Ref: FOR-279/Cons/2010/Vol-1/2123-26, Dated 12th February'2018.

Sir,

Greetings from Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh!

With utmost humble submission we the members of Project Affected People's Forum (PAPF), comprising of all the Project Affected Families of the Etalin Hydroelectric Project (3097 MW), Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh wish to take the privilege to submit the following for your kind perusal please.

Sir, we are deeply concerned with the non-progress in the matter of Stage-I & Stage-II clearance of the EHEP (3097 MW). The said project, undertaken by the M/S Etalin Hydro Electric Power Company Ltd, Arunachal Pradesh is the only Run of the River type of dam, a largest of its kind in the region. After the completion of initial mandatory obligations such as the Pre-Feasibility Survey Report, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA & EMP), the project got the whole hearted en masse support of the public of the area during the Public Hearing conducted at Etalin, Dibang Valley in 12th December 2014. The Diversion of land for this project includes the 1155.11 ha of community lands which have been officially acquired from the 265 numbers of Project Affected Families. After the successful conducting of the Public Hearing there was no telltale signs of project activities or any large scale construction works on the ground. We are made to understand that the project is stalled for now. As a matter of fact we believe that for the construction works to begin the project will require Stage-I & Stage-II Clearance from the GOI, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Changes.

O/o ICEN, CARACORUM (PAPF)
Dy. No. 813824
Date: 19/12/22

O/o DGF & SS
Dy. No. 813824
Date: 19/12/22

IC/Fc
19/12/22
No. suggest
up
JBM
AIG(DM)
19/12/22
TOL Tiji
19/12/22

PDS to PPF
3093/wm
06/12/22



PROJECT AFFECTED PEOPLE'S FORUM (PAPF)
DIBANG VALLEY DISTRICT (ANINI)

(SHRI TASKU TAYU)

H.Q. ETALIN

(SHRI SADU MIHU)

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SHRI RAJEEV MANO

SHRI AJAY MISO

SHRI NEFA YALLA

SHRI TAYA MELE
ASST. CO-CONVENOR

SHRI NATRI MELE

SHRI OJOME MELO

SHRI ELA EKROYA

Ref:

Date:

As per the reports available the project was supposed to be taken over by the SJVN Ltd in the first part of this year. Now we are also concerned over the delayed take over by the SJVN Ltd for reasons not known to us. It is pertinent that we as the stakeholders be kept in the know of things, if our participation for any positive contribution as the community player is felt necessary in the long run. Through this representation we wish to seek your guidance in finding out the actual status of the In-Principle (Stage-I) Clearance for the EHEP (3097 MW). Earlier for granting the In-Principle Stage-I Clearance, the Forests Advisory Committee (FAC) had sought some clarifications in its meeting held on 28.02.2017. The Nodal Officer, FCA, submitted all the sought clarifications along with the Revised Proposal for Diversion of 1165.66 ha for the project on 27.02.2018. The Covid-19 pandemic finally cut off all kinds of information.

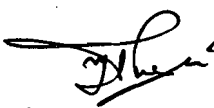
Therefore Sir, we seek a clarification through your intervention in obtaining the latest status of the In-principle Clearance for the Etalin HEP (3097 MW) so that the project works starts in all earnestness.


Thanking you.


Enclosed:-


- **Ref:FOR-279/Cons/2010/Vol-1/2123-26,Dated12th February'2018.**


Yours faithfully,



Shri Tasku Tayu
Chairman
(PAPF)


Shri Rohit Mele
General Secretary
(Admin & Protocol)
(PAPF)


Shri Ngasi Mena
Chief Advisor
(PAPF)


Shri Rajiv Pulu
V.P (Org.)
(PAPF)


Shri Jando Taro
Convenor
(PAPF)


Shri Sadu Mihu
General Secretary
(PAPF)



PROJECT AFFECTED PEOPLE'S FORUM (PAPF)
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SHRI TAYA MELE
ASST. CO-CONVENOR

SHRI NATRI MELE

SHRI OJOME MELO

SHRI ELA EKROYA

Ref:

Date:

Copy to: -

1. The PS to Hon'ble Union Minister of Power (MoP), Govt. of India, for kind information and necessary action please.
2. The Additional Director General of Forest. New Delhi
For kind information and necessary action please.
3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, North Eastern regional Office
LAW-U-SIB, Lumbatngen, Near M.T.C Workshop, Shillong-793021 for kind information and necessary action please.
4. The members Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), B-1 Wing 7th Floor Paryavaran Bhawan CGO , Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, for kind information and necessary action please.
5. The PCCF (A & V) & NO (FCA) Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar, for information please.
6. M/s Etalin Hydro Power Company Ltd. Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana) for kind information please.
7. The CCF, Tezu, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh, for kind information please.
8. The DFO, Anini, Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh, for kind information please.
9. Personal Copy.

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**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
ITANAGAR**

FOR.279/Cons/2010/Vol-1/2123-26

Dated 12th February, 2018.

To

The Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003

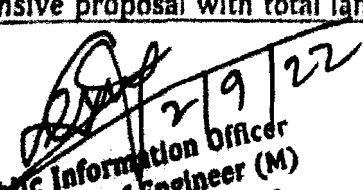
Sub: Revised proposal for diversion of 1165.66 ha (Including 91.331 ha underground area) of forest land for construction of Etalin Hydro Electric Project (3097 MW) in Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Etalin Hydro Electric Power Company Limited, Arunachal Pradesh.

Ref: Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi letter's No. 8-20/2014-FC dtd.28.03.2017.

Sir,

With reference to MoEF & CC's File No. 8-20/2014-FC dtd.28.03.2017 referred above, I am directed to send the clarifications/documents as recommended by the Forests Advisory Committee in the meeting held on 28.02.2017:


Sl. No.	Clarifications sought by FAC	Compliance
(i)	State Government shall provide shape files of forest land sought for diversion.	Shape file of the forest land (1165.66 ha) sought for diversion attached at (Annexure-I)
(ii)	Approved CAT Plan shall be submitted.	Copy of approved CAT Plan is attached at Annexure-II .
(iii)	State Government shall submit R & R Plan duly approved by competent authority.	Copy of approved R&R Plan is attached at Annexure- III .
(iv)	It is observed that project proponent had proposed huge area for construction and dumping State Government shall explore possibility to reduce area. Regional office in its site inspection had not recommended the proposal in the present form. State Government in consultation with regional office may propose a modified proposal after addressing the concerns raised in the inspection note of regional office.	The reply has already been submitted to the Ministry vide letter No.279/Cons/2007/604-07 dated.29 th May'2015.
(v)	There are two different proposals for diversion of forest land in favour of same User Agency. Both the proposal shall be combined and one comprehensive proposal with total land	Anonpani is a separate small hydroelectric project located in the downstream of the proposed Tangon reservoir on Anonpani river. Etalin project is mainly utilizing the water of


Public Information Officer
O/o the Chief Engineer (M)
Deptt. of HPD : Itanagar

	comprehensive proposal with total land requirements shall be placed before FAC for further consideration.	<p>project is mainly utilizing the water of Dri river; it is a separate project on Dri river, origination from Dri catchment area, however dam is also using downstream water from Tangon river.</p> <p>Further, Anonpani SHEP is located exclusively on Tangon river, which falls on the catchment of Tangon river. This river meets the Dri river at a distance of around 1.5 km.</p> <p>In view of the above, the two proposals technically cannot be combined and hence need to be considered separately.</p> <p>Anonpani SHEP being a separate independent project, shall be taken up for construction after receipt of all statutory clearances.</p> <p>In-principle approval has been accorded to Anonpani SHEP by the Ministry vide letter dated.22nd August'2017 as it deals with catchment area of Tangon river (copy at Annexure-IV).</p>
(vi)	The CA area shall be revised. State Government shall provide shape file of CA land.	<p>Total requirement of CA land against the project is 2331.32 ha. An area of 490 ha has been identified by the DFO, Social Forestry Division Tawang, at Shocktsen VFR (300 ha) and Bleteng VFR (190 ha). Necessary documents against 490 ha of land such as suitability certificate, Geo Reference of both the CA land and layout plan have been attached at annexure-V.</p> <p>Remaining area i.e., 2331.32 ha - 490 ha =1841.32 ha has been identified by the DFO, Anini Social Forestry Division in 25 plots.</p> <p>Necessary documents against 1841.32 ha such as suitability certificate, Geo Reference of the CA lands and layout plan have been attached at annexure-VI.</p> <p>Shape/KML file of 490 ha and 1841.32 ha are attached at annexure-VII.</p>
(vii)	The proposed project falls under the richest bio-geographical province of the	As per certificate issued by the Principal Investigator Wildlife Institute of India, a team comprising of 15 persons will be

[Signature] 2/9/22
 Public Information Officer
 O/o the Chief Engineer (M)
 Deptt. of NPA, Tawang

	<p>Himalayan zone and falls under one of the mega bio-diversity hotspots of the world. The proposed project location falls at junction of the Palaearctic, Indo-Chinese and Indo- Malayan bio-geographic regions having luxuriant forests and plethora of flora and fauna. About 6 Globally Threatened mammal species are found in this region of which 3 are endangered and 3 are under vulnerable category. About 680 bird species have been recorded from this region which about 56% of total bird species of India. Among them 19 are Globally Threatened and 10 Near Threatened. It has 4 Critically Endangered, 2 Endangered and 13 Vulnerable species. This makes this area a very important place in terms of conservation of globally threatened bird species. It also has 3 very rare restricted range endemic bird species. This entire region fall under, IUCN management categories III, IV, Endemic Bird Area, Global Biodiversity Hotspot, and Key Biodiversity Area indicating its importance at global scale. The Chief Conservator of Forests however, mentions few mammal and plant species. In fact this area has more biodiversity than any other part of the country. Another independent study using camera trap captured a total of 12 individual tiger and 8 individual clouded leopards at various locations in Dihang Valley. A large majority, above 60% of the camera traps were placed outside Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary which shows that both species are not only abundant but also very widespread in the district. Therefore, FAC recommend conducting multiple seasonal replicate study on biodiversity assessment by an internationally credible institute as the current study (EIA) is completely inadequate in this regard.</p>	<p>visiting and conducting the study from January to September 2018 (copy attached at annexure-VIII).</p>
(viii)	FAC also direct to take views of NTCA since this is vital tiger area of the region.	NTCA to furnish the views to FAC on this point.
(ix)	There are a number of representations received regarding the project and project proponent is advised to provide	As stated by the User Agency, representations received earlier have already been replied/clarified to the


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 O/o the Chief Engineer (M)
 Dept. of HPD : Itanagar

clarification on the same.

MoEF & CC. However, they are not aware of any representation (s) received regarding the project.

It is to submit that conducting the Multiple Seasonal Replicate Studies for the preparation of Wildlife Conservation Plan will take 2/3 years for its completion and the In-principle (1st Stage) approval accorded by the Ministry shall be valid for 5(five) years.

Therefore, compliance report is submitted for consideration of the Ministry for issuance of the In-principle (1st Stage) approval in respect of Etalin HEP (3097 MW) for diversion of - 1165.66 ha of forestland under section-II of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

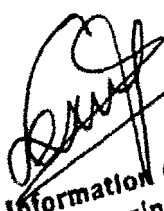
Yours faithfully,

(R.K Singh)
Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy to:-

1. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, North Eastern Regional Office, LAW-U-SIB, Lumbatngen, Near M.T.C. Workshop, Shillong- 793 021 for information.
2. The Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), B-1 Wing, 7th Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 for information.
3. M/s Etalin Hydro Power Company Limited, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana) for information.

(R.K Singh)
Nodal Officer (FCA)


Public Information Officer
O/o the Chief Engineer (M)
Deptt. of HPD : Itanagar

2/9/22