

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: 1100 03,  
**Dated: May, 2024**

To  
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Forests & Environment,  
Government of Karnataka,  
Bangalore.

**Sub:-Proposal for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 4 of Kagihal Village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bangaluru, Karnataka State (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018)-Reg**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter number FEE 57 FLL 2021 (e) dated 24.04.2024 wherein point wise compliance report of the Stage-I approval letter dated 12.07.2021 has been submitted on the above-mentioned subject. In this regard it is informed that after analyzing the compliance report the following is observed:-

1. With reference to the EMPRI report Para 7.1: *The proposed pumped water storage project will adversely affect the aquatic ecosystem including fish biodiversity, natural recruitment of local species and their growth. This will affect the employment, income and livelihood of resident fishers. The important effects of the projects, among others, are:*

- i. *Turbidity of the reservoir water, reduced light penetration, photosynthesis and alterations in food chain.*
- ii. *Increased velocity of water affecting the migration of fish, growth and survival of fish; Possible congregation of fish near water intake/ release point.*
- iii. *Sucking of small & large fish during pumping of water from the reservoir*
- iv. *Disturbances in the fishing net operations; possible damages to craft and gear; affecting livelihood of fishers.*

Further, as per Para 7.2 of the EMPRI report: *The project implementing company should consider the protection of livelihood of fishers as an important component of the project implementation. The important measures required to be taken, among others, are:*

- i. *Collection of baseline data on Physical, chemical and biological parameters of the water; Primary productivity & fish production potential of the reservoir; Socioeconomic conditions of the local fishermen and other parameters prior*

- to initiation of the construction work.*
- ii. *Fortnightly or monthly monitoring of the physical, chemical, biological parameters of the reservoir to understand the changes in the reservoir water conditions and to identify the possible environmental impacts of the project implementation.*
  - iii. *Implementing appropriate measures (i) To reduce the velocity of water, (ii) To prevent the water becoming turbid, (iii) To avoid fish getting suck into inlet pipe, and (iv) to minimise the disturbances in fishing operations etc.*
  - iv. *Constant interaction with fishers; Developing an 'alert system' during release of water into the reservoir; Protecting their fishing activity.*
  - v. *Incorporate socio-economic development of local fishers as an important component of the project and initiate appropriate measures to protect their employment, income and food.*
  - vi. *Any other measures to protect the reservoir environment.*

It is noted that the user agency has submitted NOC from Renuka Sagar Dam Authority. However, at the time of the Stage-I approval the study report was not carried out. Now, the study report has been submitted and the summary report of EMPRI infers adverse impact of the project on aquatic life specially on fish and there are no comments of State government or department related to the reservoir, fisheries and livelihood of the people. In this regard, the comments of State Govt. and related departments (i.e. Renuka Sagar Dam Authorities, Department of Water Resources/Irrigation and Department of fisheries) including CWLW on the points mentioned in the EMPRI report shall be submitted by the State Government.

2. In respect of the condition no. A (xii) of the Stage-I approval, the KML of diverted land and CA lands must be uploaded on e-Green watch portal before Stage-II approval.

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

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The PCCF cum Nodal Office, Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.