

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: 16th September, 2022
19th

To

Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests,
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Shimla.

Sub: Proposal for change in the name of the User Agency from M/s. JSW Energy Limited to M/s. JSW Energy (Kuther) Limited for diversion of 58.2368 ha of forest land for the construction 240 MW Kuther Hydro Electric Project in Bharmour Forest Division Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh's letter No. Ft.48-2084/2010 (FCA) dated 04.08.2022 on the above mentioned subject forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 16.02.2022. After examination of the proposal the Ministry observed following shortcomings:

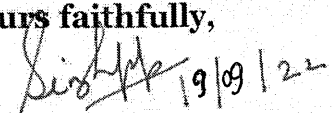
- i. The KML file provided by the State/DFO has been analyzed on DSS and it has been found that no plantation activity is visible. The State may provide the proof of the plantation done in respect of this proposal.
- ii. The IRO (Shimla) has inspected the CA sites which have been uploaded in e-Green Watch Portal and not for the CA sites submitted by the DFO to the Ministry. There is a need to re-verify CA areas from IROs and provide KML files of CA areas to IRO well in advance.
- iii. The correct KML files of the CA areas may be uploaded on E-green watch portal
- iv. As per the approval dated 11.01.2013, a cumulative study was to be done by the State Government on Ravi River to assess the impact on landscape. But the study has not been done by the State even after lapse of the 10 years. The reasons for not doing so may be provided.
- v. The User Agency has not set up Ecological Monitoring Unit to monitor the impact of the project on flora and fauna of the area. The reasons for not doing so may be provided.
- vi. In response to the observation no. (4) of the Ministry's letter dated 16.02.2022, the details of works on which expenditure of ₹27.56 crore has been incurred on CAT plan has been provided but impact thereof on the ecological functions has not been provided. Also the supporting documents/photographs on implementation of CAT plan has not been provided by the State. The same may be provided.

APK

vii. In response to observation no.10 of the Ministry's letter dated 16.02.2022, the reply of the State is not satisfactory. A cogent reason for inordinate delay in submitting the proposal for change in the name of the user agency to the Central Government in 2022 may be provided. The State Government is also requested to furnish reasons as to why this case should not be treated as violation of FC Act.

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

Yours faithfully,


(Preet Pal Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Regional Officer, MoEF&CC's Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.