

J.N.C. (P)

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NO. 8-2/2012-FC/ 3306

16<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2013

To,

The Addl Director General of Forests,  
FC Division, Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Room No 416, Parayavaran Bhawan, C.G.O Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110510.

28/1/13  
28/1/13

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1551.60 ha of Forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Tipaimukh Hydro Electric Project in Mizoram.

Ref: Ministry's Letter No.8-2/2012-Fc Dtd.11/01/2012.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am to enclosed herewith the site inspection report along with photographs for your kind perusal and further necessary action.

107/15749/12  
2-2/11/12

28/1/13  
28/1/13

Enclosure: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

~~DIR (FC)~~ ~~FC (P)~~

*[Handwritten mark]*

*[Signature]*  
(Dr. Anil Kumar)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C)

S. A. G. F. / SPO  
24.01.13  
Monitoring cell  
Shree  
28/1/13

## Introduction

The site inspection for the proposed diversion of forest land of 1551.60 ha under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the construction of Tipaimukh H.E.P in Mizoram was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013. The officers of the Mizoram Forest Department and N.H.P.C who accompany the Addl Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Central) on this date were; Shri Jitendra Kumar IFS Chief Conservator of Forest(Planning), Shri H.Laianmawia Divisional Forest Officer, Darlawn Forest Division, and others officers of the Forest Department, Shri K.L.Solanki General Manager (N.H.P.C Tipaimukh) and Shi Jabar.SinghManager N.H.P.C

### Site inspection report by Regional Office

**1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

*The legal status of the 1551.60 ha of forest land is under the Tuivawl Riverine Reserve Forest, Tuivawl Riverine Reserve Forest, Tuirang Reverine Reserve Forest and Inner Line Reserve Forest.*

**2. Item wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

<i>Project Component</i>	<i>Forest land (Ha)</i>	<i>Non-Forest Land (Ha)</i>	<i>Total land (Ha)</i>
<i>(a) Reservoir Submergence</i>	<i>1489.00</i>	<i>111.00</i>	<i>1600.00</i>
<i>(b) Dam including colony &amp; approach</i>	<i>50.00</i>	<i>00.00</i>	<i>50.00</i>
<i>(c) Diversion of N.H- Mizoram portion 150</i>	<i>12.60</i>	<i>1.80</i>	<i>14.40</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1551.60</i>	<i>112.80</i>	<i>1664.40</i>

**3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes details thereof.**

*Yes. 50.00 ha of forest land is involved in the construction of residential building in the proposed dam site of this proposal. However the details and breakup of the area for such residential building construction has not been provided.*

**4. Total cost of the project at present rates.**

*Total cost of project as per estimates of N.H.P.C is Rs 8138.79 crore. ( This includes the total expenditure of the project in totality both in Manipur and Mizoram).*

**5. Wildlife**

**Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not.**

*Though the Conservator of Forest Northern Circle, Government of Mizoram has not mentioned any rare or endangered wild species in his report but the list of wild animals found or present in the proposed forest land of 1551.60 ha has not been included in the proposal. The comment of the State Chief Wild Life Warden on the wild life related issues is also not included in the proposal.*



**6. Vegetation.**

The vegetation is mostly open and degraded forest due to jhum cultivation with canopy density varying from 0.30 to 0.50.

As per the enumeration statement furnished by the Divisional Forest Officer, Darlawn Forest Division the total number of trees to be felled in the project area is 14634.

**Effect of removal of trees on the general eco-system in the area.**

As the forest areas has been under jhuming in the past the effect of the removal of trees on the general ecosystem may not have adverse impact. It may be mentioned here that when the dam construction is completed the area of 1600.00 ha will be under submergence and in course of time it will gradually take the shape of wet land which may attracts water birds and other migratory birds species.

**Important species**

Important trees species list has not been provided by the Forest department but the local names and botanical names of the trees affected is given in the enumeration list.

**Number of trees to be felled of girth below 60 cm.**

There are 11,306 nos as per the enumeration list submitted by Forest Department.

**Number of trees to be felled of girth above 60 cm.**

There are 3328 nos as per the enumeration list submitted by Forest Department

**7. Background note on the proposal.**

The Tipaimukh H.E. (Multipurpose) Project with the installed capacity of 6x250 MW is located about 500 m D/S of the confluence of river Tuivui with Barak near Manipur and Mizoram border by constructing a rock fill dam and a reservoir mostly along upstream of the river and the dam. The total land which will be submerged on the left bank i.e. Mizoram side is ( Forest land 1489.00+Non-Forest land 111.00) = 1600.00 ha. Dam including Colony will required 50 ha of Forests land and for diversion of NH-150 12.60 ha Forest land and 1.80 ha Non-forest land will be affected.

Though the proposal of the project which falls under the State of Manipur has not been initiated as yet, however as per the information provided by N.H.P.C submergence area i.e. 27550.00 ha will be affected on the right bank i.e. on Manipur where forest land is 21952.64 ha and non-forest land is 5597.36 ha. The dam and colony will require 759.46 ha of forest land and 260.44 non-forest land and for the diversion of NH-53 and NH-150 15.60 ha and 49.80 ha of forest land

The Dam construction will start simultaneously from both the left bank and the right bank. The Project also provides power sharing to Manipur (Staggered Free power 5% for the first 5 years, 10% for the next 10 years and 15% for the next 20 years. For Mizoram 1% free power throughout the life of the Project.

**8. Compensatory afforestation:**

**Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not.**

*(a) Suitable for Compensatory Afforestation as per the certificate provided by the DFO, Darlawn Forest Division, Mizoram.*

**Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other encumbrances.**

*(a) The Compensatory Afforestation land of 1551.60 ha of Non-Forest land has been transferred and mutated to the Forest Department. The Officials of the Forest Department during the Site Inspection has informed that this land is free from encroachment.(Annexure-A)*

**Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view.**

*(a) No as per the site inspection report of Conservator of Forests ,Northern Circle Aizawl Mizoram.*

Land identified for compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not.

*(a) The Non-forest land of 1551.60 ha is in 17 patches of 17 villages.*

**Map with details.**

*(a) The Map of 1551.60 ha is yet to be prepared by the Forest Department.*

**Total financial outlay.**

*(a) The total Financial Out lay of the C.A scheme for 5 years as submitted by the State Government is Rs.793.54 Lakhs.The Forest Department has been advised to revise the C.A estimate as per the Ministries latest circular upto 7 to 10 years.*

**9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

*No Violation reported by the State Government nor observed during the site inspection along the river of the Dam axis.*

**10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not.**

*(a) In Form - A Part I submitted by the NHPC at Sl.NO.3 There is no displacement of people due to the project. However during the presentation on 07/01/2013 in the O/o Principal Secretary and PCCF the User Agency has stated that there are 14 villages and 340 people which will be affected by the Project. The said information provided by the NHPC is to be examine by the State Government.*

*(b) Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other Forest area by translocating oustees in and around the said forest.  
To be provided by the Forest Department and NHPC*

**11. Reclamation plan:**

*Details and financial allocation incase there are 14 villages and 340 persons is to be provided by the NHPC as per the R & R Plan to the State Government.*

**12. Details on catchment and command area under the project. Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir.**

*The details of the catchment area under the Project has not been provided in the Proposal by the NHPC.*

**13. Cost benefit ratio.**

*Cost benefit Ratio submitted by the User Agency.*

**14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government.**

*The Principal Secretary and PCCF has recommended this proposal in Part V of the Format.*

**15. Utility of the project.**

**Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe to be benefited by the project.**

*Nothing specific has been mention by the NHPC on the utility of the project in this aspect.*

**16. (a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value.**

**Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exists in the areas proposed for diversion.**

**(b) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system.**

*For (a) & (b) this does not arise.*

**17. Situation w.r.t. any P.A.**

*The Divisional Forest Officer, Darlawn has been instructed to show on the map the nearest distance of the Protected Area from the proposed Project.*

**18. Any other information relating to the project.**

- (a) *The GPS Coordinates of the Reservoir Submergence, Dam including Colony & approach and the Forest land for diversion of NH-150 is required to be provided by the NIIPC.*
- (b) *A detailed break up of the Infrastructure and Residential Buildings for construction in the 50 ha of Forest land.*
- (c) *The number of Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe family affected by this project as stated during the presentation is to be provided.*
- (d) *The numbers of trees affected in the Submergence area, Dam and Colony and diversion of NH-150 is to be provided separately.*
- (e) *The C.A scheme is to be revised for a period of 7 to 10 years as per the Ministries circular.*
- (f) *The muck dumping site for the Dam, Colony and Road construction along with the GPS co-ordinates is to be provided by the User Agency.*
- (g) *The applicability of the Forest Right Act 2006 is to be furnished by the Forest Department.*
- (h) *The nearest distance of the Protected Areas from the Project site is to be shown in a map.*
- (i) *Diagrammatic cross section of the proposed road is required to be provided by NHPC.*
- (j) *The C.A Area of 1551.60 ha is to be shown in a map along with the GPS Co-ordinates.*
- (k) *The Proposal of 1551.60 ha forest land in Mizoram is in addition to this project which is in Manipur requiring an area of 22777.50 ha of forest land and 7362.30 ha of Non-Forest land. The construction of the Dam will have to be simultaneously begin from both the right bank of Manipur and left bank of Mizoram. However the proposal for the portion of the project which falls under Manipur is yet to be initiated by the NHPC. This Multi-Purpose IIEP Project have to be implemented in totality in both the area of Manipur and Mizoram. Partial implementation of this project in Mizoram portion will not be viable and the Dam cannot be constructed till the proposal in Manipur is to be initiated and submitted to the Ministry for clearance.  
This Multi-purpose project which is located in Mizoram and Manipur portion. In Mizoram portion there is no opposition from the local Tribal people in implementation of this project. However there is a serious opposition from the Tribal people residing in the affected proposed area of 30139.80 ha under Manipur, where representation from Women Development Association, Manipur and Social Advancement and Research Centre, Manipur has been sent to the Ministry, New Delhi. In reply to the NGOs representation the Ministry vide its letter No.11-218/2012-Fc Dtd 4<sup>th</sup> June,2012 has request the State Government to furnished necessary comments.( Annexure-B) .*
- (l) *The Ministry may examine this project in totality so that it give no scope for any individual or NGOs from Manipur to file a PIL in the IJigh Court.*
- (m) *The Document provided during the presentation on 7.1.2013 by Forest Department (Annexure-C) shows that an area of 1648.94 ha has been transferred and mutated to the Forest Department. Whereas the certificate of the Divisional Forest Officer, Darlawn certified an area of 1551.60 ha, this difference of area may be examined by the Forest Department.*

19. **Regional Chief Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignment for locating the project on the Non-forest land.**

*The NHPC in Form A Part I Sl.No.4 has given the justification for locating the project in a Forest Area. Three alternatives sites were studied and the reasons for abandoned are as follows:*


- (1) 1<sup>st</sup> site selected at Mainadhar for an earthen Dam and abandoned in 1964 due to unfavorable geological condition.*
- (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> site at Naraindhar found not attractive because of submergence of large area of cultivable land in Manipur and partial flood control in D/S.*
- (3) 3<sup>rd</sup> site at Bhuvandhar rejected due to soft friable and clayey foundation and submergence of large area of cultivable land and villages in Manipur.*

*During the site inspection it is seen that there are no other alternative sites for locating the project which is in Mizoram portion on the Non-Forest land.*

20. **Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forest along with detailed reasons.**

*During the site inspection only the Dam axis along the river could be inspected. The NHPC officials and the Forest Department Officials, Govt of Mizoram could not locate the area of submergence and the proposed area for road construction the site inspection could not be taken up. (It may be mentioned here that the present DFO, Darlawn has not initiated this proposal but has joined the Division recently) As mention at Sl.no 18, this proposal is incomplete and requires additional information's to be provided by both the NHPC and Forest Department therefore it is not possible now to recommend this proposal to the Ministry.*

*Photograph taken during the site inspection of the Dam Axis and the surrounding area under submergence on left bank in Mizoram are enclosed.*

  
(Dr. Anil Kumar)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C)