

F. No. 8-85/2011 - FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110510
Date: 28th August, 2014

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar.

Sub: Diversion of 5056.50 ha of forest land in favor of M/s NHPC for construction of Dibang Multipurpose project (3000 MW) on Dibang River in Lower Dibang Valley of Lower Dibang District of Arunachal Pradesh -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh letter no. FOR.10-44/Cons./2003/Vol-I/312-16 dated 18th August 2011 on above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that revised proposal involving diversion of 4577.84 ha of forest land was discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 29th to 30th April, 2014 and the Committee, after examination of the proposal, noted that the revised proposal envisages reduction in dam height by 10 meter which will bring down the submergence of the forest area by only 445ha, a reduction by less than 9%. Further, number of affected trees is marginally coming down to 3.24 lakhs from 3.5 lakh. Such a marginal reduction in requirement of the forest land for the project may not be able to reduce the adverse impact of project on such a biodiversity rich mature forest ecosystem to the extent which could make the project environmentally as well as socio-economically viable in forest dependent tribal society of Arunachal Pradesh. The revised proposal, therefore, does not address the concerns raised by the FAC in its last meeting. Further, the reduction in power generation due to reduction of the Dam height by 10 m it is to the tune of only 2.3%. The User Agency has not given any convincing justification for their stand of not reducing the Dam height by more than 10 meter. Impact of reduction of the Dam height on the economic feasibility of the project has not been put forth before the committee and therefore, the committee has recommended for rejection of the proposal on the ground that the proposed area is very rich in Bio-Diversity, sensitive eco system being at the edge of hills and flood plains and having large number of endemic and endangered flora and fauna, etc. Moreover, such project is most likely to have considerable downstream impact including impact on the Dibru-Saikowa NP in Assam which is yet to be studied.

The Ministry after, examining the recommendations of FAC has rejected the proposal.

Yours faithfully,


(M. Raj Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF.
3. The Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.