

# कार्यालय उप वन संरक्षक, बारा

E-mail: def\_bm\_forest@rajasthan.gov.in, Tel.No.. 07453-230244

क्रमांक ० एफ ( )/एफ.सी.ए./ उ.व.स./2026 -27/8005

Date:- 26-5-2026

To  
The Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Kota.

Sub: Submission of EDS reply for diversion of 407.8227 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited for the construction of Shahpur (1800 MW) Pumped Storage Project in Hanumanthkhera, Mungawali villages, G.P.- Mundiyyar, Tehsil-Shahbad, Baran District, Rajasthan. (Online proposal No. FP/RJ/HYD/121439/2021).

Ref: MoEF&CC EDS dated 06-04-2026 and Nodal office EDS dated 21-04-2026 and letter no 14(HYD/121439)2021/FCA/PCCF/999 Dated 20-05-2026 and GEPL EDS reply letter dated 19-05-2026.

Respected Madam,

In compliance of above cited subject and letters under references, the point wise reply of the EDS raised by the MoEF & CC, Government of India on 06.04.2026 are submitted as below:


#	EDS point	Reply to EDS
1.	In compliance with Condition No. (iii) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall ensure that the amount for the Wildlife Conservation Plan is deposited in the CAMPA account.	<p>User agency submits that as per condition no. iii of the Stage-I approval, the Wildlife Conservation plan was prepared in consultation with WII for an amount of Rs 6,37,31,900/- (Rupees Six crore thirty- seven lakh thirty-one thousand nine hundred only) which was approved by Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) vide letter dated 27-10-2025.</p> <p>Vide CWLW letter reference No. F11 (484) Vikas-11/CWLW/2025-26/544-545 dated 13.10.2025, the User agency was directed to deposit an amount of Rs 1,27,46,380/- (20% of approved in-principle Wildlife Conservation Plan) towards RAJASTHAN PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION SOCIETY, and submit the receipt of the same to the office of CWLW. Accordingly, an Amount of Rs 1,27,46,380 was deposited through RTGS UTR NO: ICICR52025101500586458 dated 15-10-2025 and the receipt for the same was submitted to CWLW.</p> <p>The User Agency further submits that The State Forest Department shall do the needful on this point for the further necessary action.</p>
2.	In compliance with Condition No. (x) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall ensure complete compliance with the condition. If, due	User Agency submits that with regard to recommendations of the Regional Office, to take Water Conducting System (WCS) & powerhouse area, as underground to save 18809 trees and to maintain continuity between two forest patches on either

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	<p>to technical reasons, the State Government is unable to comply with the condition, a proposal for modification of the condition, along with proper justification may be submitted.</p>	<p>side of the project.</p> <p>In this regard, as submitted in the Stage I Compliance report, the user agency has consulted MNNIT, Allahabad for taking penstocks completely underground for the Water Conducting System (WCS) &amp; Powerhouse area.</p> <p>The Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT), Allahabad after taking up field inspection and detail study of the project has submitted a technical review of the feasibility report with following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. About 300m WCS from starting may be kept on surface and remaining 640m downwards WCS may be kept underground.</li> <li>2. Accordingly, in about 25.125 Ha area no surface disturbance is required and hence about 8,258 (about 44%) number of trees shall be saved and only about 10,551 trees would be required to be felled. However, the user agency shall ensure minimum felling of trees wherever possible under the supervision of the Forest Dept. The user agency also undertakes the possibility of translocation of suitable trees instead of felling in consultation with the forest department. Map showing the underground area and surface rights area of the WCS is attached as Annexure-01. MNNIT is attached as Annexure-02.</li> </ol> <p>The User Agency further submits that since the recommendations of IRO cannot be complied in entirety due to technical limitations as highlighted in the MNNIT report, the User Agency has requested that recommendation may be made to MoEFCC for partial modification of Condition No. (x) of the Stage-I approval.</p>
3.	<p>In compliance with Condition No. (xiv) of the Stage-I approval, the User Agency shall submit a plan for power evacuation and for meeting the existing power requirements. Further, the State Government shall submit a certificate ensuring that the alignment is selected in such a way that only the bare minimum forest land is involved.</p>	<p>User agency submits that It is in consultations with Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd (CTU) to finalize a technically appropriate and system-compatible evacuation point, commensurate with the project's operational requirements.</p> <p>Once the evacuation point is finalized, a detailed evaluation of alternative transmission line alignments shall be prepared and submitted to ensure that the alignment is selected in such a way that only bare minimum forest land is involved in the same.</p> <p>The power line for the existing requirement would be in the right of way of the proposed diversion area for the road leading to lower reservoir.</p> <p>The Power line for the existing requirement in upper reservoir shall be taken from the private lands adjoining the proposed diversion area.</p>
4.	<p>In compliance with Condition No.</p>	<p>User Agency submits that the Retention of Trees between Full</p>

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	(xxvii) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall ensure complete compliance with the condition. If, due to technical reasons, the State Government is unable to comply, a proposal for modification of the condition, along with proper justification may be submitted.	<p>Reservoir Level (FRL) and FRL - 4 meters is not feasible in the instant project as the reservoir(s) are formed by constructing artificial embankment(s) above the ground away from natural stream/rivers.</p> <p>As the proposed project is a Closed Loop Project in nature, leaving any tree in FRL-4 may cause any floating material/debris which in turn may cause damage to the turbine/machine(s).</p> <p>In view of the above, due to technical limitations as highlighted, the User Agency has requested that recommendation may be made to MoEFCC for partial modification of Condition No. (xxvii) of the Stage-I approval</p>
5.	In compliance with Condition No. (xxviii) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall ensure complete compliance with the condition. If, due to technical reasons, the State Government is unable to comply, a proposal for modification of the condition, along with proper justification may be submitted.	<p>User Agency submits that the instant project is a pumped storage project and located away from the natural streams/rivers. One time water shall be drawn and stored in the artificial reservoirs created for power generation.</p> <p>This one-time water is allotted by the State govt on commercial usage basis (on payment basis) and there shall be no surplus water available with the user agency to allot water for forestry related activities. Hence, provision of free water for forestry related activities from the from the project reservoirs is not possible.</p> <p>However, Greenko is ready to support free water for the forestry related projects and accordingly proposes to provide 2 (Two) Solar powered bore wells/pumps to the forest Dept for undertaking forest related activities. An undertaking in this regard is enclosed at Annexure-03.</p> <p>In view of the above, due to technical limitations as highlighted, the User Agency has requested that recommendation may be made to MoEFCC for partial modification of Condition No. (xxviii) of the Stage-I approval.</p>
6.	In compliance with Condition No. (xxix) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall submit a copy of the Environmental Clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	<p>The User agency informed that the Environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 is applicable to the instant project. The project has been recommended by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 13-08-2024 &amp; 13-09-2024 for Environmental Clearance. The issuance of Environment Clearance letter is awaited.</p> <p>The Copy of the EC shall be submitted to State Govt/MoEFCC as and when EC letter is issued.</p>
7.	Further, the State Government is requested to submit the latest status of the court case (DBCWP No. 17161/2024) pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan.	<p>The User Agency states that the operative portion of the interim order of the HON'BLE High Court, Jodhpur Bench, dated, 28/04/2025 is as follows:</p> <p><i>"At this stage, we think it proper that the Central Government should take final decision in the matter and any decision taken in the matter to grant or not to grant approval should be placed before this Court for perusal, with a copy of the same</i></p>

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		<p>to learned Amicus Curiae. Further proceedings in this case would depend upon the decision that may be taken by the Central Government in the matter".</p> <p>Copy of the daily Order dated 28-04-2025 is enclosed at Annexure 04.</p> <p>Further the Hon'ble High Court has scheduled the next hearing on dated. 02.07.2026. copy of the order dated 20.04.2026 is attached as Annexure-4A</p>

Enclosed: As above

  
Bade Vivekanand Manikrao  
DCF, Baran

क्रमांक 0 एफ ( ) / एफ.सी.ए. / उ.व.स. / 2026-27 /

Date:-

Copy the following for information & necessary action: -

1. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
2. M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited, Hyderabad

  
Bade Vivekanand Manikrao  
DCF, Baran

GEPL/MoEFCC/EDS/SPSP/260519

Dated 19.05.2026

To

District Forest Officer (DFO),  
Baran, Rajasthan.

Sub: Diversion of 407.8227 Ha forest land for the development of Shahpur (1800 MW) Pumped Storage Project by M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited (GEPL) in Baran Territorial Forest Division, Baran District of Rajasthan State (Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/HYD/121439/2021) reg

1. User Agency reply to MoEF & CC EDS, dated.17.04.2026
2. EDS raised by Nodal Officer, dated 21.04.2026

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, User Agency has submitted reply to the EDS raised by GoR on 17.04.2026. Vide ref (2) above Nodal Officer as directed to furnish comments from DCF and resubmit with the comments of DCF.

Accordingly, we hereby submit the point-wise reply to the EDS for your kind consideration and further necessary action.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,

For **Greenko Energies Pvt. Ltd.**

Authorized Signatory

Encl: As above

Copy To,

1. The Chief Conservator of Forest, Kota, Rajasthan
2. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur

The observations raised by the MoEF & CC vide letter dated 21.04.2026, the point wise reply to the EDS (Online proposal No. FP/RJ/HYD/121439/2021) Proposal for diversion of 407.8227 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Greenko Energies Private Limited (GEPL)

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1.	<p>In compliance with Condition No. (iii) of the Stage-I approval, the State Government shall ensure that the amount for the Wildlife Conservation Plan is deposited in the CAMPA account.</p>	<p>As per condition no. iii of the Stage-I approval, the Wildlife Conservation plan was prepared in consultation with WII for an amount of <b>Rs 6,37,31,900/-</b> (Rupees Six crore thirty- seven lakh thirty-one thousand nine hundred only) which was approved by Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) vide letter dated <b>27-10-2025</b>.</p> <p>Vide CWLW letter reference No. F11 (484) Vikas-11/CWLW/2025-26/544-545 dated 13.10.2025, the User agency was directed to deposit an <b>amount of Rs 1,27,46,380/-</b> (20% of approved in-principle Wildlife Conservation Plan) towards RAJASTHAN PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION SOCIETY, and submit the receipt of the same to the office of CWLW. Accordingly, an Amount of Rs 1,27,46,380 was deposited through RTGS UTR NO: ICICR52025101500586458 dated 15-10-2025 and the receipt for the same was submitted to CWLW.</p> <p>The state forest department shall do the needful on this point for the further necessary action.</p>
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		<p>2. Accordingly, in <b>about 25.125 Ha</b> area no surface disturbance is required and hence about <b>8,258</b> (about 44%) number of trees shall be saved and only about <b>10,551</b> trees would be required to be felled. However, the user agency shall ensure minimum felling of trees wherever possible under the supervision of the Forest Dept. The user agency also undertakes the possibility of translocation of suitable trees instead of felling in consultation with the forest department. Map showing the underground area and surface rights area of the WCS is attached as <b>Annexure-01</b>. <b>MNNIT is attached as Annexure-02.</b></p> <p><b>In view of the above, since the recommendations of IRO, cannot be complied in entirety due to technical limitations as highlighted in the MNNIT report. It is herewith requested to kindly recommend to MoEF&amp;CC for partial modification of the Condition No. (x) of the Stage-I approval.</b></p>
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**For Greenko Energies Private Limited.**

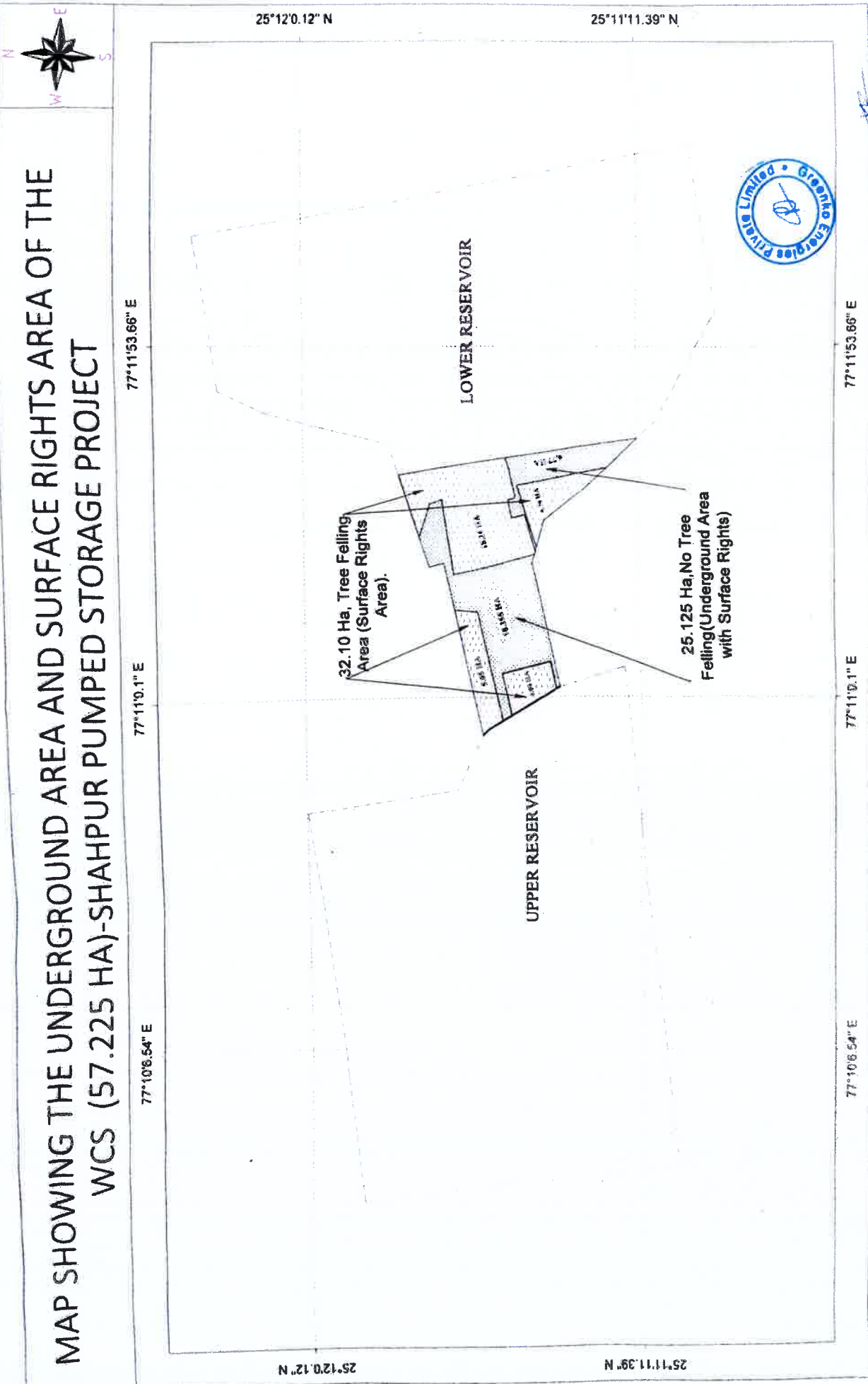
*N. Gopal Krishna*

Authorised Signatory



**Annexure-01**

**MAP SHOWING THE UNDERGROUND AREA AND SURFACE RIGHTS AREA OF THE  
WCS (57.225 HA)-SHAHPUR PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT**



(बड़े विवेकीयान्द माणिकराव)  
उप वन संरक्षक  
बरी



जानपद अभियांत्रिकी विभाग  
मोतीलाल नेहरू राष्ट्रीय प्रयोगिकी संस्थान इलाहाबाद  
प्रयागराज - 211004 (भारत)  
Civil Engineering Department  
Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad  
Prayagraj-211004 (India)

पत्रांक/ Letter No.: 1219/CED/RRC/2025-26

दिनांक/ Dated: 29.12.25.

सेवा में/ To

Shri Gopi Krushna N.  
General Manger  
Greenko Energies Private Ltd., Hyderabad

विषय/ Subject: [परीक्षण / Testing] / [परीक्षण एवं परामर्श/ Testing cum Consultancy] / [परिकल्प परामर्श/ Design Consultancy] रिपोर्ट / Report (Final)

सन्दर्भ/ References:

1. सेवार्थीपत्रांक / Client Letter No.: GEPL/RJ01101/MNIT/REPORT/251104 दिनांक /Dated:04.11.2025.
2. आवंटित विभागीय परामर्शसंख्या /Allotted Dept. Consultancy No.:253 दिनांक /Dated:10.11.2025

प्रिय महोदय / Dear Sir,

उपरोक्त के संदर्भ में, विभाग के संरचनात्मक / भू-तकनीकी / पर्यावरण / परिवहन / सर्वेक्षण प्रयोगशाला / अनुभाग द्वारा किए गए परीक्षण / परीक्षण एवं परामर्श / डिजाइन परामर्श कार्य की रिपोर्ट आपके विचार के लिए संलग्न है / With reference to the above, the final report of the Testing/ Testing cum Consultancy/ Design Consultancy work carried out by Structural/ Geotechnical/ Environmental/ Transportation/ Survey Laboratory/ section of the Department is attached herewith for your consideration.

इस रिपोर्ट से संबंधित किसी भी स्पष्टीकरण के लिए कृपया हमसे संपर्क करें /Please feel free to contact us for any further clarification.

धन्यवाद/ Thanking You.

(Prof.H.K.Pandey)

मुख्यअन्वेषक/ PI

**Report**

*On*

**Technical Review of feasibility Report of Shahpur Pumped Storage  
Power Project (PSP) 1800 MW, District: Baran (Rajasthan)**

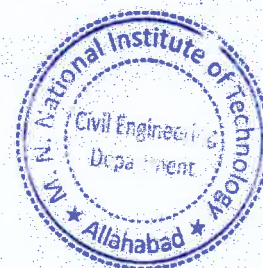
*Submitted to*

**M/s. Greenko Energies Private Limited**

*by*



**CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
MOTILAL NEHRU NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ALLAHABAD,  
PRAYAGRAJ-211004**



## Technical Review of feasibility Report of Shahpur Pumped Storage Power Project (PSP) 1800 MW, District: Baran (Rajasthan)

### 1. Introduction

With reference to the letter No GEPL/RJ0101/MNIT/REPORT/251104 dated 04.11.2025 of Greenko Energies Private Limited regarding technical review of the feasibility report particularly regarding the suitable options for path of Water Conductor System inside the project site. The site has been selected by Greenko Energies Private Limited near Hanumanthkhara, Mungawali and Shahpur villages falling under Shahbad tehsil, District: Baran (Rajasthan). It is pumped storage power project of 1800 MW which is near river Kuno. The area is bounded between Lat.  $25^{\circ} 11' 22.66''$  to  $25^{\circ} 12' 16.01''$  and Long.  $77^{\circ} 11' 3.58''$  to  $77^{\circ} 13' 17.95''$ . The area near selected location (Fig.01) was visited on 01.12.2025 by MNNIT Allahabad team, Mr. Rajeev Nayan Manager (Environment) and his team accompanied during the field visit and provided details/information about the project.

### 2. Purpose of Work

To review the technical report submitted by the Greenko Energies Private Limited particularly the alignment of Water Conducting System. The objective of field visit is to validate the points of VPS, Powerhouse and Surface and Sub-surface stretch suitable for WCS.

### 3. Site Description

As reported by Greenko Energies Private Limited is developing an 1800 MW closed-loop Pumped Storage Project in Shahpur village, Shahbad Tehsil, Baran District, Rajasthan. The project comprises of following major components:

- Upper Reservoir: FRL 507m, MDDL 490m, 1.01 TMC live storage
- Lower Reservoir: FRL 349m, MDDL 328m, 1.01 TMC live storage
- Powerhouse: 7 units (5×300 MW + 2×150 MW).
- WCS: 940M length
- VPS: 01 number
- Head race L/H ratio: ~ 6
- Tail race L/H ratio: ~ 4

H.K.L.

R.S.

R. Moha.



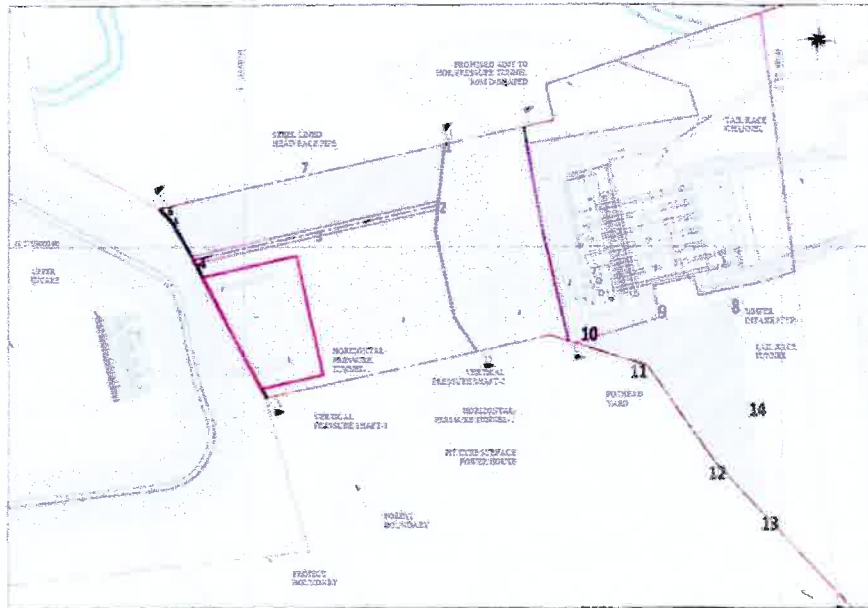


Figure 1- Project Layout (Original & Modified)

The salient topographic features and geological details are mentioned below;

- a- **Topography:** The site exhibits excellent topographic conditions for pumped storage. The upper reservoir occupies a sandstone plateau at 480-507m above mean sea level. There is also presence of cliff in the Vindhyan Sandstone intercalated with Shale. The lower reservoir is located in dissected terrain at 320-349 mamsl with gentle slope and seasonal gullies deepening to 20m near Kuno River. A prominent north-south scarp provides ~153m elevation separation between physiographic regions, naturally accommodating reservoir placement.
- b- **Geology:**
  - The project site exhibits distinct geological stratification confirmed through 50 drill holes (2404 m total drilling) including 15 boreholes specifically along the WCS alignment and power house area:
  - **Upper Plateau (Upper Reservoir):** It has predominantly medium to coarse-grained sandstone of the Bhandar Group, Vindhyan Supergroup (Fig.2). The sandstone shows horizontal to low north-westerly dips ( $8^{\circ}$ - $15^{\circ}$ ). The plateau is located approximately 180m above the Kuno River bed with prominent 15-25 m vertical cliff which is having fresh sandstone.
  - **Lower Terrain (Lower Reservoir, WCS and Powerhouse Area):** Sandstone intercalated with Shale is a major lithology in the area under lower reservoir, Water Conducting System and Powerhouse area). The shale is olive grey to light purple coloured, fine-grained, splintery in nature, and weak to moderately strong. This is overlain by 3-18 m alluvial formation which acts as overburden.
  - **Lithological Contact:** The sandstone-shale transition occurs at elevation EL +426 m to +446 m. This contact zone is concealed beneath overburden along the slope but has been confirmed through subsurface drilling.

H.K.L.

B.S.

Ravha.





- VPS-1: Single vertical shaft (eliminating VPS-2 entirely)
- Extended horizontal pressure tunnels: Direct connection from VPS-1 to powerhouse
- Surface pit-type powerhouse with same configuration
- Tailrace tunnel: 179m to lower reservoir

The elimination of VPS-2 avoids excavation in 4.9 Ha forest area while maintaining project functionality by extending the horizontal underground tunnels.

The location of Bend-1 has been reviewed to minimize the impact on existing trees, and it is clarified that Bend-1 has been strategically placed approximately 100 m downstream of the dam toe. This positioning ensures adequate clearance from critical dam structures and foundation zones, while also allowing cost savings through reduced steel lining in the lower portion. The offset further provides safe working space for excavation, storage, and erection of steel ferrules.

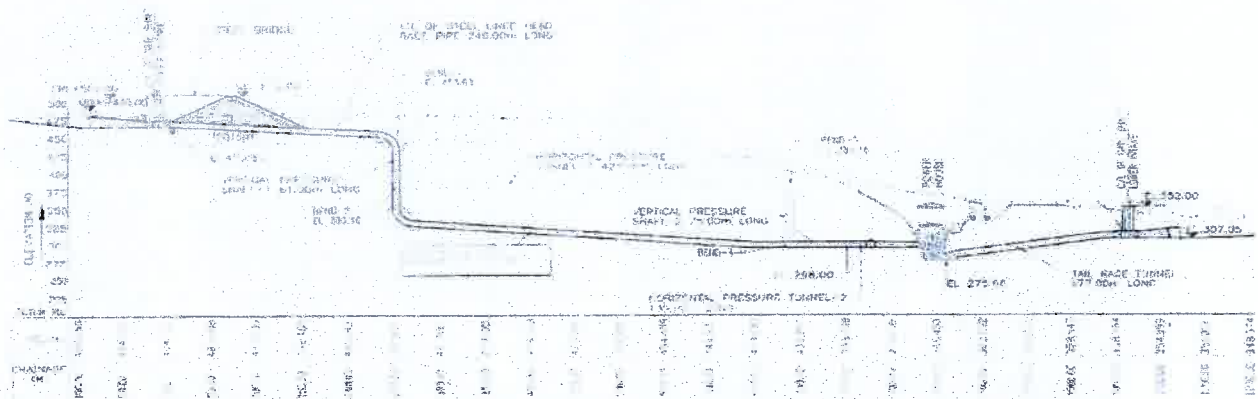


Figure 3- Longitudinal Section of PSP under Alternative 01.

## 6. Key Observations

The project exhibits excellent topography with 158 m gross head between upper reservoir and lower reservoir. The water availability is assured through one-time filling of 1.01 TMC from Kuno River ensuring reliable source. Environmental compliance is also satisfactory with safe distances from Madhav and Kuno National Parks (>40 km), no eco-sensitive zones, and minimal flora/fauna impact.

**Modified Alternative-1 (Fully Underground WCS with Surface Powerhouse)** is technically feasible and recommended. The optimized design eliminates VPS-2 excavation (which required 4.9 Ha of forest land), routing the complete WCS underground through a single vertical pressure shaft (VPS-1) and horizontal pressure tunnels (Fig.03). This achieves maximum tree preservation while maintaining technical viability.

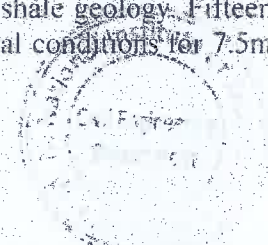
**Tree Impact:** The modified design consisting underground routing from VPS-1 to powerhouse eliminates surface penstocks, achieving 62% reduction in tree felling. The 9.75 Ha temporary area will be restored and surrendered post-construction. Forest continuity is maintained through 34.875 Ha (60.9% of total area) that is preserved or will be restored.

**Technical Assessment:** The underground pressure tunnels connecting VPS-1 to the powerhouse can be safely constructed in the prevailing sandstone and shale geology. Fifteen boreholes along the WCS & PH alignment confirm favorable geological conditions for 7.5m diameter tunnel excavation with standard support system.

M.K.L.

Bl

Rmohr



## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations:

This independent technical review by MNNIT, Allahabad confirms that the modified Alternative-1, with fully underground water conducting system (WCS) and surface pit-type powerhouse, successfully achieves the environmental objectives mandated by MoEF&CC while maintaining technical feasibility.

Detailed studies of Geological investigation comprising 50 drill holes including 15 boreholes along WCS and Powerhouse (PH) alignment confirm technical feasibility. Rock mass conditions (Class II-III in sandstone, Class III-IV in shale) are adequate for 7.5m diameter tunnels with conventional support systems.

It is also found that out of 57.225 ha area, the 22.35 ha forest area will be affected whereas 25.125 ha forest area will not be affected during construction of the project. Remaining 9.75 ha temporary area will be restored and handed over to the forest department as post construction activity. The modified design by the Greenko Energies Private Limited consisting of underground routing from VPS-1 to powerhouse help to eliminate surface penstocks, achieving significant reduction (approximately 44% in felling of trees). Forest continuity is maintained through 34.875 Ha (60.90% of total area) during the operational phase of the project.

Therefore, it is recommended that about 300 m WCS from starting may be kept on surface and remaining 640 m downwards WCS may be kept underground as per design guidelines keeping in view the following:

- (i) An Immediate downgradient may destabilize the storage embankment and WCS units.
- (ii) The presence of cliff near the storage may weaken the strength of natural rock mass and reactivate the discontinuity during the construction of WCS in the vicinity of storage point.
- (iii) Regarding mitigation measures, it is suggested to have possible experts' opinion during and post constructions of the project.

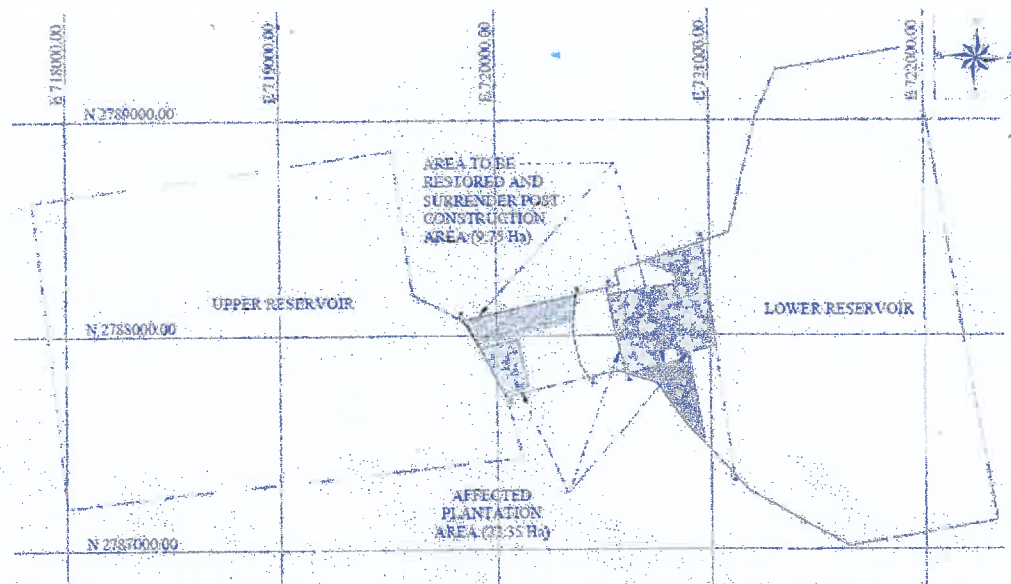
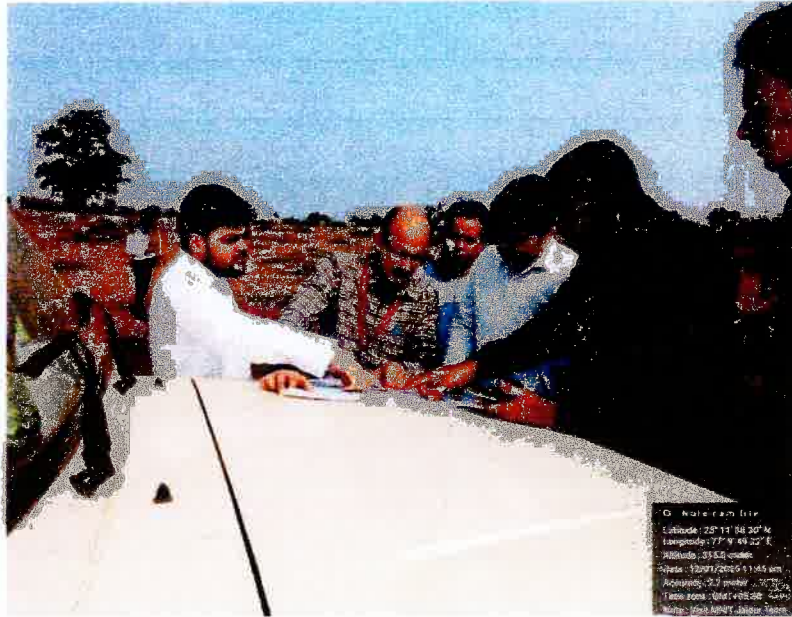


Figure 3- Land requirement and tree cutting



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Field Photograph 01: Area under Upper reservoir showing sparse vegetation.



Field Photograph 02: Area under Upper reservoir showing sparse vegetation.

*H.K.A.*

*R. Noida*

*P.K.*





Field Photograph 03: Location of Power house and WCS.



Field Photograph 04: Location of Powerhouse with VPS

*H.K.H.*

*R. Moh.*

*P.S.*





Field Photograph 05: Area under Lower reservoir showing terminal end of WCS.

*B. Kumar*  
24/12/2025  
Dr. Binay Kumar  
(Co-PI)

*R. M. Singh*  
24/12/2025  
Prof. R. M. Singh  
(Co-PI)

*H. K. Pandey*  
24/12/2025  
Prof. H. K. Pandey  
(PI)



**Certificate of Undertaking**

M/s. Greenko Energies Private Limited hereby affirm and undertakes to provide 2 (TWO) Solar powered bore wells(10HP) for assisting the forest-related projects in the vicinity of the proposed forest area for diversion.

For **Greenko Energies Private Limited.**

*N. Yashwanth*

Authorized Signatory  
Date:19.04.2026



*(Signature)*  
(बडे विवेकानन्द माणिकराव)  
उप वन संरक्षक  
बारी



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN AT  
JODHPUR**

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 17161/2024

Suo Moto, Suo Moto

----Petitioner

Versus

State Of Rajasthan, State Of Rajasthan & Ors.

----Respondents



---

For Petitioner(s) : Dr. Sachin Acharya, Sr. Advocate  
Mr. Lakshay Singh Udawat

For Respondent(s) : Mr. M.S. Singhvi, Sr. Advocate  
Mr. Abhishek Mehta  
Mr. Akshay Babu  
Mr. Shubhankar Johari  
Mr. Mahaveer Bishnoi, AAG  
Mr. Harshvardhan Singh  
Mr. B.P. Bohra

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**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUNIL BENIWAL**

**Order**

**28/04/2025**

1. Heard learned counsel for the respective parties, including the project proponent.
2. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the project proponent would submit that in view of the undertaking which has been granted by the authorities, the matter pending with the Central/State Government for grant of approval is not proceeding one way or the other and the project proponent is unable to take a strong decision because of the pendency of the case and pendency of his application for grant of approval before the Central Government. He would further submit that they have already



procured land and by now invested approximately Five Hundred Crores.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the Union of India would submit that upon submission of application by the project proponent, approval in-principle has been granted but certain queries have been made from the State Government which are pending consideration and as and when those queries are satisfied, the Central Government will be in a position to take final decision in the matter.

4. Learned Senior Counsel appearing as *Amicus Curiae* in this case would apprehend that no sooner the Central Government grants approval, the project proponent may proceed to cut the trees.

5. Learned counsel for the State would submit that queries made by the Central Government are pending consideration with it and it would be dealing with it expeditiously.

6. As a matter of public importance, touching upon an issue regarding felling of more than one lakh trees in the event of grant of approval, has arisen before this Court, at the same time, we find that the matter is still pending with the Central Government and final decision has not yet been taken.

7. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the project proponent fairly submits that the project proponent must know its fate as early as possible and it should not be kept pending. He would further submit that in case the Central Government does not grant approval, the matter would end, though the project proponent may have remedy, if he feels aggrieved.





8. The matter, as it stands today, no final sanction has been granted by the Central Government, though there is in-principle approval, which concerns us. However, unless there is a forest clearance given, nothing can be done, much less cutting of trees.

9. At this stage, we think it proper that the Central Government should take final decision in the matter and any decision taken in the matter to grant or not to grant approval should be placed before this Court for perusal, with a copy of the same to learned *Amicus Curiae*. Further proceedings in this case would depend upon the decision that may be taken by the Central Government in the matter.

10. Taking into consideration the nature and magnitude of exercise required to be undertaken by the Central Government in co-ordination with the State Government, we are inclined to list the matter after two months. However, we make it clear that no tree shall be cut without the permission of the Court.

11. List this case after two months.

**(SUNIL BENIWAL),J (MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA),CJ**

110-Jayesh/-



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN  
JODHPUR**

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 17161/2024

Suo Moto

----Petitioner

Versus

State Of Rajasthan

----Respondent



For Petitioner(s)	:	Dr. Sachin Acharya, Sr. Adv. (Amicus Curiae) assisted by Mr. Lakshay Singh Udawat and Ms. Mehali Mehta
For Applicant(s)	:	Ms. Abhilasha Kumbhat
For Respondent(s)	:	Mr. Bharat Vyas, Sr. Adv.-cum-ASG assisted by Mr. Vaibhav Bhansali Mr. Sanjeev Johari, Sr. Adv. assisted by Mr. Shubhankar Johari and Mr. Hardik Kachhawaha Mr. Mahaveer Bishnoi, AAG with Mr. H.S. Chundawat, AAAG and Mr. Daksh Sharma

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MONGA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUNIL BENIWAL**

**Order**

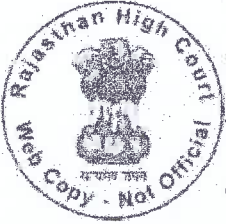
**20/04/2026**

1. Ms. Abhilasha Kumbhat, learned counsel for the applicants appears and states that she has filed an application (I.A. No.02/2025) seeking intervention in the matter.
2. We are of the view that since the proceedings have been initiated suo motu by this Court, there is no requirement of either any impleadment and/or intervenors. However, the learned counsel for the applicants is permitted to assist the learned Senior Counsel Dr. Sachin Acharya, who is appearing as an Amicus Curiae at the request of this Court.
3. Any document and/or other material which the applicants wish to place on record, will be left to the wisdom and discretion



of the learned Amicus Curiae to sift through the same if found relevant, be then placed on record.

4. The application (I.A. No.02/2025) stands disposed of.
5. Meanwhile, it transpires that the State Government has already issued an NOC dated 10.03.2026 asking the Union of India to proceed further in the matter in light thereof.
6. We deem it appropriate that the relevant file and the circumstances leading to grant such an NOC, be also placed before us, in its digital form.
7. Mr. Mahaveer Bishnoi, learned AAG appearing for the State Government to do the needful on or before the next date of hearing.
8. The record to be placed on record in the digital form, shall also be shared with the learned Amicus Curiae in a pendrive.
9. Post it on 02.07.2026.
10. Interim order to continue till the next date.



**(SUNIL BENIWAL),J**

**(ARUN MONGA),J**

64-ajayS/-