



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पश्चिम क्षेत्र
Regional Office, Western Region
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File No. 6-GJA08/2016-BHO/918

Dated: 16/09/2016

To,

Shri Sandeep Sharma
AIGF(FC)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003.

Sub : Diversion of 297.38 ha Reserved and Un-Class forest land in 15 villages of Taluka-Bhuj and 7 villages of Taluka-Nakhatrana of District Kutch for setting up of wind power project in favour of Srijan Energy System Pvt. Ltd. Bhuj-Kutch, Gujarat.

Ref: That office letter No. 8-21/2016-FC dated 03.08.2016.

Kind attention is invited to the subject matter cited above. Kindly find enclosed herewith Site Inspection Report for further necessary action at your end.


(S.K. Bhandari)
Chief Conservator of Forests (C) 16/9/16

Site Inspection Report on proposal for diversion of 297.38 ha reserved forest and unclassed forest land in 15 villages of Taluka -Bhuj and 7 villages of Taluka - Nakhatrana of district Kutch for setting up of wind power project in favour of Srijan Energy System Pvt. Ltd. Bhuj-Kutch , Gujarat.

Date of inspection: 19.08.2016

Inspecting officer: APCCF (C), RO, Bhopal

Other officers present during site inspection:

Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhuj

Divisional Forest Officer, Bhuj (E) and Field staff

Representatives of the Srijan Energy Systems Private Ltd

Introduction:

1. Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion
Reserved Forest and un-classed forest: **297.38 ha**

2. How the land proposed for diversion is to be utilized?

The land will be utilized for construction of roads and installation of wind mills.

3. Whether the proposal involves any construction of building (including residential) or not?

No.

4. Total cost of Project at present. : Rs 1859.00 crore.

5. Wildlife

Whether the forest area proposed for diversion is important from Wildlife point of view or not.

: NOC from the CWLW is available.

6. Aerial distance from the nearest Boundary of any protected area:

The project site is located within 10 km radius of Chari-Dhandh Conservation area.

7. Vegetation

- a. Important species seen during the site visit:

Prosopis juliflora, Acacia tomentosa, Zizphus mauritiana, Acacia nilotica, Grewia tenax, Acacia senegal, Commiphora wightii, Acacia leucophloea, Salvadora persica, Nerium, Capparis dedidua, Prosopis cineraria, Premna, Azadirachta indica, Tecomella undulata, Moringa oleifera etc.



The vegetation is having stunted growth due to arid conditions. Growth is stunted and bushy. There is hardly any soil as rocky out crops could be seen almost everywhere.

- b. The canopy density 0.1 in this area. It was informed that no threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna are found in the area.

c. **Trees to be felled:**

Total no. of trees proposed to be felled	: 17494	
Total no. of trees felled upto 60cm		: 16985
Total no. of trees felled above 60cm		: 509

8. Effect of removal on the general ecosystem in the area :-

The proposed forest land is spread over 22 villages and removal of tree growth is along the road network that will connect the proposed wind mills. Hence the effect of removal of tree growth will be insignificant compared to a situation where the tree growth to be removed were in a concentrated area.

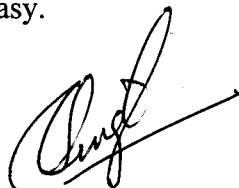
9. Background of the proposal:

The information provided here is based on the discussions and the note given during the site visit.

In the past 2 decades there has been substantial development in the generation of electricity through unconventional methods like by harnessing wind energy and also through the sun light.

Conventional methods of generation of electricity are using the scarce, costly & fast depleting natural resources i.e. fossil fuels wherein not only its utilization is creating pollution but also in transportation to its end use through rail or road the pollution gets added to the environment. Apart from usage of the fossil fuels which creates pollution there is a need for generation of electricity through natural/renewable resources as fuel. Also the land required is less and there is no need for the displacement of the people. Considering all these aspects there is an emphasis on using the renewable source of energy.

Within the various sources of renewable energy, wind power is considered to be most viable. There are several benefits of the wind power like it is easily available, its utilization does not create pollution and installation of wind energy turbines requires less land and maintenance is also very easy.



Locations for the wind mills are selected based on: -

- a) The elevation with respect to the ground level is high and therefore there is no hindrance in the movement of wind. This facilitates in more utilization of the Wind Energy Turbines.

- b) The land selected is rocky in nature which does not have much vegetation.

The generation of electricity will benefit a lot to the society as there is always a gap in demand and supply due to which affects several industries, load shedding for the domestic users and its effects is also felt farmers when there is little rainfall and due to non-availability of power farmers are unable to draw the water from their reservoirs.

The electricity generated would be supplied to the State/Central Government. Necessary electrical sub-stations and electricity lines are being planned which will be used for transferring the electricity generated through the Wind Energy Turbines.

10. Compensatory Afforestation :

A	Whether land proposed / selected for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view?	Yes
B	Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment and other encumbrances?	The KML file of the CA land shows some encroachment even though the State government has mentioned that there is free from encroachment.
C	Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from religious or archiological point of view?	No
D	Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches? Whether patches area compact or not?	Land indentified for CA is in 06 (six) patches in Kutch Forest Division – 312.72 ha
E	Maps with details.	Yes (enclosed with proposal)
F	Compensatory afforestation area should be clearly shown on the map, patches wise and their contiguity to the forest area, etc	Yes, enclosed with proposal
G	Total financial outlay of 10 years CA programme :	Rs 8,06,28,639.00 (including 10 years plantation and other charges)

11. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980? If yes, a detailed report on violation including the action taken against the concerned officer:

It was informed that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.



12. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons?

It was informed that there is no displacement of persons.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

Yes, enclosed with the proposal.

14. Utility of Project:

As per the proposal it is estimated that 7321 lakh units of electricity per annum will be generated which will be supplied to industries, farmers and domestic users depending upon the requirement.

15. Number of Scheduled Cast / Scheduled Tribe involved in the Project

Not mentioned

16. Compliance of FRA 2006 –DC certificate:

Provisions of the FRA have been complied with.

17. Whether the land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value? Whether any sacred groves or very old growing of trees of forests exist in the area proposed for diversion?

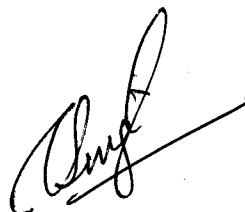
No.

18. Recommendation of Nodal Officer/ PCCF and the State Government:

The Nodal Officer, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the State Government have recommended the proposal for approval.

19. Observations during site inspection:

- a. It was observed during the field visit that there is a predominance of *Prosopis juliflora* which is not an indigenous species. It has invaded most parts of these parts of the State in the past several decades and is a threat to the bio-diversity of the area. The other species that could be seen in good numbers is *Acacia senegal*.
- b. Rain fall in this area is very low and therefore only those species can survive which can withstand very dry climatic conditions. Rocky outcrops could be seen everywhere. The soil is very shallow. The tree growth is stunted and bushy.
- c. Among other things it was observed that lizards, birds and insects could be seen in fairly good numbers.



- d. Both forest and non-forest lands have been proposed for the project and the extent of non-forest for the propose project is more.

20. Recommendations of the APCCF (C):

The proposal is recommended for approval subject to the following

Wildlife Conservation Plan should be prepared and implemented by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency at an additional cost of 5% of the amount required for Compensatory Afforestation scheme, or as may be decided by the competent authority, for the conservation of wildlife in the area around the project network.



(Lakhwinder Singh)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal