

H.P. Forest Department

From

Nodal Officer-cum-Pr.CCF (FCA),
O/o Pr.CCF, H.P, Shimla-1.

To

The Director of Energy
Shanti Bhawan, Phase-III,
Sector-6, New Shimla-171009

Dated Shimla-1, the

Subject: **Comments regarding the requirement of CAT Plan for Thaltukhod Stage-I & Stage-II Hydro Electric Projects.**

Sir/Madam,

On the subject cited above, it is intimated that two Hydro Electric Projects, namely *Thaltukhod Stage-I* and *Thaltukhod Stage-II*, are being processed in Joginder Nagar Forest Division for diversion of forest land under the provisions of the VSS Act, 1980.

In this connection, it is observed that both these projects, along with other proposed ones in the same catchment, are located on *Thaltu Khorth Nallah*. Considering *Thaltu-I* and *Thaltu-II*, there appears to be an intention to obviate the provisions of a *Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan*. If all four projects are situated within the same catchment, the requirement of a comprehensive CAT Plan cannot be ruled out.

As all the projects fall within the same catchment area, the apparent fragmentation of these projects may have the effect of circumventing the requirement of a comprehensive CAT Plan. Since CAT planning is an essential component for mitigating the cumulative environmental impacts of multiple projects in a single catchment, the matter warrants careful examination.

It is, therefore, requested to kindly offer your considered comments on the above issue, particularly about the applicability of a comprehensive CAT Plan for the *Thaltukhod* projects.

Yours faithfully,

**Nodal Officer-cum-Pr.CCF (FCA),
O/o Pr.CCF, H.P, Shimla-1.**

