

**MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE (REC) OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE,
DEHRADUN HELD ON 30th OCTOBER, 2017**

The 21st meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office, North Central Zone, Dehradun was held on 30th October, 2017 at Regional Office, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Kumar, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting.

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Ajay Kumar, Addl. PCCF, R.O., Dehradun	Chairman
2.	Shri Parveen Thapliyal, IFS (Retd.)	Non-official Member
3.	Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.)	Non-official Member
4.	Dr. S. P. Singh	Non-official Member
5.	Ms. Kamal Preet, CF, R.O., Dehradun	Member
6.	Shri. M. S. Negi, CF, R.O., Dehradun	Special Invitee
7.	Shri. Vinod Singhal, Addl.PCCF & N.O., Uttarakhand	Special Invitee
8.	Shri. R. K. Gupta, Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA), H.P.	Special Invitee
9.	Representatives of the User Agencies	

The following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes pertaining to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:-

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Agenda No. 1: Diversion of 5.599 ha of forest land for construction of Kanahal to Bijathal Motor Road (Kms 0/00 to 9/00) in favour of HPPWD within the jurisdiction of Chopal Forest Division, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.599 ha of forest land for construction of Kanahal to Bijathal Motor Road (Kms 0/00 to 9/00). The committee noted that no tree is proposed to be felled in the project. The committee noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported.

The committee further noted that the road has already been constructed in violation of FCA,1980. The Committee deliberated on the report dated 7.12.2010 of CF (C), RO, Chandigarh as well as report dated 24.10.2013 of the committee headed by CF, Shimla circle on extent of violation and accepted the violation reported in the latter according to which the extent of area broken is 1.442 ha (i.e. 3605mx4 m, taking average of width reported 3-5 m). Since the case falls in the already listed cases of violation reported to Hon'ble High Court, Shimla, the Committee decided to impose three times penal CA over the extent of area violated i.e. 1.442 which works out to 4.326 ha.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional condition:

- 1. The State Government will submit detailed compensatory afforestation scheme for penal CA to the extent of 4.326 ha. State Government will also provide geo-referenced digital map and SoI toposheet map of penal CA area. Soft copy (KML file) of penal CA area will also be furnished.*

Agenda Item No.2: Diversion of 78.8158 ha of forest land for the construction of 400 KV D/C Transmission Line from 33/220/400 KV GIS pooling substation Lahal to 400 KV PGCIL pooling substation Chamara-II (Rajera in Distt. Chamba) in favour of

HPPTCL within the jurisdiction of Bharmour and Chamba Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/TRANS/17432/2016)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 78.8158 ha of forest land for the construction of 400 KV D/C Transmission Line from 33/220/400 KV GIS pooling substation Lahal to 400 KV PGCIL pooling substation Chamera-II. The committee noted that 428 trees (183 trees in Bharmour Forest Division & 245 trees in Chamba Forest Division) are proposed to be felled in the project; the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Govt.

The representative of the User Agency explained the basic features of the project to the Committee. It was observed that though the case was placed before the Committee in anticipation of the reply from the state government on six no. of observations already raised in the letter dated 18.10.2017, but the same is yet to be received from the State Government and could also not be clarified during the meeting.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the proposal to next meeting and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the documents/ information / clarifications already requested vide letter dated 18.10.2017 of the Regional Office.

Agenda Item No.-3: Diversion of 0.4536 ha of Additional forest land in favour of M/s Raghupreet Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd, for the construction of 33 KV AB insulated cable transmission line of Kartual (2.40) MW Hydro electric Project within the jurisdiction of GHNP Divison – Shamshi, Distt Kullu, Himanchal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/TRANS/16443/2015)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.4536 ha of additional forest land for construction of 33 KV AB insulated cable transmission line of Kartual (2.40) MW Hydro electric Project. The committee was informed that 04 number of trees are proposed to be felled in the project; the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government.

As a measure of abundant caution, the Committee directed to cross-check with DSS whether any part of the project fell within the Great National Himalayan park which was done and found that the proposed area fell outside any PA. The Committee was apprised that the project area requirement has been reduced from 0.4536 ha to 0.0407 ha hence the state government has proposed scheme of planting 100 trees by way of CA as per provisions in

para 3.2 (viii) of the guidelines instead of CA proposed earlier on 01.00 ha area. Besides the data on area already diverted for the HEP earlier is also required to be mentioned online at Para B at part I.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of following documents/ information / clarifications:

- 1. The state government may submit plantation scheme for 100 trees in place of proposed 1.0 ha of CA and correct data online as well.*
- 2. Data on earlier approval accorded for HEP may be mentioned online at para B of Part I.*

Agenda Item No.4: Diversion of 12.4332 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Puri Oil Mills Ltd , 03 Jyoti Sikhar , District Center , 8 Janak Puri , New Delhi -110058 for the construction of 14 MW Uhl Barah Small Hydro Electric Projects Tehsil Paddar , Distt Mandi within the jurisdiction of Joginder-Nagar forest division, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/HP/ HYD/13963/2015).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 12.4332 ha of forest land for the construction of 14 MW Uhl Barah Small Hydro Electric Project. The committee noted that 568 trees are proposed to be felled in the project, the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government.

The committee was informed that the proposal was earlier discussed in the 17th REC meeting held on 28/06/2017 wherein the decision was deferred by the REC to the next meeting along with raising of 04 point query. The reply of the queries has been submitted by the State Government which was placed before the committee. The information/document related to cost-benefit analysis and approved evacuation plan has been provided by the state government while CAT plan and proposal for raising CA on equivalent non-forest land was yet to be received.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of following documents:

- 1. The state government would submit approved CAT plan for the project.*
- 2. The state government would submit proposal for raising CA on equivalent non-forest land.*

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 1: Diversion of 14.852 ha of forest land for construction of Hokra to Namik Motor Road (17.340 Km) in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/19034/2016)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 14.852 ha of forest land for construction of Hokra to Namik Motor Road (17.340 Km). The committee noted that the No. of project affected trees has been mentioned as 768 trees in 9.00 m width of RoW. It was also noted that 212 trees of Oak (Banj) species are also involved in the instant case. The committee was of the opinion that efforts are required to be made to reduce the felling of Oak (Banj) trees. The representative of User Agency informed that all the trees enumerated will not be felled because the RoW is proposed for 9.00 m width and Road will be constructed in 6.00 m width only. The earth cutting will be confined within 7.00 m except at curves. Further, it was also informed that all the trees between 7.00 m – 9.00 m width of RoW will not be required to be felled. On perusal of KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion uploaded at para-C of online Part-I, committee noticed that the alignment of the road at one point is passing through the land where a building exists which does not appear to be correct. It was also seen that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to submission of following information /documents:

- 1. State Govt. will submit an additional enumeration list of trees present in 7.00 m width of RoW and also submit an undertaking to the effect that initially, marking and felling of trees will be done in 7.00 m width of RoW only and the permission for marking and felling of trees beyond 7.00 m width will be issued by DFO only when found unavoidable under intimation to the Regional Office.*
- 2. State Govt. will review the KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion uploaded at para-C of online Part-I and avoid alignment of road through the building area at one point. The revised KML file will be uploaded at para-C. Further, the hard copy of the revised geo referenced digital map will also be submitted to the Regional Office besides uploading of the same at para-c Part-I online.*

Agenda Item No. 2: Diversion of 9.53 ha of forest land for construction of Madkot to Tomik Motor Road (length 27.500 km) in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No.:FP/UK/ROAD/18961/2016)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.53 ha of forest land for construction of Madkot to Tomik Motor Road (length 27.500 km). The committee noted that the No. of project affected trees has been mentioned as 398 trees. The forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. On perusal of Muck Dumping Plan, the committee noted that 1,17,426.70 cum of surplus muck is proposed to be disposed off at 23 muck dumping sites selected in the civil soyam land measuring 1.474 ha. It was seen from the cross section of the muck dumping sites that the muck has not been dumped in accordance with the principle of angle of repose of muck. Further, there was no clarity about the site specific structures to be constructed to prevent rolling down of muck at the muck dumping sites. The REC was of the opinion that the State Govt. may review the site specific structures to be constructed at the muck dumping sites keeping in view the steep slopes and high altitude of the area as well as a number of hair pin bands proposed along the alignment of the road.


After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the decision in the proposal and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the following documents/ information / clarifications:

- 1. State Govt. may review the design of structures proposed to be constructed at the muck dumping sites keeping in view the steep slopes and high altitude of the area as well as a number of hair pin bands proposed along the alignment of the road and submit revised muck dumping plan containing site specific and technically appropriate designs of the structures to be constructed at the proposed muck dumping sites with a view to ensure that muck is properly disposed and does not roll down the slope in to forest area. State Govt. may also submit revised financial cost of the muck dumping plan.*

Agenda Item No. 3: Diversion of 8.30 ha of forest land for construction of Damti Motor Road from Km 10.00 of Arakot – Bhutanu Motor Road in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/23116/2016)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.30 ha of forest land for construction of Damti Motor Road from Km 10.00 of Arakot – Bhutanu Motor Road. During discussion, the committee noted that the State Govt. has not submitted

the reply of EDS dated 26.10.2017. It was, therefore, decided that it may not be possible to discuss the proposal further. It was also decided that the State Government may be asked to submit the reply of EDS dated 26.10.2017 and thereafter the proposal may be placed again in REC.

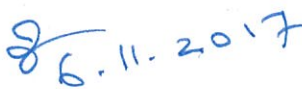

(Ajay Kumar)
Addl. PCCF-cum-Chairman

File. No. RO-DDN/REC/1-2014/VOL-3/1334

Dated: 06 November, 2017

Copy for information to:

1. Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.), 102/2, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248006.
2. Dr. S.P. Singh, New Vasant Vihar Enclave, House No.-09 (Right Row), Opp. Polly Kids School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
3. Shri Parveen Thaplyal, IFS (Retd.), Shivkripa, Sangam Vihar Chouras, P.O. Kikileshwar, Distt. Tehri -249161, Uttarakhand.
4. Ms. Kamal Preet, Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Dehradun.
5. The APCCF & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.
6. The Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.


(Ajay Kumar)
Addl. PCCF-cum-Chairman

