

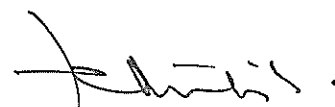
**MINUTES OF 2nd MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE OF INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA
HELD ON 22th DECEMBER, 2021**

The 2nd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 22th December 2021 at IRO, Shimla under the Chairmanship of Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to Himachal Pradesh State.

Following Official/Non-official members and Special Invitees were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

S. no.	Name	Designation
01	Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Chairman
02	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
03	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
04	Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Member Secretary
05	Shri Anil Thakur, IFS Nodal Officer, FCA (HP)	Special Invitee
06	Dr. Yogesh Gairola, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Technical Officer (Special Invitee)
07	Sh. Joginder Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (In-charge)
08	Sh. Ajay Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (In-charge)
09	Representatives of the User Agencies and State Forest Department (online & offline)	---

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members and participants present in the meeting or connected through Video-Conference. Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the State of Himachal Pradesh were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:



Agenda item no.1: Diversion of 11.9813 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the construction of Sai Kothi-II Hydel Electric Project (16.5 MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, District Chamba, H.P. (Online Proposal no. FP/HP/HYD/23837/2017).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 11.9813 ha of forest land for the construction of Sai Kothi-II Hydel Electric Project (16.5 MW). The Committee noted that the proposal was discussed in the REC meeting dt. 29-01-2020 wherein REC recommended the proposal to MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of reply on 6 points. Reply to the above mentioned points was submitted by the State Govt. vide letter dt. 18-07-2020, 15.09.2020 and 01.10.2020 after which the proposal was sent to the MoEFCC for approval but the ministry needed further clarification/ documents on few more points prior to the approval, which are as follows:


(i) The State Government may submit the following detail with regard to the CAT Plan.

- a) In the case the comprehensive CAT Plan is already in place with the Forest Department, its current status of implementation providing details of area treated and funds utilised, in general and with respect of proposals earlier approved by the Central Government in particular.
- b) Maps, if any available, indicating the catchment area of the extant project vis-a-vis area of the comprehensive CAT Plan.
- c) Rationale for charging 2.5% or 1.5% of the total cost of the project.

(ii) Transmission line is an indispensable component of the Hydel project and given the fact that implementing agency for both Hydel as well as Transmission Line is same i.e. HSEBL, breaking proposal into two parts does not seem to be justified, which is also in contravention of the relevant guidelines of the MoEF & CC, which provides for submission of proposal in its entirety and not in piece meals. Therefore, comments in this regard need to be furnished by the State Government justifying non-inclusion of area of transmission line in the extant proposal.

(iii) Cost benefit analysis does not seem to be certified by concerned officials of the Forest Department. Detailed analysis has not been provided. Further, all parameters specified in the relevant guidelines of the MoEF & CC have not been accounted for into the analysis. Parameters specified in the relevant guidelines needs to be accounted for appropriately using suitable techno-economic tools and detailed analysis needs to be submitted to the MoEF & CC instead of submitting simple arithmetic calculations.

The Committee was apprised that the reply to the above mentioned points raised by the ministry was submitted by the State Government vide letter dt 17-02-2021. The same has also been discussed by the concerned project proponent who presented the project before the Committee through video conferencing. It was also informed by the User Agency that

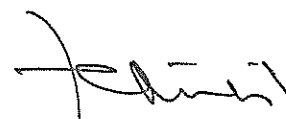


regarding evacuation of power from “Sai-Kothi-II” HEP, two 132 KV LILO Towers of proposed Transmission Line to be erected on private land or on the premises of “Sai-Kothi-II” HEP switchyard. It was also submitted that the power generated will be transferred to Tower number 28 of Existing 132 Double Circuit Kurthala-Bathri line.

The Committee members were apprised that the river Basin study of the Ravi Basin was carried out by MoEFCC, New Delhi and has identified the potential of Ravi Basin to generate power as 3237.12 MW. Further, being a requirement of CAT Plan in this case, the State Govt. has informed that a comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin has already been approved by the MoEF&CC New Delhi for which 1.5% of total project cost is being charged by the State Govt. In view of current status of its implementation, the representatives of the State Forest Department has conveyed that only two cases/projects have been accorded under the approved comprehensive CAT Plan for Ravi Basin and amount of CAT plan @2.5% of TEC has been deposited through RTGS/NEFT in HP CAMPA through online challan generated. The detail of Projects and funds deposited is given as under:

Sr. No.	Name of project	Area (in ha)	Total cost of CAT Plan deposited @2.5% of TEC	Transaction details
1	Deothal Chanju (30 MW)	15.64	68477500	UTR No. BARBP 1923210648 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount.
2	Chanju-III (48 MW)	25.98	104642500	UTR No. BARBP 104642500 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount

Regarding the funds expenditure/funds utilization, DFO Chamba has submitted that the plan for implementation of CAT Plan of the above projects is under preparation. Once the said plan will be got prepared and finalized, the funds will be demanded and utilized accordingly. It has been submitted that neither funds under approved comprehensive CAT plan for Ravi River Basin has been demanded nor received by DFO Chamba.



(iii) The Committee noticed that Cost-Benefit analysis is now quantified in monetary terms and Benefit to Cost ratio is submitted as 12.34:1.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval by Competent Authority with following additional condition which is being incorporated with other cases of similar nature by the MoEF&CC, itself:

1. CAT Plan for the treatment of micro watershed of this case in consonance with the comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin shall be prepared and implemented with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

Agenda item no. 2: Diversion of 9.739 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the construction of Devi Kothi Hydel Electric Project (16 MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, H.P. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/32280/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.739 ha of forest land for the construction of Devi Kothi Hydel Electric Project (16.00 MW). The Committee noted that the proposal was discussed in the REC meeting dt. 29-01-2020 wherein REC recommended the proposal to MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of reply on 4 points. Reply to the above mentioned points was submitted by the State Govt. vide letter dt. 18-07-2020 after which the proposal was sent to the MoEF&CC for approval but the ministry needed further clarification/ documents on few more points prior to the approval which are as follows:

(i) In the case the comprehensive CAT Plan is already in place with the Forest Department, its current status of implementation providing details of area treated and funds utilised, in general and with respect of proposals earlier approved by the Central Government in particular.

(ii) With regard to information on breaking the proposal of transmission line and hydel (dam) into two separate proposal, IRO forward the reply of the State Govt. The State Govt. in their reply adverted to the submission of the User Agency and forwarded the same to the IRO. IRO did not furnish their considered view/opinion, as desired by the ministry.

(iii) Revised Cost Benefit analysis as per the relevant guidelines given in the Handbook of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been submitted. CB ratio has been reported to be 1:259.06 which is exorbitantly high.

The Committee was apprised that the State Government submitted reply to the above mentioned points vide letter dt. 08-10-2021 and the same were explained by the concerned Project proponent before the Committee through video conferencing.



The Committee members apprised that the river Basin study of the Ravi Basin was carried out by MoEF&CC, New Delhi and has identified the potential of Ravi Basin to generate power as 3237.12 MW. Further, being a requirement of CAT Plan in this case the State Govt. has informed that a comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin has already been approved by the MoEF&CC New Delhi for which 1.5% of total project cost is being charged by the State Govt. In view of current status of its implementation, the representatives of the State Forest Department has conveyed that User Agency has submitted that only two cases/projects have been accorded under the approved comprehensive CAT Plan for Ravi Basin and amount of CAT plan @2.5% of TEC has been deposited through RTGS/NEFT in HP CAMPA through online challan generated. The detail of Projects and funds deposited is given as under:

Sr.	Name of project	Area (in ha)	Total cost of CAT Plan deposited @2.5% of TEC	Transaction details
1	Deothal Chanju (30 MW)	15.64	68477500	UTR No. BARBP 1923210648 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount.
2	Chanju-III (48 MW)	25.98	104642500	UTR No. BARBP 104642500 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount

Regarding the funds expenditure/funds utilization, DFO Chamba has submitted that the plan for implementation of CAT Plan of the above projects is under preparation. Once the said plan will be got prepared and finalized, the funds will be demanded and utilized accordingly. It has been submitted that neither funds under approved comprehensive CAT plan for Ravi River Basin has been demanded nor received by DFO Chamba.

- (iv) The Committee noticed that Cost-Benefit analysis is now quantified in monetary terms and Benefit to Cost ratio is submitted as 12.66:1.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval by Competent Authority with following additional condition which is being incorporated with other cases of similar nature by the MoEF&CC, itself:

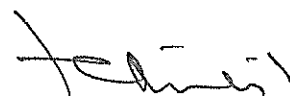
1. CAT Plan for the treatment of micro watershed of this case in consonance with the comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin. shall be prepared and implemented with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

Agenda item no. 3:- Diversion of 9.3408 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the Construction of Hail Hydro Electric Project (18.00MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/52179/2020).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.3408 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the Construction of Hail Hydro Electric Project (18.00MW). The Committee noted that 106 trees and 98 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. Out of these, 38 trees are standing on the proposed dumping sites, which should not be removed. It is 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 in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The Committee members apprised that the case was earlier discussed in REC meeting held on 29-10-2021 wherein REC deferred the case to the next REC and desired clarification on following points:

- (i) The State Government will re-examine the facts regarding the fund that has been deposited under the approved comprehensive CAT Plan for Ravi Basin and provide details of area treated and funds utilized with respect to proposals earlier approved by the Central Government.
- (ii) All parameters of Cost Benefit analysis are needed to be quantified in monetary terms.
- (iii) Scientific names of the forest species should be mentioned correctly in Part II.

The concerned DFO presented the project before the Committee through video conferencing. The Committee members were apprised that the river Basin study of the Ravi Basin was carried out by MoEFCC, New Delhi and has identified the potential of Ravi Basin to generate power as 3237.12 MW. Further, being a requirement of CAT Plan in this case the State Govt. has informed that a comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin has already been approved by the MoEF&CC New Delhi for which 1.5% of total project cost is being charged by the State Govt. in view of current status of its implementation the representatives of the State Forest Department have told that the User Agency has submitted that only two



cases/projects have been accorded under the approved comprehensive CAT Plan for Ravi Basin and amount of CAT plan @2.5% of TEC has been deposited through RTGS/NEFT in HP CAMPA through online challan generated. The detail of Projects and funds deposited is given as under:

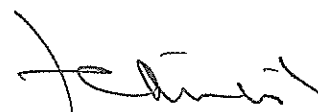
Sr.	Name of project	Area (in ha)	Total cost of CAT Plan deposited @2.5% of TEC	Transaction details
1	Deothal Chanju (30 MW)	15.64	68477500	UTR No. BARBP 1923210648 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount.
2	Chanju-III (48 MW)	25.98	104642500	UTR No. BARBP 104642500 dt. 17.09.2019. This amount also includes CA & NPV amount

Regarding the funds expenditure/funds utilization, DFO Chamba has submitted that the plan for implementation of CAT Plan of the above projects is under preparation. Once the said plan will be got prepared and finalized, the funds will be demanded and utilized accordingly. It has been submitted that neither funds under approved comprehensive CAT plan for Ravi River Basin has been demanded nor received by DFO Chamba.

(iv) The Committee noticed that Cost-Benefit analysis is now quantified in monetary terms and Benefit to Cost ratio is submitted as 18.01:1.

(v) Scientific names of trees proposed to fell have been uploaded in PARIVESH.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval by Competent Authority with following additional condition which is being incorporated with other cases of similar nature by the MoEF&CC, itself:



1. CAT Plan for the treatment of micro watershed of this case in consonance with the comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi Basin shall be prepared and implemented with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

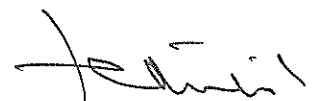
Agenda item no.4:- Diversion of 1.8525 ha of forest land in favour of M/s V.B. HYDRO LTD., for the construction of Kuwarsi SHEP (5 MW), within the jurisdiction of Bharmour Forest Division, Distt Chamba, Himachal Pradesh(Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/812/2011).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 1.8525ha of forest land in favour M/s V.B. HYDRO Limited for the construction of Kuwarsi H.PProject (5 MW). The Committee noted that the extantproject had been approved in 2012 wherein felling permission of 306 trees were granted. However, 266 trees were felled and 40 trees retained and remain intact. The Committee members were apprised that out of earlier approved 306 trees, 40 trees were not felled for which UA has submitted that the trees over Khasra 651/1, 653/1, 561/2 & 651/3 of Kareri RF are not required felling, and in future they also want to retain them to maintain the greenery to avoid ecological hazards too. The necessary undertakings has already been provided in the proposal. Further, it is submitted by the concerned representatives of State Forest Department to the Committee members that the site was inspected by the RFO and reported that due to laps of more than nine years, 49 saplings of the then time has now been converted into trees on the area where penstock components was proposed to be constructed and required immediate felling. The REC has asked to the concerned ACF that why the site is not being visited by the concerned DFO for which the concerned ACF answered that it is because of the transfer of DFO Bharmour. The Committee apprised that now the total enumeration comes to 266+49=315 instead of earlier approved 306.

After detail discussion on the proposal, the Committee recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval of additional 49 trees which comes to 315 in total out of which 266 has already been felled as per previous approval. The State Government may submit a detailed Site Inspection Report from concerned DFO regarding proposed tree felling of 49 trees, which is at present inspected and submitted by Range Officer.

Agenda item no.5:-Diversion of 1.7029 hectare of forest land in favour of M/s Gaj Hydro Power Private Limited, Village Sanaura, PO. Gaggal Tehsil & Distt. Kangra, HP., for the construction of Gaj Gehra Small Hydel Project (2.00 MW) HEP within the jurisdiction of Dharamshala Forest Division, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/49599/2020).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 1.7029 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Gaj Hydro Power Private Limited. The Committee noted that 30 trees and 39 saplings are proposed to be affected in the proposal. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not part of any protected area and no



rare endangered spp. of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Govt. The Committee was apprised that out of total 1.7029 ha area proposed for diversion for the said HEP the area of 0.3619 ha has already been diverted to Gaj Garju (5MW) HEP and was used by the UA for muck dumping components in the project earlier approved. Hence the area of 0.3619 is to be considered as area under re-diversion for the new Gaj Gehra SHEP of 2MW. The necessary NoCs and other documents as per the provision of guidelines para 5.6 has already been submitted by the State Govt. and found satisfactory. The concerned representative of UA and DFO has clarified that the UA is ready to pay the NPV and CA against the whole area of 1.7029 ha which is being agreed by the REC. Further, regarding power evacuation plan the project proponent elaborated that the power of Gaj Gehra SHEP will be evacuated in joint venture with the already established project Gaj Garju being constructed by Kangra Hydro power ventures Pvt. Ltd. The power from Gaj Garju is being evacuated by constructing 33 KV transmission line from Gehra to 13 KV HPPTCL sub-station at Chambi. The transmission line is passing through the proposed power house of this project. Thus there is no need to have a separate transmission line. However, a interconnecting point will be provided to the line being constructed in the other project at the site of power house in the project.

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Beas Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to the MoEF&CC, for approval subject to submission of following documents:-

1. The project proponent will submit a copy of superimposed map showing components of already approved Gaj Garju HEP and components of proposed Gaj Gehra HEP.
2. The DFO will provide a certificate that the area under re-diversion was used only for the purpose of muck dumping by the previous project authority in earlier case.



Agenda item no.6:-Diversion of 12.988 hectare of forest land in favour of M/s GEE CEE, Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd., for construction of Kot Dogri SHEP (10MW) within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/42325/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 12.988ha of forest land for the construction of Kot Dogri SHEP (10MW). The Committee members were apprised that proposal was recommended for approval to MoEF&CC. However, MoEF&CC on 27.09.2021 returned the proposal to seek clarifications on below mentioned points:-

1. 06 ha out of 26 ha area proposed for CA in UF Nirath, Range Nankhari is found overlapping with the CA area proposed for FP/HP/ROAD/29754/2014. Therefore, State Government may review this area and revise it accordingly.

2. In the Satluj River Basin the study seems to be conducted by the State Govt. under the aegis of MoEF&CC. The State Govt may provide comments on the project with the findings of the study.

3. The State Government may provide exact distance of project from the Ec-Sensitive Zone of Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary along with the comments of CWLW. The copy the ESZ notification may also be provided. I

In addition to above likewise in other cases of similar nature, it has also been asked that:

1. The State Govt. may provide a map showing all small and big projects/ proposals/ in the landscape along with the Protected Areas and corridors around as mentioned in the recently notified Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Committee noted that the State Govt has replaced the area being overlapped with the area for some other project with 6 ha area in UF-Nirath on the same Khasra i.e. 528 in Mohal Nirath for which DSS analysis was found satisfactory. It is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj river Basin for which the river Basin study has already been submitted to IA division.

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the ICFRE and submitted to IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.

Further, the Committee members observed that map provided by the State Govt showing small & big HEPs in adjoining area of recently notified ESZ of the Rupri Bhaba



WLS is not clear the map should be properly geo-referenced and live KML is also required to submit showing the location of the HEPs in the nearby area.

After detailed discussion, Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC subject to the fulfillment of following documents:-

1. A geo-referenced map and a KML file showing all detail like boundaries of Ruppi-Bhaba WLS, its ESZ and all projects in the landscape along with a list of approved hydel projects within 10 Km of Ruppi-Bhaba WLS be provided.

Agenda item no.7:-Diversion of 7.4268 hectare of forest land in favour of Vimla Hydro Power Private Limited, for the construction of Upper Kurmi (8 MW) Small Hydro Power Project within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/42328/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 7.4268 ha of forest land for the construction of Upper Kurmi (8 MW). The Committee members were apprised that proposal was recommended for approval to MoEF&CC. However MoEF&CC on 27.09.2021 returned the proposal to seek clarifications as below mentioned points:-

1. In the Satluj Basin, many such hydel projects are proposed/ going on and carrying capacity study of Satluj Basin seems to be conducted by the State under the aegis of MoEF&CC. The State Government may provide comments on the project with the findings of the Study.
2. The State Government may provide exact distance of project from the Eco-sensitive Zone of Ruppi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary along with the comments of CWLW. The copy of the ESZ notification may also be provided.
3. The State Government may provide a list of all such proposed, pending and approved hydel projects within 10 Km of Ruppi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary along with a map showing the same.

In addition to above likewise in other cases of similar nature, it has also been asked that:

1. The State Govt. may provide a map showing all small and big projects/ proposals/ in the landscape along with the Protected Areas and corridors around as mentioned in the recently notified Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Ruppi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary.

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the ICFRE and submitted to IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated



as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.

Further, the Committee members observed that map provided by the State Govt showing small & big HEPs in adjoining area of recently notified ESZ of the Rupri Bhaba WLS is not clear the map should be properly geo-referenced and live KML is also required to submit showing the location of the HEPs in the nearby area.


After detailed discussion, Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC subject to the fulfillment of following documents:-

1. A geo-referenced map and a KML file showing all detail like boundaries of Rupri-Bhaba WLS, its ESZ and all projects in the landscape along with a list approved hydel projects within 10 Km of Rupri-Bhaba WLS be provided.

Agenda item no.8:-Diversion of 3.6693 ha of forest land in favour of M/s CLIFF FINVEST Pvt. Ltd. for the construction of Thaltukhod-II HEP (5 MW), within the jurisdiction of Joginder Nagar Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/43637/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 3.6693 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Cliff Finvest Private Limited of Thaltukhod-II HEP. The Committee noted that 197 trees are proposed to be affected in the project. However, 71 trees in dumping site and 13 trees in diversion area will not felled. It is noted that proposed area falls outside the boundary of Nargu Wild Life Sanctuary and its notified Eco-Sensitive Zone. The aerial distance reported to be 3.250 Km while the notified ESZ for Nargu WLS is 3 KM. There is no violation of FCA in the proposal. Further, regarding TEC & IA the undertaking has been submitted by the State Government that it will be provided prior issuing final approval for which REC agreed as these documents does not affects the provisions of FCA and seems to be required for financial purposed at State level during execution of work. It is also noted that in previous cases the Hon'ble MEF has considered the requirement of TEC & IA as an additional condition of Stage-I approval.

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the ICFRE and submitted to IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.



After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

Agenda item no.09:-Diversion of 54.0310 ha of forest land for the realignment/Construction of 220 KV D/C transmission line from Tidong-I HEP Power House to LiLo Point of 220 KV/DC Kashang-Bhaba transmission Line at Purbani within the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt.-Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh (Online NO. FP/HP/HYD/4997/2014).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 54.0310 ha of forest land for the realignment/Construction of 220 KV D/C transmission line from Tidong-I HEP Power House to LiLo Point of 220 KV/DC Kashang-Bhaba transmission Line at Purbani. The Committee noted that approval in the instant case was accorded by this office for area 54.2927 ha with felling of 374 trees vide letter dated 22.11.2018. This was informed by the representative of project proponent that approximately 60% work has been carved out but due to availability of avalanche prone zone for rest of the area the technical team suggested to shift the remaining 19 towers (16 in forest & 3 in private land) from the proposed site towards upward over the same compartment/khasra(s) and by this shifting there are 23.2497 ha area which was sanctioned earlier are needed to surrender and over the same compartment/Khasra (s) the area of 22.9880 ha of forest land is needed to incorporate. Due to this change of alignment the total area requirement is reduced to 54.0310 ha. The Nodal Officer explained to the Committee that in chairmanship of CF, Rampur Circle the Committee of State Forest Department has visited the site to ensure the enumeration which was not done properly in the old proposal. However only 175 trees were felled out of earlier approved 374 trees which were common in the proposed alignment. Further, it is appraised to the Committee that out of total 5665 trees only 980 trees are needed to be felled & in 1093 trees the side pruning is required in order to avoid the damage to the conductors during uplifting & fixing over the towers. Further the concern to this 'Chilgoza' species (*Pinus gerardiana*) shown by the Committee members for which the State Nodal Officer as well as project proponent ensured that during the execution of the project felling only of necessary trees will be done and the advance equipments for the purpose of pruning will be provided by the project proponent to the Forest Department along with other technical expertise in order to minimize the damage to the 'Chilgoza' species.

The Committee noted that since the approval in the instant case for area of 54.2927 ha was accorded in the year of 2018 therefore the process of necessary consultation under the provision of FRA, 2006 had already been carried out for the area. The representations of the project proponent explained to the Committee that the consultation process under the provision of FRA, 2006 has already been done in the past and the change of alignment is being carried out over the same compartment/khasra (s) for which consents of villagers has



already been taken therefore there is no need for the fresh FRA for the project. The project proponent was asked to provide copy of FRA by the Committee. Further, the project proponent ready to bear the cost of establishing local nursery at the adjoining area involving local inhabitants for 'Chilgoza' species under the supervision of State Forest Department. The Chairman of the Committee emphasized over the requirement of consent of local villages for the change of alignment on which the representative of project proponent explained that the meeting with local inhabitants have already been carried out for the re-alignment issue which will be provided to the Committee.

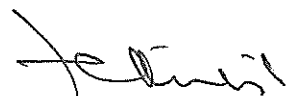
After detailed discussion the Committee decided to defer the case to the next REC and desired to submit the following documents from the State Govt.:-

1. The State Forest Department will provide a plan of action to reduce the felling as well as to minimize the impact of felling of 'Chilgoza' trees on the ecology of the area.
2. The project proponent shall provide an undertaking for establishing a local nursery to the adjoining area under the supervision of State Forest Department and local inhabitants. The cost of establishing the nursery will be borne by the project proponent.
3. The pruning and cutting of trees will be carried out scientifically for which technical expertise and necessary equipments will be provided by the project proponent to the State Forest Department/ Forest Department.
4. The project proponent will provide consent of villagers for change of alignment and felling of additional trees for the purpose.
5. The copy of FRA certificate may be submitted to the Committee.

Agenda item no.10:-Diversion of 0.9991 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Bhoop Raj, 162/9 Bhojpur Bazar Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi, for the construction of 1.5 MW Bada Deo Hydro Project, within the jurisdiction of Suket Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/HYD/34393/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 0.9991 ha in favour of M/s Bhoop Raj, 162/9 Bhojpur Bazar Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi, for the construction of 1.5 MW Bada Deo Hydro Project. The Committee noted that no tree is proposed to be affected. The proposal site is not a part of any Protected Area. The aerial distance from the nearest Bandli WLS is 12.5 Km because the ESZ of this WLS is not yet notified therefore it is assumed as 10 Km as per the existing norms, hence the area is outside from the concerned WLS. There is no violation in the diversion area. The DFO, Suket Forest Division presented the proposal through Video-Conferencing along with User Agency.

It is observed by the Committee members that the provision of RoW is case of underground transmission is 0.6 m in single circuit line while the project involved RoW of 5 m for single circuit transmit which is not as per the prescribed guideline. The concerned DFO and representative of project proponent explained in detail that the transmission for



length 377.788 m over head corridor is proposed for which as per the guideline 15 m RoW is taken while the rest of 858.5 m underground past the 0.6 m RoW is proposed as per the prescribed guideline. The overall area for T/L is remained same as per the component wise breakup i.e. 0.6182 ha (0.5666 ha overhead +0.5151 ha underground).

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the ICFRE and submitted to IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEFCC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of following documents:-

1. The detail of transmission line showing underground and above ground portion along with area is required to be provided to REC.

Agenda item no.11:-Diversion of 0.4476 ha (instead of 0.5959 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s Pharari Power Private Limited, for the construction of Pharari SHEP (2MW) Small Hydro Power Project within the jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/HYD/41259/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 0.4476 ha (instead of 0.5959 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s Pharari Power Private Limited, for the construction of Pharari SHEP (2MW) Small Hydro Power Project. The Committee noted that 27 trees & 82saplings are proposed to be affected in the proposal. The proposed site is outside from the boundary of Kais &Manali WLS and its Eco-Sensitive Zone. It is also noted that no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The Committee was apprised on following points:-

- (i) The proposed diversion area is mentioned in the proposal as 0.4654 ha. However, in the proposal folder,Part-II, Sr. no.-7, it is mentioned as 0.4476 ha.
- (ii) NOC of Hurang Panchayat is not provided.
- (iii) FRA is not provided. Only undertaking for FRA is provided.
- (iv) Density of vegetation is mentioned as 0.5265 in Part-II, Para-4. However, in the proposal folder, Part-II, Sr. no.7, it is mentioned as 0.3407.

This is also informed to the Committee that necessary NoC/FRC consent has already been collected from the village Hurang. Regarding FRA certificate, the Committee apprised that as per the existing guideline this is required mandatorily before according Stage-II



approval. Therefore with additional condition of providing FRA certificate with all annexures the proposal can be recommended to MoEF&CC for approval.

This is also noted that the proposed project is over the catchment of Satluj Basin for which river Basin study has already been carried out by the ICFRE and submitted to the IA division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The HEP upto 25 MW does not cover under the provision of EIA hence not involved in the preparation of EMP. However, it is incorporated as an additional condition that UA shall ensure adherence to stipulated e-flow as recommended by State of HP & Others regulatory authority for the conservation and development of aquatic flora and fauna. Further, the UA also ensured that they will abide by all conditions if imposed by State Government in near future for concerning the environment.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of proposals, Committee decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval subject to providing following documents:-

1. Diversion area in the proposal folder Part-II, Sr. no.7 needs to be corrected
2. NoC of Hurang Panchayat is required to be submitted.
3. Vegetation density is mentioned as 0.5265 in Part-II, Para-4. However in the proposal folder, Part-II, Sr. no.7, it is mentioned as 0.3407. The same needs correction.

Agenda item no. 12:- Diversion of 14.4902 ha. Forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Road from Uttarala to Surahi Pass (Portion Bakload to Surahi Pass) within the jurisdiction of Palampur Forest Division, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/47951/2020).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 14.4902 ha of forest land for the construction of road from Uttarala to Surahi Pass (Portion Bakload to Surahi Pass). The Committee noted that proposal was discussed in REC meetings held on 13.08.2021 and 29.11.2021. The REC meeting of 29.11.2021 has deferred the proposal to next REC directing the Nodal Officer to ensure a presentation on extant project along with the other linked proposal i.e. Chhani Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot Motorable road (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/41501/2019) in consolidation. The DFO, Palampur Forest Division and User Agencies of both the proposals were present in the meeting and presented the case before REC.

The REC members were apprised that these two proposals are linked to each other. One part of alignment from Uttarala to Surahi Pass is in Palampur Forest Division and second part is in Bharmour Forest Division which is from Chhani Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot. DFO, Palampur presented in detail the requirement of road in the area/region.



After detailed discussion Committee decided to grant In-Principle approval with following condition:-

1. Nursery for raising plants of Oak and other high altitude species be developed in the nearby area of proposed diversion site. These species shall be planted in the proposed CA areas.
2. Section-wise tree felling permission will be granted by DFO and during execution of work tree felling will be supervised by DFO concerned to save maximum numbers of trees that are likely to be affected. A report in this regard mentioning no. of trees permitted for felling and no. of trees retained shall be submitted to IRO, Shimla by DFO, Palampur.

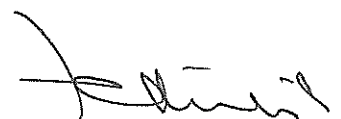
Agenda item no.13:- Diversion of 9.3355 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD, for the Construction of Channi Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot Motorable Road (Kms. 0/00 to 17/0), within the jurisdiction of Bharmour Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/41501/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 9.3355 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD, for the Construction of Channi Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot. The Committee noted that proposal was discussed in REC meetings held on 13.08.2021 and 29.11.2021. The REC meeting of 29.11.2021 has deferred the proposal to next REC directing the Nodal officer to ensure a presentation on extant project along with the other linked proposal (FP/HP/47951/2020) i.e. Chhani Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot in consolidation. The DFO, Palampur Forest Division and User Agencies of both the proposals were present in the meeting and presented both the proposals in consolidation before REC.

The REC members were apprised that these two proposals are linked to each other. One part of alignment from Utrala to Surahi Pass is in Palampur Forest Division and second part is in Bharmour Forest Division which is from Chhani Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot. DFO palampur presented in detail the requirement of road in the area/region.

After detailed discussion Committee decided to grant In-Principle with following condition:-

1. Nursery for raising plants of Oak and other high altitude species be developed in the nearby area of proposed diversion site. These species shall be planted in the proposed CA areas.



Agenda item no. 14:- Diversion of 5.31 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Road from Shamshar to Panai (km 0/0 to 9/390), within the jurisdiction of Ani at Luhri Forest Division, Distt Kullu, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/42899/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 5.31 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Road from Shamshar to Panai (km 0/0 to 9/390). The Committee noted that 659 trees are proposed to be affected in the proposal. Out of 659 trees, 44 trees are present in the Dumping Site. The proposed diversion area is not the part of any Protected Area and Eco-Sensitive Zone. It is also noted that no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. Neither DFO concerned nor User Agency were present in the meeting.

After detailed discussion on the various aspects of the proposal, Committee decided to defer the proposal to next REC and desired the State Government to submit following information:-


1. Cost-Benefit Analysis required to be submitted in monetary terms as per FCA guidelines.
2. Nodal Officer (FCA), HP will ensure that concerned DFO will present the case in the next REC meeting.

Agenda item no. 15:- Diversion of 69.8761 ha (instead of 74.7875) of forest land in favour of NHAI, for the Widening and Strengthening of existing 2 lane shoulder to 4 lane with paved shoulder Kiratpur to Nerchowk NH-21 Road Kms 8/700 to 26/500 District Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/47951/2020).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking the diversion of 69.8761 ha (instead of 74.7875ha) of forest land for the widening and strengthening of existing 2 lane shoulder to 4 lane with paved shoulder Kiratpur to Nerchowk NH-21 road km 8/700 to km 26/500. The Committee was apprised that stage-I has been granted in the proposal in 23.06.2021 with five additional condition as recommended by REC of 11.06.2021. The Committee noted that out of these five (05) additional conditions, only 02 conditions are found satisfactory.

The officials of NHAI were present in the meeting. The Committee was apprised that:-

(i) Action Taken Report against the responsible officials for change in the alignment and illegal tree felling without prior approval of Central Government is not submitted by the State Government. It was informed by the Nodal Officer that interim enquiry report by CCF will be submitted shortly.



After detailed discussion on the proposal, Committee decided to defer the proposal to next REC and desired that State Government shall submit the interim inquiry report within 15 days so that REC may consider the report in the next meeting and take further course of action.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair and by the chair to the members and other participants.



DIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

File No: 14-4/IRO/REC/2021/1/03

Date: 04 Jan 2022

Distribution:

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2. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan-173212 (Himachal Pradesh). Email: Shrwandev@yahoo.co.in
3. Shri T.C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
4. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
5. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (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.



DIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC