

**MINUTES OF 63<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN  
HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Dehradun was held on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to states of Uttarakhand.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
01	Shri Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF	Chairman
02	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
03	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
04	Smt Meera Iyer, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member
05	Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member
06	Dr. Kapil Joshi, IFS, APCCF-cum- Nodal Officer (UK)	Special Invitee
07	Representatives of the User Agencies and state forest departments	

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members 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 Uttarakhand were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:

**Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 24.317 ha of forest land in favour of SJVN Limited, for construction of Jakhol Sankri Hydro Electric Project (44 MW), within the jurisdiction of Govind wildlife & National Park, Purola and Tons, Purola Forest Division, Distt. Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No. FP/UK/HYD/22889/2016).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 24.317 ha of forest land in favour of SJVN Limited, for construction of Jakhol Sankri Hydro Electric Project (44 MW). The committee noted that 1530 trees including 799 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. 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, it is noted that there is no violation of FCA which has been reported by the State Government.

The committee was apprised that the proposal was previously discussed in the REC meeting held on 30-09-2019 wherein the committee decided to defer the proposal. The proposal was again placed before the REC in meeting held on 26-08-2020 wherein the REC recommended the proposal subject to the fulfillment of following two conditions:

1. State Government may mention correct information regarding violation of FCA at para 12 of Part II.
2. State Government may upload the details of area proposed for CA viz. geo-referenced digital map, SoI toposheet map, KML file, CA scheme and CA site suitability certificate.

The committee was apprised that the reply to the points raised by the REC has been submitted by the State Government and vide letter dt. 15-12-2021 of the State Govt. the revised CA area has been submitted which is also found satisfactory as per the report of the DSS analysis. The concerned DFO presented the project through the video conferencing and the user agency gave a brief of the proposal in the meeting. It was informed by the user agency that no other hydel project is installed in the entire stretch of the said basin and the approval under the provision of EIA notification has already been granted in this case.

*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.*

**Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 9.397 ha of forest land for the construction of Tankul 12 MW Small Hydro Project in favour of UJVN Limited within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No. FP/UK/HYD/42080/2019).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.397 ha of forest land for the construction of Tankul 12 MW Small Hydro Project. The committee noted that 232 trees are proposed to be affected in the project. It is also 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, it is noted that there is no violation of FCA as reported by the State Government.

The committee was apprised that the proposal was earlier discussed in the REC meeting dt. 26-08-2020, wherein the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of some other suitable area for CA, ensuring that no VDF/ MDF falls in that area. After which the State Govt. submitted the reply vide letter dt. 21-10-2020. Afterward, as per the decision of the committee the case was sent to the ministry and observations of four points were raised by the ministry on which the State Government has submitted the reply vide letter dt. 15-12-2021. However, the user agency and the state Govt. were required to give a detailed presentation in the meeting.

The concerned DFO presented the project through the video conferencing and the user agency gave a brief of the proposal in the meeting and explained reply to all four point raised by the ministry. In response to point No. 01 raised by the ministry regarding lease rent, it was informed that there is an order dt. 09-09-2005 of the Uttarakhand State Govt. by which the lease rent calculated by the State Government. In response to point No. 02 raised by the ministry regarding power evacuation, it is informed that the power generated

in the instant project will be evacuated from the 33 KV Line in joint venture which is proposed to be constructed for the ITBP border post by the Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. and as per the provisions in UERC (Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commissions), 2010 & 2018 this is responsibility of Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd to provide connectivity to substations for evacuation of power falling within the circumference of 10 Km. Therefore the proposed line of Tawaghat-Gunji 33 KV upto Margti power house will be used by Loop in Loop out (LILO) for this proposed project also, the fact is accepted by the committee.

Further, regarding administrative approval for the project it has been clarified by the project authority that under the chairmanship of Secretary Energy the meeting of Board of Directors took place on 18.03.2016 in which administrative approval for the DPR of the Tankul project ( 12 MW) has been accorded. The committee agreed to consider the minutes of the meeting as the evidence for the administrative approval for the project as the project proponent is a govt. body. Regarding point-3 the representative of project proponent elaborated that the total muck expected to be generated is 151059.63 cum and after calculating the swell factor of 16% the volume of muck will be 175229.17 cum out of total muck generated the 148865.33 cum muck is expected to be utilized therefore only 26363 cum will remained to be dumped over these dumping sites having capacity of 4400 cum and balance 21963 cum will be dumped over an area of components proposed as quarry area and camp building area. However, the swell factor of 16% seems to be quite low which in general has been taken as 30 to 40% for similar activities. The user agency should provide the technical justification for swell factor of 16% and if required, the requirement for muck-dumping be revised accordingly. This is also explained by the project proponent that the quarry area does not involved any kind of digging or any other crusher activity. This is only used to collect boulders for mason works as well as for the making of gabions etc. This activity does not require any quarry site closure plan.

*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 fulfillment of following condition(s):*

1. The project proponent will provide detailed technical reasons for taking swell factor 16% and if there is need to revise the swell factor, a revised muck dumping plan should be submitted along with additional requirement of area, if any. The revised dumping plan will be circulated among the members for their recommendations and consent.

**Agenda Item No.03: Diversion of 29.69 ha of forest land in favour of BRO for the improvement and widening of Dhungatoli to Tawaghat Motor Road, within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/149608/2021)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 29.69 ha of forest land in favour of BRO for the improvement and widening of Dhungatoli to Tawaghat Motor Road. The committee noted that 576 trees including 105 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that there is no violation of FCA as reported by the State Government. The committee was apprised that the proposed area is 965 m from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary but the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary is declared & notified as Eco-Sensitive Zone in Dec 2021. The DFO Pithoragarh explained to the committee that the boundary of the Askot WLS is towards northern and western part of the Kali river while the proposed alignment falls towards southern part of the Kali river. Therefore, the proposed area is outside from the boundary of declared ESZ of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary. The REC desired certificate in this regard from the concerned DFO along with the digital boundaries of the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary so that the location of proposed area could be checked *vis-à-vis* Askot Wildlife Sanctuary. Further, the DFO also explained that the road is constructed prior to the year 1980 and the same could also be seen from the SoI toposheet map of year prior to 1980. The DFO will send the copy of this map to the IRO.

The concerned user agency gave a detailed presentation of the project before the committee in the meeting. The committee was apprised by the User Agency that this proposal involved total length of 35.60 KM out of which the 18.980 Km length falls in the forest land and remaining 16.620 Km falls in non-forest land. This is also explained by the

project proponent to the committee members that as per the IRC norms the width required to be maintained upto 24 m. However, in this case the width acquired from range 13m to 24 m as per the requirement. At three sites (with total length of 700m) the vertical width proposed to be acquired for 60 m because these are landslide prone area and to treat these three sites for landslides this much of vertical width is required. The committee members agreed upon the facts provided by the project authorities.

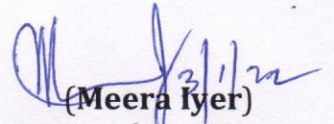
The project authority also explained the muck management plan in details to the committee. It was observed that 9 sites are selected for muck dumping at regular intervals along the alignment with the provisions of construction of weir crate of 2 m height. The REC found the plan satisfactory.

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

1. The copy of SoI toposheet map showing the fact that the existing road has been constructed prior to 1980 as explained by the concerned DFO in the meeting.
2. It was seen that the proposed area is 965 m from Askot Wildlife Sanctuary but the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary is declared & notified in Dec 2021. The State Govt may submit a certificate mentioning that the area is outside the boundary of declared ESZ of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary. DFO will also provide the digital copy of the ESZ of Askot Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. The existing width of the road is 9 m and as per the proposal, 15 m in forest land 5 m more in private land is proposed to make the total width 24 m. The State government is required to submit section-wise detail showing already existing width and additional width of RoW, as presented by the project proponent in the meeting.
4. As per the muck disposal plan, 48,690 cum muck is proposed to be dumped in 1.22 ha area proposed for muck dumping. The detail of structures to be made to check the dumped material on each site is required to be submitted. In addition,

the list of tree standing in the area proposed for muck disposal is required to be submitted.

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


  
(Meera Iyer)  
DIGF-cum-Member, REC

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Dated: 03 January, 2022

**Distribution:**

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2. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan- 173 212 (Himachal Pradesh). Email: shrwander@yahoo.co.in
3. Smt Meera Iyer, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
4. Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
5. The Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
6. The 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.

  
(Meera Iyer)  
DIGF-cum-Member, REC