

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 1st December, 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 4 of Kagihal Village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bangalore, Karnataka State (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018). -reg.,

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 57 FLL 2021 (e) dated 17th November, 2021 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After preliminary scrutiny the proposal the Ministry revealed the following shortcomings:

(i) The State Govt. is requested to offer the comments on the points raised by the CF in his Site Inspection report i.e. *"there is one old temple by name Sozal Sorneshwar Temple and One water falls within an aerial distance of 3 KM from the proposed project boundary."*

(ii) The DCF in his site inspection report has raised an issue regarding displaced people of Malaprabha Project. It was informed that as per the available records wherein as per the Govt of Karnataka Order No.RD453FGL 69 dated 18.10.1969 about 1020 Acres have been allotted to displaced persons of Malaprabha Project under Kagihal forest under various Survey No's. Out of 1020 acres, about 72 acres have been allotted for displaced persons in forest Sy.No.146 (total land in Sy. No.146-445 acres). As per the Forest Diversion proposed of User Agency, about 120 acres (48.37 ha) i.e. part of land falling under Forest Sy.No.146 is required by the user agency for project development. It is pertinent to highlight by the DCF that the land under Forest Sy.No.146 is still under Forest as per the forest records and the same has not been de-notified. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to offer the comments on the issued raised by the DCF in his Site Inspection Report and the current

status of the land (i.e. 48.37 ha of Sy. no. 146) proposed for diversion may be forwarded to this Ministry.

(iii) As per the DSS report the Solid structure, agriculture filed and plantation near proposed approach road is visible. In this regard the the state govt. is requested to provide its comment on this issue.

(iv) The Nodal Officer (FCA) in his Site Inspection has informed that the User Agency has to seek NOC from the State Govt. departments such as Water Resources, Energy, Environment and Other Statutory Authorities. Further it was also stated by Nodal officer that the diversion of the project may be conditional that is unless all the required approvals are obtain the forest land shall not be handed over to the project authorities. In this regard the User Agency shall submit an undertaking stating that they will obtain all the NOC from the concerned departments.

(v) As per the Site Suitability certificate submitted by the DFO it has been mentioned that the plantation as per this Ministry's guideline is not possible therefore the reaming plants will be planted in the Degraded Forest land (DFL). In this regard the KML file of the identified wrt DFL may be forwarded to this Ministry.

(vi) The State Government is requested to appraise Status of Approved Detail Project report (DPR) to this Ministry.

(vii) The instant proposal is designated to lift the water from the Renuka Sagar Reservoir. In this regard the NOC from user agency of Renuka Sagar Reservoir has not been submitted by the User Agency. In this regard the State govt. is requested to submit the same.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification/documents as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Rinku Kumari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore, MoEF&CC.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.