

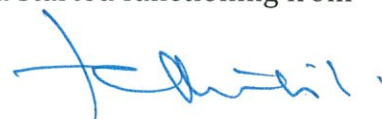
**MINUTES OF 1st MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA
HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2021**

The 1st meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 29th November, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to states of Himachal Pradesh.

Following official/non-official members & the 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, IRO, Shimla	Member Secretary
05	Shri R. K. Gupta, IFS APCCF-cum- Nodal Officer (FCA) (HP)	Special Invitee
06	Dr. Yogesh Gairola, Technical Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Technical Officer (Special Invitee)
07	Shri Joginder Kumar	Technical Officer (i/c), IRO Shimla
08	Shri Ajay Kumar	Technical Officer (i/c), IRO Shimla
09	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. The Chairman apprised the members and the special invitees that the Integrated Regional Office Shimla started functioning from



Shimla in the month of July 2021 for the State of Himachal Pradesh and this meeting is the first meeting of Integrated Regional Office, Shimla. Prior to this the FC matters of Himachal Pradesh were undertaken by the IRO Dehradun.

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. 01: 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 diversion of 9.3355 ha of forest land for the construction of Channi Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot Motorable Road (Kms. 0/00 to 17/0). The committee noted that 97 trees 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, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The committee was apprised that the proposal was discussed in REC meeting of IRO Dehradun held on 29-10-2021. It was observed that the other proposal viz. online proposal no. FP/HP/ROAD/ 47951/2020 had also been submitted by the State Govt. to this office for construction of road naming "Uttarala to Surahi Pass" in the same area as an extension of the proposed road. Therefore, the committee deferred the proposal with a view of discussing both these proposals in consolidation and if required, a site inspection may be carried out by the Integrated Regional Office along with the committee members in order to analyze the requirement of these roads to the area. Further, the committee members also directed the concerned DFO to correct the scientific names of trees proposed to be affected in the alignment.

The committee apprised that this proposal is connected with the proposal at agenda item no. 02 i.e. Uttarala to Surahi Pass (online No. FP/HP/ROAD/47951/2020) and therefore these proposals should be discussed in consolidation. The concerned DFOs of Bharmour Forest Division and Palampur Forest Division along with the user agency presented the project before the committee through video conferencing. It was informed by



the user agency that this area is having tribal population and 96 villages are benefitted in the proposal. It was noticed that starting point of the proposed road is connecting to the end point of another 'Uttarala to Surahi' road while the end point of the proposed road is connecting the existing road network. The User Agency has also apprised the committee that these two roads of 'Uttarala to Surahi pass' and 'Channi Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot motorable road' will reduce the distance of two districts viz. Chamba and Kangra from 300 Km to 70 Km. The committee members were unable to take a consolidated view for these two projects in absence of consolidated maps and location of adjoining roads and other necessary documents.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to defer the proposal to the next REC meeting and desired that the Nodal Officer will ensure a presentation for these two proposals in consolidation and also ensure the physical presence of the concerned DFOs and project proponent at IRO Shimla.

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 14.4902ha. of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Road from Uttarala to Surahi Pass (Portion Bakload to Surahi Pass) (Kms 10/0 to 33/500) 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 diversion of 14.4902ha. of forest land for the construction of Road from Uttarala to Surahi Pass (Portion Bakload to Surahi Pass). The committee noted that 1476 trees which include 29 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, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The proposal is connected with the proposal at agenda item no. 01 i.e. Channi Bridge Elaka Mata to Jalsu Jot Motorable Road (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/41501/2019) these proposals were discussed in the consolidation and the decision is same as in the agenda item no. 01. This was also directed by the committee that the concerned DFO and project proponent may work out that how the felling can be reduced in this case as the possibility of another alignment was denied in the meeting by the DFO and the Nodal Officer, Himachal Pradesh.



Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 50.9830 Ha. of forest land in favour of National Highway Authority of India, PIU Palampur for Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Four Lane configuration & Strengthening of Punjab/HP Border to Sihuni from Km 11.00 to Km 51.00 (Design Length 37.030) of NH-20 (New NH-154) of Pathankot-Mandi Section in the state of Himachal Pradesh within the jurisdiction of Nurpur Forest Division, Distt. Kangra Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/37748/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 50.9830 ha. forest land for Rehabilitation and Upgradation to Four Lane configuration & Strengthening of Punjab/HP Border to Sihuni from Km 11.00 to Km 51.00 (Design Length 37.030) of NH-20 (New NH-154) of Pathankot-Mandi Section. The committee noted that 17663 trees including 168 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, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned DFO along with the user agency presented the project before the committee through video conferencing. The committee asked the DFO and user agency to minimize the number of trees proposed to be felled which was high in the proposal. The user agency submitted that 12-13% of trees proposed to be affected would be saved on ground at the time of implementation. The committee members desired to retain more than 13% of trees on proposed alignment. It was desired that blanket felling order in one go may be avoided by the DFO concerned. The REC agreed to this and desired that a field level committee be formed to regulate the felling during the construction of road. The committee may include territorial Range Officer from Forest department and site Engineer-In Charge from user agency. This committee will recommend only those trees which are actually coming in the line of alignment and are essential to be removed. Other trees may be left on the ground.

The user agency also presented the muck disposal plan before the committee along with the structures to be made for slope stabilization at the proposed dumping sites. Further, the user agency also gave technical justification of taking swell factor as 20%



which is usually taken as 40% in such cases. The REC desired that user agency submit these documents to IRO Shimla for record.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal for Stage-I approval subject to submission of documents/clarification/ information on following points:

1. The CA scheme is required to be submitted on the prevailing rates.
2. Site Inspection Report of the concerned CF is required to be uploaded at para 15 in Part II.
3. A justification with respect to the swell factor taken in the Muck Disposal Plan is required to be submitted. Further, information regarding structure wise details and slope stabilization measures may be provided.
4. FRA certificate is required to be submitted. However, the same may be provided prior to the Stage-II approval.
5. It has been seen that there are some river crossings between the alignment. Therefore, the information regarding the bridges proposed to be constructed is required to be submitted and the same may be uploaded at para B 2.4 in Part I.
6. A field level committee comprising of the Range Officer and the site Engineer-In-Charge will be constituted which will examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend removal of trees on case-to-case basis along the RoW. The DFO will verify the enumeration of trees along the alignment & accordingly grant felling permission based on the requirement of actual alignment. The DFO concerned will submit the list of trees (to IRO Shimla) granted felling permission by him along with the recommendation of field level committee which may be verified at the time of granting Stage-II approval. The cost of removal of trees will be borne by the user agency.



Agenda Item No.04: Diversion of 6.168 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD, for the construction of Patarna Kainchi to Mishta Road Kms 0/0 to 9/600 Kms, within the Jurisdiction of Ani Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. (Online No. FP/HP/ROAD/42875/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.168 ha of forest land for the construction of Patarna Kainchi to Mishta Road Kms 0/0 to 9/600 Kms. The committee noted that 154 trees including 52 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, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned user agency presented the project before the committee through the video conferencing and briefed about the proposal and the muck disposal plan. Further, it was seen through the KML file of the proposed road and thus observed by the committee that beyond village Satehon the construction of the road is not justifiable as the same include the large number of tree felling and there exist an already constructed road as well. The user agency gave justification that the existing road which is shown in the KML file is an old mule track used by the local villagers.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to defer the proposal to the next REC meeting and requested to submit documents/ clarification/ information on following points:

1. A justification for the construction of the road beyond village 'Satehon' is required to be submitted. Further, the evidence may also be produced regarding existence of mule track in the area being used since long and is not motorable.
2. The State Govt. will justify the requirement of 1.133 ha area out of total 6.168 ha area for dumping only 43044.88 cum.
3. The State Govt. may ensure that no tree felling will be done in the muck dumping sites.
4. The calculation of CA is done @ Rs. 2, 48, 041/- which appears insufficient. The State Govt. may review the CA scheme and submit the revise CA scheme.



Agenda Item No. 05: Re-diversion of 6.1370 ha (instead of 6.4315 ha) of forest land in favour of HPPWD, for the Construction of Kharan Delath road, within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh due to re-alignment of road from village Khadela to village Karangla.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking re-diversion of 6.1370 ha (instead of 6.4315 ha) of forest land, for the Construction of Kharan Delath road. The committee noted that 42 trees and 50 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. The committee apprised that this proposal was approved already vide letter dt. 30-03-2007. After which it was informed that the alignment proposed and approved earlier does not serve the purpose because the villages were proposed to be connected through earlier approved alignment has now been connected with the roads under the scheme of PMGSY. And therefore, the alignment proposed and approved under this proposal is changed in order to connect the villages Janol, Thanola, Dogri, Bhagetli, Kunt and Kofta which were not connected in earlier alignment. Further, the area of new villages has been involved in the present alignment for which Village Level Committee meeting proceeding along with other annexure is required under the provision of FRA 2006 and the same has been asked vide this office letter dated 29-10-2021, reply to which is still awaited.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to revoke the approval issued by MoEF&CC earlier vide letter dt. 30.03.2007 and recommend the proposal for in-principle approval with following additional conditions for revised area of 6.1370 ha in favour of HPPWD:

1. The State Government will deposit the Net Present Value for area which is being proposed afresh.
2. The State Govt. will submit FRA certificate. However, the same may be submitted/ uploaded prior to the Stage-II approval.

Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 2.1532 ha of forest land for mining lease, approach road and staking of raw material for already established stone crusher at Pashada, P.O. Khaneri, Tehsil Rampur Bushahr, Distt. Shimla, HP in favour of M/s Bushahr Laghu



Udyog VPO Jhakri, Tehsil Rampur Bushahr, within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (online no. FP/HP/MIN/34194/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 2.1532 ha of forest land for mining lease, approach road and staking of raw material for already established stone crusher at Pashada. The committee noted that no tree is proposed to be felled 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, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned User Agency presented the project before the committee through video conferencing. The committee observed an already mined area adjacent to the proposed area through KML file (appear incorrect) and asked user agency about the same, in response to which it was informed by the User Agency that the proposed area is adjacent with the area of other proposal of stone crusher whose lease period has been over in the year 2014 and the same was submitted for renewal of lease which is currently pending at the level of DFO.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to defer the proposal to the next REC meeting with a view of discussing the proposal in connection with the previous approved proposal whose lease period has been expired in 2014 and again submitted for renewal of the lease. Meanwhile the State Govt is requested to submit documents/ clarification/ information on following points:

1. The State Govt may confirm that the proposed mining conforms to the District Survey Report (as per EMSMG 2020 and SSMMG 2016 issued by MoEF&CC) of the concerned district.
2. The calculation of CA is done @ Rs. 2,36,298/- which appears insufficient. The State Govt may ask to review the rate of CA.
3. The uploaded KML file appears incorrect, State Government may recheck the same and upload the correct KML file.
4. The details of proposal linked with this case as discussed during REC may be provided to this office.



Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 6.2255 ha of forest land in favour of Sh. Tepender Singh Saini, Village Subhkhera, Tehsil Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour, H.P., for the extraction of Sand, Stone and Bajri from Yamuna River bed area, within the jurisdiction of Paonta Sahib Forest Division, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Min/30477/2017).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.2255 ha of forest land for the extraction of Sand, Stone and Bajri from Yamuna River bed area. The committee noted that no tree is proposed to be felled in the project. It is noted that 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. It is further noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is located within 1.416 KM of the National Park/ Protected Area (Sherjung National Park), for which comments of CWLW has been received. The committee apprised that recently the Sherjung National Park has been notified as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), therefore in view of guideline dated 16.07.2020 the prior clearance of SC-NBWL will be required. The concerned DFO and user agency represented the proposal before the committee. The member asked about the safety zone and approach road and it was also informed by the DFO that there is no other mining activity in the nearby area and the area used for approach road will not attract the provision of FC Act. Regarding the Safety Zone, it was informed by the user agency that the proposed area is 75 m to 100 m away from the river bed and the safety zone area (1.50 ha) will be maintained as per guidelines within the mining area for which 1.5 times CA scheme for degraded forest land has already been provided.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to submission of documents/ clarification/ information on following points:

1. The State Govt is required to submit the status of clearance of NBWL as per the Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court as the area proposed for diversion lies within notified ESZ 1.416 Km of Sherjung National Park.
2. Fresh comments of CWLW of the state of Himachal Pradesh are also required to be submitted in view of point No. 01 above.
3. Though the CA against Safety Zone area over 2.25 ha has been provided by the State Government but the subsequent changes in component wise breakup, KML file and



digital map of diversion area uploaded in online portal has not been done. This may be corrected accordingly.

4. State Govt is required to submit a certificate that the approach road will not attract the provision of FC Act, 1980.

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



(T.C. Nautiyal)

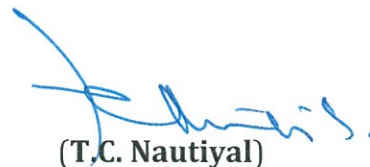
DIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

File. No.: 14-4/IRO/REC/2021/1/433

Dated: 03 December, 2021

Distribution:

1. Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttaranchal colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
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. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
4. 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.



(T.C. Nautiyal)

DIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC