

No. D.VI-229(M)
Himachal Pradesh Forest Department

From: CF Bilaspur.

To: Nodal officer –cum-APCCF(FCA)
o/o Pr.CCF(HoFF)HP, Shimla.

Subject:-

Diversion of 33.8599 ha. of forest land in favour of the National Highway Authority of India for Rehabilitation and upgrading of existing Road to four lane with Paved Shoulder from Kolka to Nouni Chowk (Kolka to Dareota Village-Pkg IIA, Dareota Village to Daseharan Village-Pkg IIB & Daseharan Village to Nouni Chowk- Pkg-IIC) of NH 205 (Design Chainage- KM 28+800 to KM 58+450, Design length 29.65 KM) in the State of HP (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/road/156128/2022) reg.

Memo,

Kindly refer to GoI letter dated 26.06.2024 on the subject cited above.

The point-wise reply/information to the shortcomings pointed out as furnished by DFO Bilaspur & Kunihar is as under:-

Sr. No.	EDS/Observations	Reply to EDS
1	Administrative approval of the proposed project as mentioned and financial sanction from the competent authority needs to be provided.	The User Agency has reported that the Project Authority has received administrative approval and financial sanction for Package-IIC from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India vide letter dated 28.02.2024. The same is enclosed as Annexure-I (a). The administrative approvals and financial sanctions for Package-IIA and Package-IIB are yet to be issued by MoRTH and the same shall be submitted upon receipt. An undertaking in this regard is enclosed as Annexure-I(b).
2	The following clarification/justification in respect to the KML of instant proposal may be provided:- (i) A complete KML of the alignment of the extent proposal with clear demarcation of forest and non forest land needs to be uploaded in the designated columns of Part-I online of the PARVISH Portal.	The clarification/justification is submitted as under:- KML file of the project has been revised as per the instructions received to show clear demarcation of Forest and Non-Forest Land. The same is also uploaded online in Part-I of the PARVISH Portal by UA.
(ii)	The KML uploaded for the forest area marked as legend P01.... Which does not provide clarity of the patches involved as forest land instead of its legend should be marked as land revenue records.	As per instructions, necessary changes have been made in the KML file. The revised KML has been uploaded online in Part-I by UA.
(iii)	State Govt. shall clarify the status of forest land under patch No. P-127 to P-142 where in from the Satellite images it seems the land is already diverted.	UA has reported that total 8 Nos. of forest plots (under patch number P-127 to P-142) proposed for diversion in Bilaspur district have been omitted from the forest diversion proposal as these plots have already been diverted by project

		authority of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur. Further, forest area equivalent to the omitted plots has been included in the diversion proposal for provision of muck disposal sites. Overall, the forest area requirement in Bilaspur District remains unchanged as 17.3469 ha . The revised total forest area statement for Bilaspur district is enclosed as Annexure 2 .
(iv)	Under column P-2.4, component wise breakup tunnel is to be marked as a component on the KML uploaded.	Tunnel has been marked as a component in the revised KML file and necessary corrections have been made in online Part-I by UA.
(v)	It is observed that the proposed alignment passes through the established structures like building etc. However, as per the information provided under column 'F' of Part-I mentions "No". The State Govt. may clarify the same.	<p>UA has reported that the information provided under column 'F' of Part I will be changed to "Yes" as per received instructions.</p> <p>It is pertinent to mention that Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Study for the project has been carried out and total 269 structures (Pvt. + Govt. + CPRs) will be affected due to land acquisition of the subject project.</p> <p>Objections to land acquisition received from the interested persons/affected parties within 21 days from publications of 3A notification have been heard and decided upon accordingly by the Competent Authority for Land Acquisition under provisions of clause 3C of the National Highway Act, 1956.</p> <p>Subsequently, 3D notification under the National Highway Act 1956 has been published on 13.03.2023 & 21.05.2024 (Solan District) & 28.02.2023 & 08.05.2024 (Bilaspur District). Upon publication of 3D notification, the land for the project vests absolutely with the Central Government free from all encumbrances.</p>
3	On perusal of the proposal, it is found that there is no detail of the existing approval under FCA of the existing road. State Govt. is requested to provide the information in this regard in detail.	<p>As per UA the existing road sections have been constructed and made accessible for vehicular movement prior to the year 1980 before the inception of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and its provisions.</p> <p>These road sections marked on Survey of India Toposheet no. 53A/15 (year 1973) and 53/A16 (year 1974) are being submitted as Annexure-3 for your kind perusal.</p>
4	It is seen that the existing RoW and proposed RoW are not clearly recorded in the proposal. The State Govt. is requested to provide information in this regard. In addition, justification of the proposed width shall be submitted and it shall be ensured that the proposed width is as per the Hill Norms (IRC) for such roads provided by MoRTH.	<p>Existing and proposed RoW has been clearly recorded in the revised KML file as well as in the layout plan as submitted by UA.</p> <p>Justification for the proposed width of RoW in the forest area is being submitted as Annexure-4.</p>
5	Under column D of Part-I, i.e. the justification document for locating the Project in forest land does not provide details such as the involvement of "...construction of a bypass at Darlaghat	The UA has submitted revised justification, including all structures pertaining to the respective forest divisions, is being submitted as Annexure-5 duly authenticated by the

	<p>(length 4.385 Km), 1 No. 2- lane twin tube tunnel (length 3.5 Km- LHS and 3.6 Km-RHS) and 11 culverts (6 Nos. box culverts and 5 Nos. pipe culverts). Whereas Pkg 118 involves construction of Part of Darlaghat bypass (7.815 Km), 1 No. 2-lane twin tube tunnel (length 230 m-LHS and 330m-RHS), 1 No. LVUP, 1 No. YUP, 2 Nos. minor bridges, 4 Nos. major bridges, 2 Nos. via ducts, 39 culverts(23 Nos. box culverts and 16 Nos. pipe culverts) and 1 way side amenity. Pkg IIC involves constructions of 1VOP, 2 flyovers, 1YUP, 1SVUP, 2 Nos. Viaducts, 2 Nos. minor bridges, 2 Nos. Major bridges, 145 culverts (re-construction-59, new construction-45 and 41 pipe culverts) and one toll Plaza...”</p> <p>It is unclear which specific part pertains to which Forest Division. Therefore, it needs to be revised according to the construction involved in each particular forest Division and duly authenticated by the concerned DFO.</p>	concerned DFOs.
6	Cost benefit ratio analysis uploaded in Para-G is not in the latest format. State Govt. is requested to submit the cost benefit ratio analysis in the latest format quantifying each parameter.	As per instructions, UA has made necessary corrections and the revised Cost-benefit analysis is being enclosed as Annexure-6 .
7	Undertaking for the submission of FRA needs to be uploaded.	UA has submitted undertaking for submission of FRA certificate and application which has been uploaded online in Part-I and enclosed as Annexure-7 .
8	The extent proposal involved Tunneling in the Himalayan Strata. As such Geologist report needs to be prepared by some professional institutions and uploaded to the same.	<p>As per UA the tunnel design process has been meticulously developed, guided by comprehensive geological investigations carried out at both the tunnel portals and along the entire tunnel alignment. These investigations included detailed analysis of the geological formations and other relevant geological features present along the proposed tunnel path. The findings from these investigations were compiled into a comprehensive geological matrix and report, which served as the cornerstone for our tunnel design.</p> <p>The initial geological investigation provided crucial insights into the terrain and subsurface conditions, enabling us to anticipate potential challenges and design the tunnel to ensure structural integrity and safety. However, a more detailed geotechnical investigation will be required to refine and confirm these initial findings.</p> <p>This geotechnical investigation will be conducted by the Concessionaire before start of construction work at site. The Concessionaire will employ advanced techniques and methodologies to assess the soil and rock properties, groundwater conditions, and other geotechnical parameters with more detail. This thorough investigation will provide critical data necessary for finalizing the tunnel design and construction methods.</p> <p>We will ensure that all relevant documents and</p>

		reports are promptly shared with you as soon as the Concessionaire completes the detailed geotechnical investigation.
9	Digital layout plan which must include a legend and the proper dimensions of each components, such as Carriage way, Paved Shoulder, Earth Filling, Drain and Protection Work as well as area wise calculations. Further, more the forest land and non forest land involved in the proposal must be represented in the layout plan with distinct colors and need to be duly authenticated by the concerned DFO may be provided.	As per UA updated digital layout plan including legend, dimensions of all necessary components along with forest and non-forest land involved are enclosed as Annexure-8 (a) . The component wise area details are enclosed as Annexure-8 (b) duly authenticated by the concerned DFOs.
10	Detailed muck disposal plan including the details like quantity of muck likely to be generated including swell factor, quantity of muck likely to be utilized and the balance quantity to be disposed off at identified muck disposal sites, carrying capacity of the muck dumping sites, photographs of the muck dumping alongwith the reclamation plan duly approved by the DFO shall be submitted.	As per UA detailed Muck disposal management plan along with a reclamation plan has been uploaded on the Parivesh portal by UA and also enclosed as Annexure-9 .
11	Documentary evidence of the forest land involved (jamabandi) need to be uploaded.	Documentary evidence of the forest land involved (Jamabandi) for both the forest divisions have been obtained from the Revenue Department, Himachal Pradesh. The same has been uploaded by UA on the Parivesh portal and also enclosed as Annexure-10 .
12	The Pvt. land (non forest) is also included in the proposal. Therefore, consent of the Pvt. land owners by way of sale/gift deed/NOC or any other form is also required to be uploaded.	As per UA, the land acquisition and compensation to project affected persons in National Highway projects is carried out under the provisions of "National Highways Act, 1956." 3D Notification for land acquisition under this act has been published on 13.03.2023 & 21.05.2024 in Solan District and 28.02.2023 & 08.05.2024 in Bilaspur District.
13	Complete enumeration list of trees including the compartment No. and alongwith date of tree enumeration. Furthermore, details of saplings are not included in the tree enumeration list. State Govt. is required to provide the tree enumeration list alongwith the details of the saplings proposed to be affected in the proposal as per the information provided under column 4 (ii) for the respective Divisions.	Tree enumeration lists along with detail of saplings has been uploaded in online Part-II.
14	Large No. of trees (total 11, 820) are important local species for ground water recharge as well as important fodder for the local communities. Therefore, the possibility of reducing the trees out of total No. of trees may be explored and a revised enumeration list may be provided.	As per UA, the proposed alignment has been fixed based on technical as well as environmental considerations. The number of trees required to be felled is the bare minimum requirement for road construction and it is not feasible to avoid them. An undertaking in this regard is being enclosed as Annexure 11 & the same is uploaded online in Part-I.
15	The DFO will provide the list of trees to be felled and retained. Also an undertaking regarding the possibility of translocation of the saplings before execution of the project from	The Undertaking regarding the number of trees to be felled and retained by UA has already been included in point number 14 as Annexure-11.

	PRoW and dumping sites shall be provided.	Required undertaking is enclosed herewith.
16	The NPV calculated for the Bilaspur Forest Division is currently based on the eco class V open category. However, according to the information provided in Part-II, the density of the proposed DA is 0.7. Therefore, the NPV for the proposed DA area needs to be recalculated under the very Dense Category of Eco class V.	The revised NPV bill is uploaded online in Part-II.
17	The diversion area is in hilly terrain and large No. of trees will be affective; Hence, Soil Erosion is in evitable. Therefore, the Soil Moisture Conservation Plan (SMC) alongwith its cost of implementation as per MoEF & CC dated 07.06.2022 may be provided/ uploaded.	The user agency submitted that the undertaking for submission of Soil Moisture Conservation Plan (SMC) along with detailed cost of its implementation as per MoEF&CC Directions dated 07.06.2022 and 16.01.2023 is being enclosed herewith as Annexure 12 .
18	Clarification required for the proposed CA area are as follows:- (i) Google Earth Findings CA site named DPF Baila 10 ha.: According to the Google Earth latest image data dated 10/2023 it seems that approx. 4.5 (ha.) is under the plantation/vegetation/mature/medium-sized trees out of 10(ha.)	Clarification related to CA land pertains to Forest Department as Degraded Forest Land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation. Necessary corrections in KML file Survey of India Toposheets has been made and revised file & map are uploaded online in Part-II. As per the Google earth image dated 10/2023 the area seems to be under vegetation cover which including woody elements from Shrubs to trees. However, after the complete inspection of the area, it is mostly the Lantana growth with tree population 0-10% that too of Chirpine which makes it a degraded area as it is on heavy fires during fire season.
(ii)	Google Earth Findings CA site named Kanlah 10ha: According to the Google Earth latest image data dated 12/2022 it seems that approx. 1.5 (ha.) is under the plantation/vegetation/ trees out of 10(ha.). DGPS map Latitude-Longitude are missing from the PDF uploaded at the Sr. No. 13 (iii)under Kunihar Forest Division. It is mandatory to provide DGPS map geo-coordinates for the verification of the proposed site and future reference.	The necessary corrections in KML file and the SOI Toposheet has been made and the area which seems under vegetation is scrub forest having the scrub growth of lantana and other shrubs. The DGPS map geo co-ordinates has been uploaded in Part-II.
(iii)	Google Earth Findings CA site named UPF Tipra 15ha.: According to the Google Earth latest image data dated 04/2024 it seems that approx. 0.1 (ha.) is under the plantation/vegetation/trees/concrete structure out of 15(ha.)	Necessary rectification has been done and revised KML file and SOI Toposheet has been uploaded.
(iv)	Google Earth Findings CA site named GPS Malywar: According to the Google Earth latest image data dated 04/2023 it seems that in approx. 1.5 (ha.) is under the plantation/vegetation/trees out of 25.1(ha.)	CA area is infested with lantana upto 25%. There is prevalence of other bushes as well in the area. The average lantana infestation in whole of the area is about 25% and overall density is below 40% as such this area is suitable/fit for raising of CA as per FCA guideline.
(v)	Google Earth Findings CA site named GPS Gangloh: According to the Google Earth latest image data dated 11/2022 it seems that approx. 0.7 (ha.) is under the plantation/vegetation/trees out of 10.4(ha.)	CA area is infested with lantana upto 50%. There is prevalence of other bushes as well in the area. The average lantana infestation in whole of the area is about 50% and density is below 40% as such this area is suitable/fit for raising of CA as per FCA guideline.

(vi)	Demarcation of CA sites on the provided SOI Toposheet pdf is missing.	Needful has been done.
(vii)	A complete CA scheme for UPF Gangloh needs to be uploaded under column 13(ii) for the Bilaspur Forest Division.	Complete CA scheme for UPF Gangloh is uploaded in Part-II.
(viii)	The State Govt. shall submit a certificate regarding the non-availability of suitable non forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in the format specified under Schedule III as mentioned in the Consolidated guidelines and Clarification issued under Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)Rules,2023.	The necessary certificate issued by Director of Land Record, Govt. of HP on behalf of Chief Secretary, GoHP has been uploaded against additional information column in Part-I.
(ix)	The Status of Proposed CA lands may be provided, whether it is a Govt.waste land is declared as PF under HP Govt. notification, 1952 or it is notified as UPF/DPF under IFA 1927?	The proposed CA area C-11 Malyawar is notified as Demarcated Protected Forest under IFA, 1927 which is prescribed under Plantation Working Circle in approved Working Plan of Bilaspur forest Division. Besides this, UPF Gangloh is also Govt. forest which is prescribed under Protection Working Circle as per approved working plan of Bilaspur Forest Division. Photo copies of relevant pages of approved Working Plan are enclosed herewith.

Encls:-As above.

Conservator of Forests,
Bilaspur Forest Circle,
Bilaspur, HP.

Endst. No. D.VI-229(M)

Copy is forwarded to DFO Bilaspur & Kunihar w.r.t. their office memo. Nos. 5508 dated 28.09.2024 & 2668 dated 26.09.2024 respectively for information.