

No. Gen. / 655
Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh

Dated Killar, the 04-06-2024

From: - Divisional Forest Officer,
Pangi Forest Division, Killar

To: - The Conservator of Forests (T)
Chamba Circle Chamba (HP)

Subject: - Diversion of 211.8427 hectare of forest land for the construction of Dugar 500 MW Hydro Electric Project in favour of NHPC, within the jurisdiction of Pangi Forest Division, District Chamba (HP).

Memo:-

Kindly refer to Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter No. 8-15/2022-FC dated 12-12-2023 on the subject cited above.

2. The point wise observations raised vide your office memo under reference is attended as under:-

Point No. i: A study of the project area, impact of the proposed and feasibility shall be got conducted by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun at the cost of the user agency.

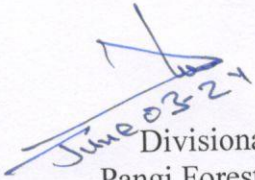
As stated by User agency vide their letter no. NH/DHEP/2024/641 dated 14-05-2024 that Wadia Institute, Dehradun has been requested to conduct the study several times through vide e-mails/letters. After repeated pursuance, Wadia Institute intimated that Institute scientists are busy in other important works and it seems that Wadia Institute is not taking interest to conduct the study for Dugar HEP.

Therefore, to avoid further delay, User agency has requested Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of HP to allow NHPC to conduct the above study from any other Institute/University who has expertise in such studies through vide letter dated 05/02/2024 & 07/02/2024 (copies enclosed). In this regard, a letter has also been written by Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of HP to Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC), MoEF & CC, New Delhi on dated 21/02/2024 (copy enclosed).

In view of the above, it is for information and record till the study permission is granted by the higher ups.

Point No. ii, iii & iv will be attended shortly and will be submitted soon after receiving the same from the concerned.

Encl: - As above


June 03-24
Divisional Forest Officer,
Pangi Forest Division, Killar



एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
NHPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
ISO-9001,14001 & IS 18001 Certified Company

डुगर जल विद्युत परियोजना (500 MW)
Dugar HE Project (500 MW)
लुज, किल्लार (पांगी), चंबा (हि.प्र.) 176323
Luj, Killar (Pangi), Chamba, (H.P.)
ई-मेल/E-mail: dugarhep@nhpc.nic.in
Phone No: +91-8930130260

Ref / संदर्भसं: एनएच/डीएचईपी/ 24/2/02

Dated / दिनांक : 05/02/24

**Nodal Officer (FCA)- APCCF O/o PCCF (HoFF),
Himachal Pradesh Forest Dept,
Talland, Shimla.**

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for non-forestry use of 211.8427 ha. of forest land for construction of Dugar HEP (500MW) in favour of NHPC Ltd. Under Pangi Forest Division and Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh (online no. FP/HP/HYD/123533/2021)- regarding.

Respected Sir,

Forest Proposal of Dugar HEP was discussed twice by Forest Advisory Committee of MoEF&CC, New Delhi dated 21/09/23 and 29/11/23 respectively. Accordingly, letters have been issued by the MoEF&CC on dated 05/09/2023 and 12/12/2023 for furnishing the information for further consideration of the proposal (copy enclosed).

FAC in its meeting dated 21/09/2023 and has desired that **a study of the project area, impact of the proposed project and feasibility shall be conducted by the renowned / reputed institute in the field such as Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun at the cost of the user agency.** Accordingly, Project has requested to take up the studies with Dr. Vikram Gupta of WIHG. He has verbally consented for the studies, but by the time the matter was taken up through proper channel he put up a lein to WIHG and joined Sikkim University. The Sikkim University vide their letter dated 20/12/23 has also provided the invoice for executing the studies. It is pertinent to mention here that similar studies were conducted by him for Thana Plaun HEP (191MW) in HP state and that proposal was recommended by FAC for accord of FC Stage-I.

In the meantime, FAC in its meeting dated 29/11/2023 has desired that **a study of the project area, impact of the proposed project and feasibility shall be conducted by Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun at the cost of the user agency.** Accordingly, project has requested WIHG to conduct the study as desired by FAC several times through vide emails / letter dated 29/09/2023, 06/12/23, 13/12/23, 20/12/23, 29/12/23, 03/01/24, 12/01/24 & 24/01/24. Officials from the project have also visited the institute several times as well undersigned had a meeting with Director, Wadia Institute at Dehradun on 29/12/23 and requested for taking up the study on priority.

After repeated pursuance, vide email dated 12/01/24, WIHG has intimated that the timeline for providing budgetary proposal for studies will be January'2024 and asked us not to do repeated communications/pursuance as their scientists are busy in other important works. However, even after lapse of 1st week of February'2024, neither any budgetary proposal nor any communication has been received from WIHG regarding taking up of the studies.

It is pertinent to mention here, that the Project was taken up for execution by Tata Power in 2014

Regd. Office : NHPC OFFICE COMPLEX, SECTOR-33, FAIDABAD-121003(HARYANA)
मुख्यालय : एनएचपीसी कार्यालय परिसर, सेक्टर-33, फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा) - 121003

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एन एच पी सी लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

NHPC Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

ISO-9001, 14001 & IS 18001 Certified Company

डुगर जल विद्युत परियोजना (500 MW)

Dugar HE Project (500 MW)

लुज, किल्लार (पांगी), चंबा (हि.प्र.) 176323

Luj, Killar (Pangi), Chamba, (H.P.)

ई-मेल/E-mail: duqarhep@nhpc.nic.in

Phone No: +91-9888136200

itself and as that was not able to get all the clearances in time it was handed over to NHPC Ltd in 2019 and now all the clearances except forest clearance has been obtained and the NIT for major civil works has also been floated. In last one year the Project cost has enhanced from about Rs. 4200 crores to about Rs. 5600 crores leading to near threshold tariff of Rs. 5.90 (approx.).

Thus, In view of the above as it seems that WIHG is not taking interest in studies and to prevent the project from rescinding into unviability and also as per 1st FAC minutes it is requested to allow us to conduct the study from any Government institute/University having expertise in such studies rather than picking up only one institute as it may delay the whole process of developing prestigious Hydro Project of national importance.

Expecting an early response from your end please.

Thanking You

Encl. as above

Y. K. K.
05/02/24

(Rajesh Kumar)
General Manager (HOP)
Dugar HEP

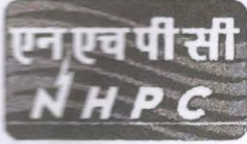
Copy to:

- Chief*
- (i) The Principal Conservator of Forests, Govt of HP, Shimla for kind information please.
 - (ii) Assistant Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for kind information please.

Received
05/02/2024

Regd. Office
मुख्यालय:

NHPC OFFICE COMPLEX, SECTOR-33, FAIDABAD-121003(HARYANA)
एनएचपीसी कार्यालय परिसर, सेक्टर-33, फ़रीदाबाद (हरियाणा) - 121003



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डुगर जल विद्युत परियोजना (500 MW)
Dugar HE Project (500 MW)
लुज, किल्लार (पांगी), चंबा (हि.प्र.) 176323
Luj, Killar (Pangi), Chamba, (H.P.)
ई-मेल/E-mail: dugarhep@nhpc.nic.in
Phone No: +91-8988136260

Ref / संदर्भसं: एनएच/डीएचईपी/ 598

Dated / दिनांक : 07/02/2024

**Nodal Officer (FCA)- APCCF O/o PCCF (HoFF),
Himachal Pradesh Forest Dept,
Talland, Shimla.**

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for non-forestry use of 211.8427 ha. of forest land for construction of Dugar HEP (500MW) in favour of NHPC Ltd. Under Pangi Forest Division and Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh (online no.FP/HP/HYD/123533/2021)- regarding.

Respected Sir,

This is in continuation of our office letter no.24/2/02 vide dated 05/02/24 in which your good-self was requested to allow NHPC to conduct the study of geological aspect of the Dugar Project (as sought by FAC meeting held on dated 21/09/23 and 29/11/23) from any other Govt. institute / universities who have expertise in conducting such study instead of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (As mentioned in FAC meeting Dated 21/09/2023).

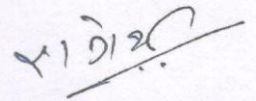
As intimated earlier Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is not taking interest to conduct the study for Dugar HEP.

Therefore, to avoid further delay, Project has explored following institutes / universities that may conduct such studies:

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.
3. Sikkim University, Gangtok
4. Delhi University

Hence, you are requested to allow the conduction of the above study as sought by FAC from any of the above institutes / universities or to suggest us some other institute to prevent the project from rescinding into unviability.

Thanking You


(Rajesh Kumar)
General Manager (HOP)
Dugar HEP

Copy to:

- (i) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt of HP, Shimla for kind information please.
- (ii) Assistant Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for kind information please.

Regd. Office : NHPC OFFICE COMPLEX, SECTOR-33, FAIDABAD-121003(HARYANA)
मुख्यालय: : एनएचपीसी कार्यालय परिसर, सैक्टर-33, फ़रीदाबाद (हरियाणा) - 121003

HPFD-F05/139/2023-FCA
Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh

From: Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1.

To: The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),
Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
(Forest Conservation Division) Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.

Dated Shimla-1, the

Subject: **Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 211.8427 ha. of forest land for construction of Dugar HEP (500 MW) in favour of NHPC Ltd., within the jurisdiction of Pangri Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online No. FP/HP/HYD/123533/2021)**

Sir,

Kindly refer Minutes of FAC Meeting dated 21.09.2023 & 29.11.2023 on the subject cited proposal.

2. In this context, it is submitted that as desired by FAC, *a study of the project area, impact of the proposed project and feasibility was asked to be conducted by Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun at the cost of user agency*. The user agency has mentioned to have approached the said institute several times through vide e-mails/letters as well as visited its campus (as well as met the Director on 29.12.2023) with a request to conduct the study as desired by FAC. After repeated pursuances, the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun intimated that the timelines and budgetary proposal for studies shall be conveyed to the UA by January, 2024 and further informed the latter not to engage in repeated communications as the Institute scientists are busy in other important works. However, even after a lapse of two months, neither any budgetary proposal nor any communication has been received from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun in the matter. It is thus evident that WHG Dehradun may not be able to carry out the studies in the near future due to time constraints etc..

Accordingly, the NHPC Limited, to obviate further delays, has suggested a list of other Govt. Institutes/universities of national repute, as under, who too have expertise in conducting such studies instead of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (copy of request letter from NHPC Limited enclosed alongwith).

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.
3. Sikkim University, Gangtok
4. Delhi University.

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It is therefore requested to allow the NHPC Limited for getting the studies conducted by the experts of any of the Institutes/Universities as mentioned in the list, or may suggest any other institute/(s) to prevent the project from rescinding into unviability. An early action is solicited please.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by
Sanjay Sood

Date: 21-02-2024 13:14:33

Nodal Officer-cum-APCCF (FCA)
O/o Pr. CCF (HoFF), H.P.

Encls: As above,