

	Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur Shahapur-Asangaon Road, Old Agra Road, At Asangaon, Post Taluka Shahapur, District Thane 421 601 Telephone No.: 02527/272096 Email: dcfshahapur@gmail.com, dycfshahapur@mahaforest.gov.in	
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No.D-10/FCA/ 1167 2025-26

Shahapur 421 601 date 04/ 11/ 2025

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests (T.)
Thane.

Subject:- Proposal for diversion of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur division 181.45 and West Nashik diversion 62.29 ha) Forest Land for Bhavali Pumped storage Project (1500MW) Village Kothale and Kalbhonde in Tal. Shahapur Dist. Thane & Village Jamunde Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/HYD/153240/2022)

- Ref.:-
- 1) Letter From the Government of India, MoEF&CC, New Delhi Dated 02/09/2025.
 - 2) Letter from APCCF & Nodel Officer, Nagpur Dated 04/09/2025.
 - 3) Your Office letter No Desk-10/ FCA/CR-80/24-25/206/2025-26, Dt.04/09/2025
 - 4) This office letter Desk-10/FCA/ 1765/25-26, 18/09/2025
 - 5) compliance letter of Mr.Lalit Parab , DGM- Projects, M/S JSW Egergy PSP Two Limited. 08.10.2025
 - 6) This office letter Desk-10/FCA/ 2217/25-26, 17/10/2025
 - 7) Letter From DCF, West Nashik No.Deck-3/Land/842 dated 17/10/2025.
 - 8) Letter From CCF, Nashik No. Deck-2/Land/C.No.58/24-25/1862/25-26/dt.28/10/2025
 - 9) Letter from Mr.Lalit Parab, DGM- Projects, M/S JSW Egergy PSP Two Limited dated 28.10.2025

The Government of India, MoEF&CC, New Delhi has raised 15 queries vide letter reference No.01 and APCCF & Nodel Officer, Nagpur letter reference No.02. Accordingly, reference letter No.4 has been informed that to submit the Condition wise compliance report by the User Agency.

The User Agency has submitted the point-wise compliance of the shortcomings raised by the GOI MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 08.10.2025 to This Office and The office of Deputy conservator of Forest, West Nashik .

According to raised queries user agency M/S JSW Egergy PSP Two Ltd. Submitted compliance report accordingly letter No.05 along with necessary documents / undertakings to Deputy Conservator of Forest, West Nashik. Then submitted that compliance report to Chief conservator of forest, Nashik by reference No.7. They agree and to forward that compliance report to this office by reference No.8.

Accordingly, reference letter No.6 has been informed to the User Agency . Then User Agency M/S JSW Egergy PSP Two Ltd. has submitted the compliance of queries letter No.9 dated 28.10.2025 with necessary documents / undertakings.

According to EDS issued on 2 Sep.2025 By MoEF&CC to submitted the compliance report along with necessary documents / undertakings.

Sr. no	Query raised	Compliance	Page no.
1	The component wise breakup provided by the State Govt. vide letter dated 05.08.2025 is different from the component wise breakup uploaded in the part-1 of the application form by the project proponent. The State shall examine the matter and ensure that the correct component wise breakup is uploaded in the portal.	The user agency has been updated Component wise breakup as per letter of State government vide letter dated 05.08.2025 (Annexure-1.1) in online Form A (Part-I) on the portal and copy of part I has been attached. (Annexure-1.2) And also Submitted Cost Benefit Analysis update Certificate in in online Form A (Part-I) on the portal. (Annexure-1.3)	1-9
2	As per component, wise breakup uploaded on the portal an area of 44.9 ha is proposed for Dumping area/job facilities 1&2 and an area of 4.8 ha is for working space, which are non-site-specific activities. The state shall explore and locate such facilities over non forest land.	The user agency has been submit the following details for consideration: Expert Appraisal Committee (River valley and Hydroelectric projects) in its agenda meeting held on 31.08.2024 sought sub-committee to visit the site 1. During the site visit, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), MoEF&CC noted that the proposed muck disposal sites were appropriately selected. The Committee specifically recommended that <i>"the relocation of muck disposal site may not be insisted upon while considering the proposal for clearance, since the sites were found to be properly selected and ecologically better alternatives were not available in</i>	10-25

nearby areas. Any relocation at this stage may lead to adverse environmental consequences".

(Attached as an Annexure-2.1)

2. The earmarked muck disposal sites fall in areas with very low vegetation density, thereby minimizing adverse impact on forest ecology.
3. Suitable non-forest land or private land is not available in proximity of the project area, making relocation to non-forest areas practically unfeasible.
4. An approved comprehensive Muck Management Plan has been prepared and submitted. This includes robust engineering measures (retaining walls, gabion structures, slope stabilization, drainage arrangements) and biological measures (multi-layered plantations, grass slips, native shrubs and tree species, soil enrichment) to ensure environmental protection, slope stability, and long-term ecological restoration of dumping sites.

(Attached as an Annexure-2.2).

5. Further there are ample examples in case of Hydro projects where the complete project components including Muck Dumping sites and facility areas are located within the forest area.

(Attached as an Annexure-2.3).

6. W.r.t Working space of 4.8 Ha:

The same has to be located in close proximity to the main project working area

		since there is no private land available nearby Lower reservoir and moving this project facility outside the forest area will exponentially increase men, material & heavy machinery movement causing pollution. The location is carefully planned keeping in view timely completion of the project and maintaining high productivity of all resources. During the EAC subcommittee site visit, the overall project layout including individual project components were reviewed and found to be correctly selected ensuring minimum impact on Environment & forest. 7. The user agency taking an undertaking for mulk disposal area.(Annexure-2.4) <u>All the submission by user agency are for environmental approval. They haven't submitted alternate land for consideration for the said perpose. This needs to be considered.</u>	
3	As per DSS Analysis of the KML files provided by the State Govt., the total software calculated area in the project is 309 Ha., which includes, forest and non-forest land. Further, for an area of 13.814 Ha, the details are not provided along with the KML file. Accordingly, the State Government shall provide the component wise correct KML files for the project area.	The user agency has updated KML file and has been uploaded in Form A (Part-I) The Area of Proposal for diversion of Land is 243.737 ha. (Forest) and 31.08 ha. (Non Forest) Total Proposed land 274.817 ha., Which Showes properties of diverted land in KML. But an area of 13.814 ha. has not included in the Proposed area , so it did not shown the properties of in KML. <u>The said area of 13.814 ha.has been excluded as they do not fall in working areas and the patches lie in between working area .The said area needs to be marked properly for better protection.</u>	Per duty e

4	The State government has recommended the proposal with condition that User Agency shall obtain wildlife clearance and/or ensure compliance of mitigation measures, if required or suggested by the PCCF (Wildlife). Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit the comments of the PCCF (Wild Life)/CWLW.	The user agency has submitted that as Wildlife Conservation Plan approved by PCCF (WL)/CWLW letter No.2269 dated 17.09.2025 with NOC. Project outside PA/ESZ. The necessary documents attached herewith . (Annexure-4)	26-77
5	It has been submitted by the DFO Shahapur and West Nasik that recently the Government of Maharashtra has declared Gut. No. 42 of Village Jamunde, Tehsil-Igatpuri, District- Nashik as part of Igatpuri Conservation Reserve as per notification dated 22.11.2022. The state shall intimate whether the requisite conservation reserve management committee has been formed and whether the requisite approvals as applicable have been obtained or not?	The Igatpuri Conservation Reserve has been declared by the State Govt. vide GR No. WLP/06.22/CR-174/F-1. This GR includes 8849.948 Ha. area which comprises of 13 villages. However, the Conservation Reserve Management Committee has not been constituted till date. The necessary documents attached here with. (Annexure-5)	78-79
6	The Harishchandra Gad Wildlife Sanctuary and its ESZ is located 2.21 Kms and only 12.5 meters away respectively from the closest point on the boundary of the project. State Government shall ensure that the proposed area is actually outside the boundary of ESZ. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.	The user agency has submitted that the PCCF (WL)/APCCF (WL) confirmed project is 12.5 m outside ESZ after site visit. The necessary documents attached herewith. (Annexure-6.1) Certified map enclosed. (Annexure-6.2)	80-94
7	DFO West Nasik recommended that in the case of land that were allotted prior to 1980, lying in the project area, the user agency shall not utilize/acquire said land parcel without a separate/additional diversion proposal. However, no details of such areas has been provided. A detailed report shall be submitted in this regard. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure that entire forest land is included in the proposal and a comprehensive proposal is submitted	The user agency has submitted that Gut Nos. 37 to 41 at Jamunde village have been excluded from the project area. Undertaking is attached herewith. (Annexure-7)	95
8	The CCF, Nashik in his recommendations recommended that a Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plan must be prepared and implemented in accordance with the	The user agency prepared the Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plan for the project was prepared and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW), Maharashtra	26-78

	guidelines and approval of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW), Maharashtra. State Government is requested to provide comments on the same.	on 16.09.2025. and same has been uploaded on the Parivesh portal Part 1 The necessary documents attached herewith. (Annexure-8)	
9	The CCF Nashik further recommends that a scientifically designed Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented to prevent soil erosion, enhance water retention, and promote vegetative regeneration in the catchment area. However, the copy of the plan approved by the competent authority for the entire area has not been submitted.	Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan prepared and approved by APCCF & Nodal Officer, Nagpur on 26.05.2025. The plan has been uploaded on in FC application on Parivesh. The necessary documents attached herewith. (Annexure-9)	96- 107
10	The CCF Nashik, has recommended that a detailed study regarding the suitability and safety of tunnel construction must be conducted by a national-level institute of repute, specializing in hydro-geological and tunnel engineering. State Govt. shall provide the details/comments in this regard.	The user agency has submitted that the overall project design has received approval from central agencies. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Central Water Commission (CWC) have confirmed the suitability and safety of the tunnels. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has granted concurrence to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) through its letter dated 20.09.2024. Additionally, as recommended by the Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), Nashik, a detailed study on tunnel construction was conducted by the Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CIMFR), CSIR, Bilaspur on dated 19.05.2025 to ensure safe execution of tunnels, and the report is attached as herewith. (Annexure-10)	108 135
11	State Government has mentioned in its covering letter that felling of 69100 trees is involved in the proposal. However, in online Part- II, enumeration of 1,78,677 trees in Shahapur Division and 20,704 trees in West Nashik Division has been submitted. Exact number of trees to be felled needs to be submitted along with tree enumeration list at FRL-2 and FRL-4 meters.	The detailed tree enumeration data has been attached in Part II of Proposal. 69,100 trees are involved in the project area, out of which 63,881 trees are proposed to be felled (up to FRL -4) Online Part II will attached here with . (Annexure-11) List of Total Number of trees already Submitte in Proporsal separately. (Annexture- 2 Part-4 & 5.)	136 141

		Sr No.	Trees enumeration online Data	West Nashik Division	Shahapur Division	Total No. of Trees	Remark	
		1	Total trees involved (at FRL)	7546	61554	69100	0 to FRL Level	
		2	Trees involved (at FRL-2)	6923	59477	66400	0 to - 2 Level	
		3	Trees involved (at FRL-4) to be felled	6235	57646	63881	0 to - 4 Level	
12	Further, the State Government shall provide a copy of approval of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the recommendations made by the State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) and submit the same as applicable.	The user agency has submitted that In accordance with Section 8(1) and 8(2) of the Electricity Act, 2003, any hydro generating project must obtain concurrence from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) after ensuring compliance with dam design and safety norms. The CEA Guidelines for Formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Pumped Storage Schemes (2024, Version 3.0) were followed in preparing the DPR for the Bhavali Pumped Storage Project, which has been duly concurred by the CEA through its letter dated 24.09.2024. Dam safety aspects were examined by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and CEA. As per Section 4(x) of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, the project dam qualifies as a "specified dam"; hence, separate examination by the National (NDSA) or State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO) is not required at the pre-construction stage and will be addressed during the operational phase. The necessary documents attached herewith. (Annexure-12) <u>This is the submission of user agency that is being forwarded for the necessary action. No such copy has been provided.</u>						142 156

13	Since both the dams are to be constructed afresh, the justification for the site specificity of the project is required to be provided. The State shall provide the complete details including KML files, forest and non-forest area involved, trees involved along with the reasons for the rejection of various alternatives.	The user agency has submitted that the project is site-specific, with the chosen location minimizing forest land diversion, avoiding critical wildlife habitats, and ensuring optimal engineering feasibility for dam and facility construction. A justification and summary note for site selection is attached with the EDS reply. The necessary documents attached herewith. . (Annexure-13)	157 163
14	It has been mentioned that project is not located near any river/waterbody. The state shall give a detailed report as to how the requirement of water and electricity will be met.	The user agency has submitted that The electricity requirement of the project will be met by the state Discom, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL), as per the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) executed with the Government of Maharashtra. The necessary documents attached herewith. (Annexure-14.1) Initial filling from self catchment of lower reservoir; water use cyclically for energy storage and discharge. The water availability certificate (with one time filling requirement of 17.84 Mcum) <u>dated 21/11/2022</u> is issued to the proposed lower dam of Bhavali Pumped Storage Project, approval granted by the Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra. (Annexure-14.2)	164 183
15	The state shall provide the details of the power evacuation plan and in case additional forest land is required for the same a consolidated proposal may be submitted for the entire forest area.	The user agency has submitted that The project is being implemented under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Government of Maharashtra, under which the State will supply pumping power, and the generated power will be returned to the State. The power evacuation plan is under review and will be approved by the State Government based on ongoing load flow analysis. The transmission line alignment will be designed to primarily utilize non-forest land, involving only minimal forest area if unavoidable. If any additional forest land is	

		required, a separate forest diversion proposal will be submitted following State Government approval. <u>This is the submission of user agency .</u> <u>No official communication regarding</u> <u>The non availability of power evacuation plan and non- availability of the alignment of the line is available with this office.</u>	
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This above information four sets of EDS Proposal and Pen drive with are enclosed herewith for further necessary action.

Encl: - as above.


 (Dipesh Malhotra)
 Deputy Conservator of Forests,
 Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur

Copy to:- Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State ,
Nagpur For information and ne

Copy to:- Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Nashik circle, Nashik For information .

Copy to:- Deputy Conservator of Forest, West Nashik Division, Nashik For information .

Copy to:- M/s JSW Energy PSP Two Limited, For information.