

No. 1561
H.P. Forest Department

Dated Rampur, the 15-07-2023

From :- CCF Rampur

To :- Nodal Officer-cum- APCCF (FCA)
O/o Pr. CCF (HoFF) H.P. Shimla-1.

Subject: -

Diversion of 7.3722 hac of forest land as additional forest land requirement in already approved diversion in favour of Shongtong Karchham Hydro Electric Project HPPCL under the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division Distt Kinnaur H.P. (Online Proposal No. FP/HYD/40611/2019) regarding.

Memo:

Kindly refer to your office online observations dated 15.07.2023 on the subject cited above.

2. As desired the point wise reply to the observations as raised vide letter under reference submitted by DFO Kinnaur are as under: -

Sr.No	Observations	Reply of the observations
1.	From the monitoring report done by Sub-office (SO), Shimla, it is noticed that out of 08 sites for 128 ha, no plantation work has been started in 4 sites i.e., C-169, C-170, C-172, C-241, and nil survival percentage was recorded in C-176. In addition, the CA site provided by State Govt. is not matching with Plantation General of the particular CA sites. This needs clarification with justification and detail report.	It is submitted that out of total 8 sites having area of 128 ha. proposed for raising of compensatory afforestation under the project, afforestation has been carried out in four sites having area of 75 ha. The remaining area of 53 ha under CA will be undertaken during the next financial year. So far as survival percentage in respect of C. No. 176 is concerned and regard to mismatch of CA site with plantation general, necessary scrutiny of the record as well as field verification is being carried out at level of DFO Kinnaur and due to current heavy flood in the state, the area could not be verified immediately. The detailed report will be communicated separately.

2.	<p>With regard to Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan, the Nodal Officer (FCA) informed that the utilization/ implementation of CAT plan is Rs. 41,06,94,500 against deposited fund of Rs. 60,40,00,000 for the CAT plan of Shongtong Karchham HEP whereas SO Shimla mentioned in their monitoring report that against the outlay of Rs. 701.95 million for Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan, Rs. 604.4 million has only been deposited in CAMPA account with utilization of Rs. 50.07 lakhs. Therefore, the reason for non-depositing of balance approved amount of CAT plan along-with poor implementation of CAT plan shall be required.</p>	<p>The total outlay against CAT plan as approved by HP Forest Deptt in respect of Shongtong Karchham HEP was Rs. 60,40,00,000/- which was already deposited HPPCL. As far as deposition of funds in CAMPA account as per the revised cost of project is concerned , HPPCL has deposited the remaining amount of Rs.97.55 million . The implementation part is being followed with the Forest Department .</p> <p>The payment details are attached as Annexure-I.</p>
3.	<p>There is a mismatch in dumping sites (DS). As per the component wise break-up provided by User Agency, there are 5 dumping sites whereas 8 number of dumping sites found during site inspection by Sub-office of this Ministry, Shimla. Moreover the muck is not being carried out in the designated site of DS-4. Some quantity of muck has been dumped opposite to DS-4 on the other site of the highway of the bank of river.</p>	<p>Regarding dumping sites, it is submitted that there are 6 dumping sites in Forest Land Diversion proposal of 63.5015 ha. These sites are dumping sites no. 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. Out of above, 5 sites i.e. 2,3,4,5& 6 have been used for dumping of muck. Dumping site 1 could not be used by HPPCL because with time the area got vanished due to change of course by the Satluj river. Area and location wise detail along with actual status of all these sites is attached as Annexure-II.</p> <p>In EMP for Shongtong-Karchham HEP total 8 no. dumping sites have been shown. In this proposal dumping site no. 6 of original FCA proposal has been designated as dumping site no. 8. Additionally 2 job facility areas were proposed as dumping sites with the intention that some dumping may be required for creation of working spaces although no such dumping were carried out in these job facility areas. Area and location wise detail along with actual status of all these sites is attached as Annexure-III. So in total HPPCL has used only 5 dumping sites i.e. 2,3,4,5 & 6.</p> <p>Regarding dumping site no. 4, it is submitted that muck has been dumped in the designated dumping site.</p>

		<p>As it is evident from the status of dumping sites (Annexure-II) due to landslides in and around the dumping sites and change of river course the capacity of designated sites reduced drastically. To make up for above deficit HPPCL has dumped muck on private land on specific request of the local people.</p> <p>In addition to above, forest land measuring 5.2248 ha at four locations has been requested for diversion in instant proposal for dumping of muck.</p>
4.	<p>It is mentioned in the monitoring report of SO Shimla that the muck disposable capacity of the sites have reduced drastically due to change in course of river landslides nearby designated muck dumping of the project. It was further submitted by the proponent that a committee has been formed to assess the capacity of all the designated dumping sites 8-78/2010-FC I/47836/2023 and the revised muck management plan will be finalized after finalization of land and the same shall be submitted for approval to MoEF&CC. The revised approved muck management plan need to be submitted before consideration of the instant proposal.</p>	<p>Status regarding reduction in the muck dumping capacity and measures to mitigate the same has been clarified above at point No.3. A revised Muck Management Plan reflecting above position has been prepared and draft copy submitted to regional office HP State Pollution Control Board Rampur.</p> <p>Final copy shall soon be submitted after approval of the HP State Pollution Control Board. The approved copy shall be submitted to the MoEF& CC, New Delhi before Stage-II approval.</p> <p>Undertaking to this affect is attached at Annexure-IV.</p>
5.	<p>The condition no. 8 of forest clearance approval dated 14.11.2012 which states that <i>“the entire reservoir created due to submergence shall be declared Reserve Forest under Indian Forest Act. 1927 within six months”</i> has not yet been complied.</p>	<p>The process of declaration of Reservoir area as Reserve Forest under Indian Forest Act 1927 has already been initiated and a formal request has been submitted to Deputy Commissioner Kinnaur.</p> <p>The process shall be concluded well before creation of actual reservoir .</p> <p>Letter to this affect is attached as Annexure-V.</p>

6.	The condition no. 10 of forest clearance approval dated 14.11.2012 regarding green belt plantation has not yet been complied	The green belt development is to be carried around the reservoir, it will be created after construction of the barrage whose work has been started recently and is expected to be completed by March 2027. Once the reservoir is constructed and settles, green belt plantation shall be done by the HPPCL in consultation with H.P Forest Deptt. Undertaking to this affect is attached as Annexure-VI.
7.	The river basin study on the impact of HEP's on the flora & fauna area in compliance to condition no. 11 of forest clearance approval dated 14.11.2012 has not yet been complied.	The work of cumulative impact assessment (CEIA) was initially taken up by GoHP and studies of all the five river basins was awarded to different consultants. Later on these studies were taken over by Gol. The CEIA study of Satluj basin is being carried out by MoEF&CC Gol through ICFRE Dehradun. GoHP is extending all necessary help towards finalization of the study.
8.	The user agency has now been provided the KML file of diverted forest area in polygon format. However, the total area of given KML is found 68.979 ha instead of 63.5015 ha. Moreover, in the said KML file, the dumping site namely 'Dumping Site-3' has been included which is a part of present diversion proposal. Therefore, it needs clarification whether the dumping site No. 3 was the part of earlier approved proposal and if so, why it is again being proposed for diversion. The correct KML file of 63.5015 ha may also be provided.	Area of old diversion is 63.5015 ha and KML file of the diverted areas has been uploaded accordingly. The compact disc of old diversion is also attached. Dumping site no. 3 was certainly the part of old proposal. One of the proposed new dumping sites is adjacent to the dumping site no. 3 and it has now been corrected as Dumping Site "C" on the online portal. Due to same numbering this confusion was created. As a matter of fact it is otherwise a new dumping site. The new dumping sites have been named as DS- A, DS-B, DS-C and DS-D.
9.	In the present proposal the KML file of Dumping site No. 3 has been uploaded comprising 3.115 ha forest land whereas in the component-wise break-up it is mentioned 1.447 ha . Therefore, the correct KML file based on the component wise breakup as shown in Part-I needs to be uploaded on PARIVESH.	KML file of Dumping Site "C" (wrongly written earlier as no. 3) having area 1.447 ha has been uploaded. The compact disc of the same is attached .

10.	KML file of 8 dumping sites along with the status of land as per the latest monitoring report furnished by the SO, Shimla against Stage-II approval granted for 63.5015 ha forest land may also be furnished.	KML files of 6 dumping sites of old diversion and 2 job facility areas (mentioned as dumping sites 6&7 in the EMP) have been uploaded on the portal. The compact disc of KML file is also attached. The status of land of 6 dumping sites as per latest monitoring report is in Annexure II .
11.	With regard to condition no. 15 regarding regeneration of equivalent area of degraded forest land, SO Shimla in the report has mentioned that the staff of Forest department was not present during the site inspection, which has been intimated by SO, Shimla to the State Govt. vide letter dated 09.05.2023. Due to this, the site regenerated could not be visited. The State shall submit a detailed report in this regard.	Regeneration of degraded forest land area measuring 125 ha has been carried out and expenditure of Rs 1,36,73,737/- incurred during the financial year FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 and necessary utilization certificate in this respect has been submitted by the DFO. The reason for not attending the inspection during the visit of SO Shimla team was sought from DFO concerned and the report will be submitted in this regard shortly.

Submitted for favour of kind information and further necessary action please.

15/07/2023
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rampur Bsr, H.P.