

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, JHARSUGUDA FOREST DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA.

Memo No. 1827 /Dated 20 -05-2017

To

The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
I/C Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur.

Sub: Diversion of 14.53 ha. of forest land for construction of Aherajore barrage project at village Debadarha in Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda District, Odisha (**Proposal No. FR/OR/IRRG/13364/2015**).

Ref: Your memo No.7242, dt., dt.18.03.2017.

Sir,

In inviting a kind reference to your memo cited above, I submit herewith the point wise compliance on the following observations made by the Eastern Regional Office (ERO) of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.

1. During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that if the barrage is constructed at about 90 meter below the proposed site on the river, important forest can be saved. This possibility may be technically explored.

In compliance to the above, it is submitted by the Executive Engineer, IB Investigation Division, Sundargarh that the feasibility of constructing the Aherajore Barrage, 90mtr. below the proposed area has explored and may not be feasible to shift the existing barrage to other site as per the following findings.

- a) The submergence area in the Barrage Pond shall increase to 20.20 Ha from current submergence of 18.15 Ha
- b) The submergence of forest area is increasing from the current extend of 3.21 Ha. to 4.32 Ha.
- c) The river is getting flatter in downstream side and therefore the barrage length needed shall become 265mtr. from the current requirement of 174 mtr. (52.3% increase), leading to very high project cost.
- d) Since the river bank 90mtr. Down stream of the current site is not confined and no rock outcrop is visible at river bed, the geology is not suitable for construction of Barrage from geological point.
- e) In case of lowering of the principal levels, the ayacut area shall decrease and the intended benefits shall be lost.

2. During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that the coordinates of the barrage & canal system have not been properly aligned. The alignment of the canal may be changed which is wrongly going across the contour. The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system need to be submitted.

In compliance to the above, it is submitted by the UA that the co-ordinates of the barrage and canal system have been properly aligned. The canal alignment is taken as per contour and any alternation of the canal alignment if considered; either requires an increase in the forest area or decrease in the ayacut area. Further, the canal might get affected by the back-water drainage from the Hirakud Reservoir. Hence, the alignment of canal may not be changed. *The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system is submitted herewith.*

3. The FRA Certificate has been issued in two types of forms i.e. Form-I for linear projects and Form-II for non-Linear projects. However, the proposal is for construction of barrage including canal system. Hence, this project is to be considered as non-linear project an accordingly, a single FRA Certificate may be furnished.

In compliance to the above, It is clarified that Aherajore Irrigation project has both- a Barrage pond (non-linear) and Canal system (linear); hence, as per the provisions in e-Filing portal of MOEF &CC, it has been mentioned as a HYBRID project. It can neither be considered specifically as a 'Non-linear' nor a 'Linear' project. Accordingly, as per the MoEF&CC's guideline No-F.No. 11-9/98-FC (pt.) dated 5th July 2013, FRA certificates, as applicable for both Non-linear portion (Barrage pond/ reservoir) in Form II and Linear portion (Canal) in Form I has been obtained from the District Collector. Besides, the submergence portion (Barrage pond) affects limited no. of villages/ population and as per the stipulations of the MoEF&CC, Project Purpose Grama Sabhas have been carried out in these areas for issuing FRA certificate (Form II). However, the canals are aligned through many villages and are considered a boon by the local population as they are directly benefited from the irrigation. It may please be appreciated that conducting Gram Sabhas in such large no. of villages would consume enormous time and may be superfluous.

Recognizing the nature of such linear projects (such as Canals), MoEF has already stipulated issue of FRA certificate in Form I, and the project has obtained the FRA certificate as per the stipulation.

In view of the above submission, and due to the sheer nature of public welfare intended by the project, the FRA certificates furnished in the present form may kindly be accepted.

4.As per the norm of CAT plan, 2% to 3% of the project cost is to be earmarked for CAT plan. However, in this project the cost of CAT Plan is less than 2%. Hence, the CAT plan may have modified earmarking 3% of the project cost towards implementation of CAT plan with specific provision for water harvesting structures.

In compliance to the above, it is submitted that the Catchment area treatment plan has been prepared including, Biological and Engineering measures as per MoEF&CC's guideline No-F.No.8-227/87-FC (pt.) dated 18th June 2004. However, as advised the revised CAT plan is submitted herewith including specific provisions for WHS. The revised cost for CAT plan is now Rs. 130.53 lakhs which is 2.33% of the project cost. The revised Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As above

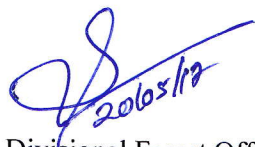
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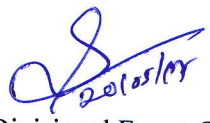
Copy forwarded to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act for favor of kind information and necessary action with reference to his memo No.7242, dt.18.03.2017.

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Copy forwarded to the Executive Engineer, IB Irrigation Division, Sundargarh for information and necessary action with reference to his memo No.910, dt.19.05.2017.


20/05/17
Divisional Forest Officer,
Jharsuguda Forest Division.


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