

No. Ft. 48-5495/2021(FCA),  
Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh

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

To: The Regional Officer,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
CGO Complex, Shivalik Khad, Longwood, Shimla,  
Himachal Pradesh-171001.

Dated Shimla -1, the **19 MAY 2022**

**Subject: Diversion of 12.04 ha of forest land in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Chandigarh, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Railway Recruitment Board Building, Railway colony, near Candigarh station, for the construction of Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri New Rail line Phase-IV i.e from Kms 52.015 to Kms 62.900 , within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division Distt Bilaspur, HP ,**

Sir,

Kindly refer to your office letter No.FC/HPC/07/14/2022 dated 23.03.2022 on the subject cited above.

2 The point-wise reply of the observations as raised vide your above referred letter is submitted as below:-

1. It is fact that diversion area touches Govind Sagar Lake and Ali Khad. Earlier, the GoHP has declared Govind Sagar as Wild life Sanctuary vide notification No.FFE-B-F(6)-18/99 dated 23.10.1999. Thereafter above Wild life sanctuary has been denotified by GoHP vide notification No.FFE-B-F(6)-11/2005-II/Govind Sagar dated 7.6.2013. As such, Shree Naina Devi Ji Conservation Reserve is the only protected area in Bilaspur Forest Division and is situated at an aerial distance of 23 Kms from proposed site.
2. The UA has reported that railway alignment has been proposed keeping in view the geological and technical feasibility of permissible curvature and gradient through stable locations to cater the commuting and commercial needs of people residing in the project area.
3. UA has reported that KML file uploaded is for the project alignment which includes the forest and non forest area. The forest area involved is 12.04 ha (6.91 ha open area and 5.13 ha notional area). Besides this 57.35 ha area also includes private land of 40.52 ha and other Govt. non forest land 4.79 ha of HPPWD and State Electricity Board.
4. The item is complied and details of all proposals have been mentioned by UA in Part-I, para-B1.
5. UA has submitted the components, beneficiary villages marked in distinct colours in a CD which is attached please.

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6. UA has given an undertaking in Part-1, additional information details as well as in hard copy regarding payment of NPV and additional NPV. The proposal was uploaded in Sep, 2021.
7. Photocopy of Muck Management plan duly authenticated by the DFO concerned is enclosed herewith. In part-II (online) para 16, hardcopies of Part-II, III and Site inspection reports of DCF and CCF, it is already certified that the land proposed for diversion is unavoidable and barest minimum.
8. The UA has uploaded FRA certificate in Part-I against column No.K(i) and hardcopy is enclosed herewith.
9. UA has reported that railway alignment is in difficult hilly terrain. Approach roads have been proposed to reach the location of tunnel and bridges for construction stage. To access all these sites, construction of approach roads total length of 784m and about 5 m wide are required. The details of approach roads have been uploaded by UA as part of proposal in Muck Management Plan, Part-1 against additional information details.
10. 10 ha CA area of Patch No. 2 identified in DPF Guru Ka Lahore is infested with lantana and other type of bushes upto 25% and overall density of vegetation is 22%, as such this area is under Open Forest which is suitable/fit for raising of CA as per FCA guidelines.
11. The present proposal for diversion of 12.04 ha includes 6.91 ha open surface area which shall be required for diversion and 5.13 ha notional area considered on top of underground structures i.e. tunnels where no tree felling is involved. Earlier, the MOEF & CC has already finally approved Phase-II & III of above project without CA for notional area i.e. tunnel/underground area.
12. UA has reported that proposed alignment is crossing the existing National Highway at Bhatehr (Ch. Km 60-900) in this proposal. The conceptual drawings have been provided to the concerned authority i.e. PIU NHAI Mandi. Since the detailed design and drawing of structures for railway line shall be prepared at a later stage, an undertaking to this effect as submitted by UA is attached. NHAI & RVNL are both Central Govt. organization involved in infrastructure development projects, as such the detailed planning issues shall be resolved between the two organizations.
13. The CA area proposed in UPF Ghatewal and DPF Guru Ka Lahore falls within jurisdiction of Naina Devi Ji range. Earlier, Naina Devi Ji was wild life range under Wild Life Division, Hamirpur which is de-notified and included in this division by GoHP vide notification No. FFE-B-F(6)-11/2005-II Shri Naina Devi dated 7.6.2013. As such, record about these UPF/DPF is not available in Bilaspur Forest Division.
14. The notional area considered on account of underground structures i.e. tunnels will not be acquired for the project. There is always availability of sufficient overburden and hence the trees standing over tunnels in notional area will not be affected. Therefore, it seems that enumeration of trees standing over surface of tunnels in notional area is not required.

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15. The identified trees included in proposal are barest minimum. Total 1021 trees, 1082 saplings and 40 bamboo clumps have been enumerated from proposed forest land out of which those trees will be felled which are essential for removal and rests of the trees will be retained. For example, in phase-III total 4958 trees, 4185 saplings & 23 bamboo clumps were enumerated out of which 4213 trees, 3505 saplings & 23 bamboo clumps have been marked for felling/removal.
16. As per UA, location for muck dumping is decided based on topography of area. The muck dumping on forest land does not lead to loss of forest area as forest land shall be again available for afforestation purpose. Moreover, compensatory afforestation is also implemented.
17. As per UA, the land being proposed for diversion is kept barest minimum for the project. The excavated surfaces are designed on geotechnical considerations and adequately protected against erosion. Because erosion, if any shall not be preferred during operation stage of railway line.

Yours faithfully,

Encls: As above.

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

Endst. No. Ft. 48-5495/2021 (FCA)

Dated Shimla-1, the **11 9 MAY 2022**

Copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action.

1. CCF Bilaspur wrt to his office letter No.D-VI-199(M)/11048 dated 13.5.2022.
2. DFO Bilaspur
3. The Chief Project Manager, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Chandigarh, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Railway Recruitment Board Building, Railway Colony, Chandigarh.

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

*[Handwritten signature]*  
17/5/22