

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

Sub:- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of JSW Energy PSP Two Limited for non-forestry use of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur Division 181.45 ha and West Nasik Division 62.29 Ha) of forest land (reserved forest, protected forest and private forest) for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in Thane & Nasik District in the State of Maharashtra (Online proposal No. FP/MH/HYD/153240/2022)- reg.

No. Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-153240/Thane/902 /2026-27
Nagpur - 440 001, Date :- 23/04/2026

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralaya Mumbai -32

- Ref:- 1. The Government of India, MoEF&CC, New Delhi letter No. File No. 8-06/2025-FC, dated 20/04/2026.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane letter No. Desk-10/FCA/A-20/CR-80/24-25/16/26-27, dated 24/04/2026.

The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide letter under reference No.1 raised certain queries. Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane vide letter under reference no.2 has submitted compliance report for the same as follows:-

Sr. no	Query	Compliance
i.	The State Govt. submitted that the User Agency has undertaken to stabilize and scientifically reclaim the muck disposal sites post-use and to restore them with vegetation in accordance with the approved plan. However, the details with regard to the surrender schedule of the land proposed for Muck disposal (23.122 ha) along with an undertaking has not been furnished by the User Agency. The same needs to be submitted by the State Govt.	The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:- The User Agency has submitted an undertaking for confirming that within 6 months Commercial Operation of Bhavali PSP, 23.122 Ha. designated Muck Dumping area will be handed over to State Forest Department post stabilizing reclaiming the muck disposal area as Annexure-1 .

<p>ii. The State Government has submitted that the overall forest land requirement for the project has been reduced from 243.74 ha to 207.171 ha, i.e., a reduction of 36.569 ha (17.788 ha from muck dumping sites and 19.781 ha from proposed roads). However, it has also been indicated that the total reduction is 36.59 ha. Accordingly, the State Government may be requested to reconcile and rectify this discrepancy.</p>	<p>The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:-</p> <p>The User Agency has proposed an area reduction from 243.74 ha to 207.171 ha, the total area reduction is 36.569 ha. In revised area statement some component area is reduced and some component area is added. The User Agency has submitted revised component wise Breakup and Area Statement as Annexure-2.</p>
<p>iii. The State Govt. has submitted that the User Agency has also undertaken to submit the updated KML files and relevant documents along with Stage-I compliance. However, the revised component wise KML files for the proposed area of 207.171 ha needs to be submitted. The same shall be submitted by the State Govt.</p>	<p>The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:-</p> <p>The User Agency uploaded component wise Revised KML file on Parivesh Portal Part-I. The User Agency submitted revised KML Pen Drive /CD Annexure-3.</p>
<p>iv. The State Govt. has not made the necessary correction on the Part-I and Part-II of the online application form as per the revised proposal area of 207.171 ha. The same needs to be done by the State Govt. along with the revised component wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion.</p>	<p>The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:-</p> <p>The User Agency has updated area statement for revised proposal area of 207.171 ha. and uploaded on Parivesh Part-I. Online Part-I copy is attached.</p> <p>The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that Other related documents will be uploaded as part of Stage-I compliance as Annexure-4.</p> <p>Further, the Dy.CF, Shahapur on 24/04/2026 has mentioned in its query compliance that:- The option to carry out the necessary corrections in Part-II is not available in the DCF, Shahapur office login. Therefore, the DCF, Shahapur has requested that the proposal may kindly be considered under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as per the corrections submitted by the User Agency, and forwarded to the Central Government for obtaining prior approval.</p>
<p>v. The State Govt. shall clarify whether the DPR of the proposal has been revised as per the revised area. If yes, the revised DPR needs to be 8-06/2025-FC I/173518/2026 submitted by the State Govt.</p>	<p>The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:-</p> <p>The User Agency has submitted that there is no change in the project layout and components. Hence, there is no requirement of revision in the</p>

	<p>approved DPR. Approach/access to project components and dumping & job facility areas have been optimized with an objective of minimizing the forest diversion.</p> <p>Further, the revised Forest diversion area of 207.171 ha. has been comprehensively mapped duly considering the changes in some component areas due to overlap between underground and surface works, which has been updated.</p>
vi.	<p>The State Government has submitted that for access roads, upon review, optimization measures such as reduction in carriageway width and adoption of underground access have been undertaken. Consequently, the forest land requirement for roads in the lower reservoir area has been reduced from 39.162 ha to 19.381 ha (reduction of 19.781 ha). As per Van(Sanrakshan evam samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, even in case of underground roads without surface rights, the diversion of forest area involved is required and payment of compensatory levies is essential. State government may clarify that if underground road area is correctly included in the proposal .</p> <p>The DCF, Shahapur & CCF (T), Thane on 24/04/2026 & 24/04/2026 has submitted compliance report as follows:-</p> <p>The User Agency has submitted that the optimization measures for access roads, including reduction in carriage way width and adoption of underground access, have been duly incorporated in the revised proposal with the objective of minimizing forest land diversion.</p> <p>The forest land involved in underground road components has been fully accounted for in the total forest land proposed for diversion, including underground stretches.</p>

This is for your information and further needful action.
Encl : As above


(S.V.Ramarao)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane for information.
Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Nashik for information.
Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur for information.
Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, West Nashik Forest Division for information.
Copy to the Authorized Signatory, JSW Energy PSP Two Limited at JSW Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 for information.