

No./RK/FCA/ 3437
Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh.

Dated J/Nagar, the/ 27-7-2022

From: DFO Joginder Nagar.

To: CCF Mandi.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 406.79 ha. of forest land in favour of HPPCL for the construction of Thana Plaun Hydro-Electric Project (91MW), within the jurisdiction of Mandi & Jogindernagar Forest Division, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

Memo:

Kindly refer to observation raised by MoEF&CC, GoI through EDS vide his office letter No. 8-21/2021-FC dated 24-05-2022, on the subject above.

2. The point wise reply of the observations raised vide above referred communication have attended, as under:-

(i) The area shown under dam site is overlapping with road as few of the components of dam site are underground and could not be differentiated in KML maps. The overlapped land has been taken under road (surface component) and Dam Site (underground component) both in Forest Land diversion proposal. It is submitted here that no solid structure is present in the quarry sites Malot, Son, Sakrain and Thodu as these are big rivulets. The River Protection Works of Thodu, Malot and Sakrain are being taken up by Jal Shakti Vibhag of Himachal Pradesh funded by Asian Development Bank. The fifth quarry site Prain is along Beas River and a Bridge Downstream to the quarry site has been proposed.

(ii) The date of enumeration of trees at FRL, FRL-2 and FRL-4 is as under:-


S.N.	Name of Division	Date of enumeration of trees
1	Joginder Nagar	FRL- 2012-13 & 17-05-2020 to 20-06-2020 FRL-4:2012-13 & 25-10-2021 to 23-11-2021 FRL-2: 25-10-2021 to 23-11-2021.
2	Mandi	FRL- 2012-13 & 05-03-2020 to 18-04-2020 FRL-4:2012-13 & 22-09-2021 to 15-11-2021 FRL-2: 22-09-2021 to 15-11-2021.

(iii) As such no village/Muhal is getting submerged completely due to construction of the project. However, some portions of 37 Muhals are going to be submerged; but there are no habitations in that area. The list of Muhals is enclosed herewith in triplicate as Annexure-I.

(iv) There is only one nearest project i.e. Pandoh Dam about 40 Kms Upstream of the project. Dehar Power Plant is associated project of Pandoh Dam wherein the water from Beas river has been diverted to Dehar Power house on Sutlej River. Both Pandoh Dam and Dehar Power House are being run by Bhakhra Beas Management Board (BBMB). NOC from the BBMB in this regard has been obtained (kindly refer DPR Vol-I, Chapter No.21 Clearances/Inputs). However, copy of NOC is enclosed herewith in triplicate

(iii) As such no village/Muhul is getting submerged completely due to construction of the project. However, some portions of 37 Muhals are going to be submerged; but there are no habitations in that area. The list of Muhals is enclosed herewith in triplicate as **Annexure-I**.

(iv) There is only one nearest project i.e. Pandoh Dam about 40 Kms Upstream of the project. Dehar Power Plant is associated project of Pandoh Dam wherein the water from Beas river has been diverted to Dehar Power house on Sutlej River. Both Pandoh Dam and Dehar Power House are being run by Bhakhra Beas Management Board (BBMB). NOC from the BBMB in this regard has been obtained (kindly refer DPR Vol-I, Chapter No.21 Clearances/Inputs). However, copy of NOC is enclosed herewith in triplicate as **Annexure-II**. Kol Dam is on Sutlej River Basin and no NOC is required. As far as the effects of these projects are concerned it is submitted here that Directorate of Energy, Government of Himachal Pradesh undertook the task of conducting Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) Study for Beas river basin in Himachal Pradesh with an objective to assess the cumulative impacts of hydropower development in the basin. In the meantime, MoEF&CC took over all the river basin/carrying capacity studies being conducted by Central/State agencies and therefore, all reports were submitted directly to MoEF&CC. RS Envirolink Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (RSET), Gurgaon was awarded the study based on techno-commercial bidding. Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects of Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF&CC) approved the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the study. The study was initiated during February 2016, an inception report was submitted in June 2016 to capture the progress made during first four months of the study period and a Rapid CIA report was submitted in November 2016, which captured progress in first 8 months. The draft report was discussed and appraised in 4th meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects held on 12th April 2017, wherein a visit to the study area by a sub-committee of EAC was suggested, which was made during April 2018 and post visit the outcome was discussed in EAC meeting during the same month. Recommendations were discussed in detail and it was decided to share the recommendations with the state government and thereafter the final report to be discussed in EAC. Directorate of Energy, Government of Himachal Pradesh, on receipt of recommendations, shared their views/observations on the recommendations and made a presentation during EAC meeting of June 2018. During presentation, EAC sought further information from state government to justify their observations and matter was discussed in subsequent EAC meetings of October and November 2018. EAC finally concluded all the discussions on Beas River Basin study and directed the Consultant to update/finalize the basin study report, keeping in view the matter discussed and recorded in various EAC meetings. The final report was prepared by

 P/13

incorporating recommendations finalised by EAC in consultation with state government of Himachal Pradesh in 2019. The final report on *Cumulative Impact and Carrying Capacity Study (CIA&CCS) of Beas Sub Basin* can be viewed/ downloaded from MOEF&CC website link as below: <https://moef.gov.in/en/division/environment-divisions/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/important-links/Furthermore>. the water availability of each project is diligently ascertained by and Central Water Commission and Central Electricity Authority (its directorates) before granting concurrence to the projects DPR in any basin under Section-8 of Electricity Act, 2003. The same was accorded to Thana Plaun Project on dated 07.09.2021 already submitted to MOEF&CC. It is submitted here that as such there is no Hydro Power Scheme namely Suket Dam on Beas Basin. The report of CIA&CCS of Beas Sub Basin Chapter 2 Hydro Power Development in Beas Basin, Table 2.2 is enclosed herewith in triplicate **(Annexure-III)**.

(v) As per "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013", the project specific R&R Plan is prepared during the process of land acquisition. The process of Private Land Acquisition is about to start shortly after issuance of notification under section 11 by State Govt. Thereafter, the R&R Plan shall be prepared in line with the Model R&R Plan of HPPCL and the R&R plan of the project will be notified before acquisition of private Land and the same will be submitted to MOEF&CC (As assured to Hon'ble EAC (RV& HEP) also). Relevant Extract from LARR Act, 2013 and Undertaking in this regard by user agency is enclosed herewith in triplicate as Annexure-IV & V.

(vi) The KML files of CA area have been corrected and uploaded in online portal Part II at column 13.

(vi) (1) The proposed CA site at Neri Nishoo has been replaced with DPF Algan (10 hect) and necessary land suitability certificate, CA scheme, Digital map and Toposheet has been uploaded in part-II and the same is enclosed herewith in triplicate as Annexure-VI, VII, VIII & IX.

(2) DFO Mandi has reported that out of 20 hect, 2 hect area has been shown as MDF and remaining area is open forest. Certificate of the same has been uploaded in additional information of part-II and enclosed herewith in triplicate as Annexure-X.


In this context, it is also reported that more area is proposed for CA against 406.79 hectares of diversion area.

Corrected 9/2

4

It is, therefore, requested that necessary Stage-I approval of the proposal under FCA-1980 may kindly obtained from the competent authority please.

Encl: As above.


Divisional Forest Officer
Jogindernagar Forest Division
Jogindernagar.