

**MINUTES OF 55<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN  
HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

The 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Dehradun was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 in the Meeting Room of the Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

S.No.	Name	Designation
01	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Chairman
02	Dr. R B S Rawat, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
03	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member (through video conferencing)
04	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member (through video conferencing)
05	Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member
06	Shri Shashi Shankar, IFS, AIGF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member Secretary
07	Shri D. J. K. Sharma, IFS	PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (UK)
08	Shri Rajesh J. Ekka, IFS	APCCF (FCA), Nodal Officer (HP) (through video conferencing)
09	Representatives of the User Agencies and state forest departments	

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members present in the meeting or connected through Video-Conference.



Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the state of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:

### **HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 12.988 ha forest land for construction of Kot Dogri Small Hydro Electric Project (10 MW) on Koot Khad a tributary of river Satluj, in favour of Gee Cee Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd., within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/42325/2019).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 12.988 ha forest land for construction of Kot Dogri Small Hydro Electric Project (10 MW). The committee was apprised that 169 trees are enumerated in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area, also no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, the committee noted that no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The committee was apprised that the forest land proposed for diversion is located within 10 KM of Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary. Comments of CWLW has been submitted in this regard. The concerned User Agency presented the project before the REC through Video Conferencing and informed that felling of trees are restricted over the construction site, the trees below the transmission corridor are not to be felled. Further the REC members raised the issue of distance of the dumping sites from the Satluj river. The User agency apprised the committee that the dumping sites are far away from the Satluj river and this is run of the river projects in which no catchment will be formed so these SHEP projects are environment friendly. Further, the project proponents ensured the REC about incorporating all the precautionary measures to tackle adverse situations, if occurred.

The FRA certificate and implementation agreement for the capacity has not been provided and said to be under process. On request of State Government the REC agreed to



consider the request of State Government and project authorities to include these documents as a part of conditions for recommending the project for in-principle approval to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi. However, the User Agency has proposed CA area on forest land whereas, as per guidelines, the CA area should be selected on land which is not in the possession of the forest department.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to fulfillment of following conditions:*

1. The State Government may select the area for Compensatory Afforestation in Non-forest Land or waste land as per prescribed guidelines of MoEF&CC.
2. The State Government will provide details of trees proposed to be felled and not to be felled in the proposed area duly authenticated by DFO. The number of trees shown in online portal at para 4 (ii) is 168 while in hard copy it is 169, therefore necessary corrections may also be done in online portal.

**Agenda Item No. 02:** Diversion of 7.4268 ha forest land for construction of Upper Kurmi Small Hydro Electric Project (8 MW) on Nanti Khad a tributary of river Satluj in favour of Vimla Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd., within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/42328/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.4268 ha forest land for construction of Upper Kurmi Small Hydro Electric Project (8 MW). The committee was apprised that 198 trees are enumerated in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area, also no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, the committee noted that no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The committee was apprised that the forest land proposed for diversion is located within 10 KM of Rupri Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary, comments of CWLW has been submitted in this regard. The concerned User Agency presented the project before the REC through Video Conferencing and informed that felling of trees are restricted over the construction site, the trees below the transmission corridor are not to



be felled. Further the REC members raised the issue of distance of the dumping sites from the Satluj river. The User agency apprised the committee that the dumping sites are far away from the Satluj river and this is run of the river projects in which no catchment will be formed so these SHEP projects are environment friendly. Further, the project proponents ensured the REC about incorporating all the precautionary measures to tackle adverse situations, if occurred.

The FRA certificate and implementation agreement for the capacity has not been provided and said to be under process. On request of State Government the REC agreed to consider the request of State Government and project authorities to include these documents as a part of conditions for recommending the project for in-principle approval to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi. However, the User Agency has proposed CA area on forest land whereas, as per guidelines, the CA area should be selected on land which is not in the possession of the forest department.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to fulfillment of following conditions:*

1. The State Government may select the area for Compensatory Afforestation in Non-forest Land or waste land as per prescribed in the guidelines of MoEF&CC.
2. The State Government will provide details of trees proposed to be felled and not to be felled in the applied area duly authenticated by DFO.

**Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 5.48 ha forest land for construction of Kiani Bagori Shakti Dehra Tikri Hamal Side 0/00 to 10/500 in favour of HPPWD, within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No.: FP/HP/ROAD/45519/2020).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.48 ha forest land for construction of Kiani Bagori Shakti Dehra Tikri Hamal Side 0/00 to 10/500. The committee noted that 34 trees (including 28 saplings) are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part



of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, it is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is located within 10 KM of the nearest protected area, for which comments of CWLW has not been received yet. The committee was also apprised that there is violation of 4.77 ha forest land for which the Penal NPV calculation sheet has been submitted as per the guideline para 1.21 (ii). The concerned DFO and the project authorities have represented the project before the committee in detail.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to fulfillment of following condition:*

- 1- State Government will submit the comments of CWLW.

### **UTTARAKHAND**

**Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 5.175 ha of forest land for construction of Khanshu to Rikhakot Link Motor Road Motor Road (total length 7.90 KM) in favour of Rural Development Department, within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/42762/2019).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.175 ha of forest land for construction of Khanshu to Rikhakot Link Motor Road Motor Road (total length 7.90 KM). The committee was apprised that the case was discussed in the REC meeting held on 26.11.2020, wherein the case was deferred on three points and State Government has submitted the reply to the points vide letter dt. 02/02/2021.

The committee noted that 1118 trees (in 7 m width) including 226 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project, however, trees proposed to be felled area only 869. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned DFO joined the meeting through video conferencing and the team of concerned User Agency presented the proposal before the committee.



The User Agency was unable to appropriately present the case before the committee and answer to the queries raised in the meeting by the members of the committee remained unexplained.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the proposal to next meeting and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the following documents/ information / clarifications:*

1. The State Government may upload the KML file of CA area.
2. As per DSS analysis 5 ha area found in VDF and 6 ha area in MDF. DFO in his SIR submitted that the area is suitable for plantation. REC directed that State Government may submit the details of the trees (species wise and girth wise) present in the CA area.
3. Area of muck disposal proposed in non-forest land mentioned as 0.39 ha in muck disposal plan and 0.12 ha at para B 2.4 in Part I.
4. State Government may submit the standard design for Muck Disposal plan providing the scientific measures such as the proper stabilization of muck and engineering structures used to protect the rolling down of muck.
5. State Government is also requested to submit the reclamation plan.
6. State Government may revise the CA scheme as per current rate.

**Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 5.8725 ha of forest land for construction of Dhanachuli Okhalkanda MR Km. 82 (Jhargaon) to Chaksandula Link Motor Road under PMGSY in favour of Rural Development Department within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/41288/2019)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.8725 ha of forest land for construction of Dhanachuli Okhalkanda MR Km. 82 (Jhargaon) to Chaksandula Link Motor Road. The committee noted that 953 trees are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been

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reported by the State Government. The concerned DFO joined the meeting through video conferencing and the team of concerned User Agency presented the proposal before the committee but yet again, the User Agency appeared as not prepared to present the case precisely before the committee and was unable to answer the queries raised by the members of the committee in the meeting.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the proposal to next meeting and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the following documents/ information / clarifications:*

1. As per DSS analysis of KML file of 15.2 ha area found uploaded instead of 11.745 ha. Complete area found in VDF and MDF. DFO in his SIR submitted that the area is suitable for plantation. REC directed that State Government may upload KML file of 11.745 ha area and submit the details of the species wise and girth wise trees present in the CA area.
2. State Government may submit the standard design along with calculation in detail for Muck Disposal plan providing the scientific measures such as the proper stabilization of muck and engineering structures used to protect the rolling down of muck.
3. State Government is also requested to submit the reclamation plan.
4. State Government may revise the CA scheme as per current rate.
5. The State Government may mention the correct name of the Village in the proceedings of the Village Level Committee meeting.

**Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 5.738 ha of forest land for construction of Devalidhar to Sui motor road in favour of Rural Development Department within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/24792/2017)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.738 ha of forest land for construction of Devalidhar to Sui motor road. The committee was apprised that the case has already been recommended by the REC in its meeting held on 22.08.2019 and after that Stage-I approval has been accorded vide letter dt. 18.10.2019



with permission of felling of 449 number of trees. The State Government vide letter dt. 11.02.2021 informed that the additional felling of 121 trees and 30 saplings is required to be done in the proposal.

It is also noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned User Agency briefed about the project before the committee and explained this requirement and the reason for this additional tree felling of 121 trees and 30 saplings in the meeting.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC recommended the additional tree felling of 121 trees and 30 saplings with additional condition that the State Government will submit a joint undertaking duly signed by authorized officers from User Agency and Forest Department that there is no change in the alignment of the proposed road.*

**Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 27.018 ha of forest land for widening/strengthening of NH-58 from 399.00 Km (Karnprayag) to 419.00 Km (Nandprayag) in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand.**

On request of the Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand, Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal. The committee was apprised that the case has already been accorded Stage-I approval vide letter dt. 03-04-2012. As per condition no. 08 of the Stage-I approval, the amount of muck disposal was required to be deposited in the CAMPA fund but State Government informed that the amount of Rs. 5,95,20,000/- was deposited in DFO's account. The matter was also referred to Ministry, Head Quarter and Ministry (HQ) vide letter dt. 12.07.2019 directed that amount of muck disposal is required to be deposited in the CAMPA account only (and in no other account). The DFO and CF concerned gave the brief details of the proposal and submitted that due to confusion of point No. 05 of Stage-I approval the amount of Rs. 5,95,20,000/- deposited in DFO's account.





*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee directed the State Government to submit a detailed justification of the same which could be discussed in the next meeting.*

The meeting ended with thanks to the members and other participants.

  
26/2/21

(Shashi Shankar)

AIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

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Dated: 26 February, 2021

**Distribution:**

1. Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, Retd. IFS (Member, REC), 188/1 Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248 001 (Uttarakhand).
2. Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttaranchal colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
3. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan- 173 212 (Himachal Pradesh). Email: shrwander@yahoo.co.in
4. Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
5. The Principal Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
6. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
7. The PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.
8. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.

  
26/2/21

(Shashi Shankar)

AIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

