

**MINUTES OF THE 45TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 29TH JANUARY, 2020**

The 45th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office (North Central Zone) Dehradun was held on 29th January, 2020 in the Meeting Room of the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting.

S.No.	Name	Designation
01	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.	Chairman
02	Dr. R B S Rawat, IFS	Non-official Member
03	Dr. R. S. Bisht, IFS	Non-official Member
04	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
05	Shri Rajesh J. Ekka	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (HP)
07	Representatives of Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand and of the User Agencies	

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 5.051 ha of forest land for the restoration of Basic Strip, Prevention of Soil Erosion, Extension of apron and associated works, in favour of Airport Authority of India, within the jurisdiction of Solan forest division, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Others/40843/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.051 ha of forest land for the restoration of Basic Strip, Prevention of Soil Erosion, Extension of apron and associated works. The committee was apprised that out of total 540 trees, only 162 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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. In respect of the point whether the proposal forms part of a National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. comments of CWLW have been provided. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The user agency briefed about the facts and importance of the project to the State Government before the REC members and submitted requisite information/ documents to the REC which was found satisfactory. However, it was conveyed to the User Agency that these documents may be submitted through the Nodal Office in compliance.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:

1. State Government may submit the undertaking that no additional muck will be generated in the project.
2. The project involve schedule I species movements in the area. Therefore, the State Government may provide the comments of CWLW on movement of leopard in the area and management intervention, if any, to be provided for the same.
3. State Government may submit the original copy of the FRA certificate along with all annexure.
4. State Government may submit the original copy of the layout plan of the project.

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 9.739 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for construction of Devi Kothi Hydrel Electric Project (16.00 MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/32280/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.739 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for construction of Devi Kothi Hydrel Electric Project (16.00 MW). The committee noted that 405 trees are proposed to be felled in the project; 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. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The representative from the user agency briefed about the facts of the project before the REC members.



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 for diversion of forest land subject to submission of the following documents/ information/ clarification:

1. The State Government may clarify whether any river basin study has been done regarding carrying capacity to generate power from the Ravi river? If yes, provide details in this regard to this office and if not yet done, the planning to do so in near future may be submitted.
2. The State Government may submit CA in view of guideline para 2.3 and 2.4 of the handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
3. State Govt. may submit the power evacuation plan mentioning capacity of transmission line and mode of transmission.
4. The State Government may submit the recommendation of CF having title of the project duly authenticated.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 11.9813 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for construction of Kothi-II Hydrel Electric Project (16.5 MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/23837/2017)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 11.9813 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for construction of Kothi-II Hydrel Electric Project (16.5 MW). The committee noted that 878 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The representative from the user agency briefed about the facts of the project before the REC members.

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 for diversion of forest land subject to submission of the following documents/ information/ clarification:

1. The State Government may clarify whether any river basin study has been done regarding carrying capacity to generate power from the river and its tributary? If yes, provide details in this regard to this office and if not yet done, the planning to do so in near future may be submitted.



2. The State Government may submit CA in view of guideline para 2.3 and 2.4 of the handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
3. The State Government may ensure that the User Agency will hand over 2.6159 ha of forest land to the forest department after the completion of project work and reclamation of muck disposal sites, free from all encumbrances.
4. State Govt. may submit the power evacuation plan mentioning capacity of transmission line and mode of transmission.
5. State Government may submit the findings of ESIA study conducted by the agency to meet the international standards.
6. State Government may inform the exact status of the proposal seeking diversion of forest land for Saikothi-I HEP.

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 6.23 ha of forest land for construction of Madmanley Dobans KM10 to Dhaukanda Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/35451/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.23 ha of forest land for construction of Madmanley Dobans KM10 to Dhaukanda Motor road. The committee noted that 19 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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 User Agency briefed about the project before the committee.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC is of view that the revised proposal may be submitted up to point no. 23 of geo referenced digital map, (Longitude- 80°21'44.285"E, Latitude- 29°38'10.525"N) as the proposed road beyond that point is not justified.

Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 6.405 ha of forest land for construction of Ritha Sahib to Bhingrara Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Champawat Forest Division, District Champawat, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/10313/2015)



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.405 ha of forest land for construction of Ritha Sahib to Bhingrara Motor road. The committee noted that total 279 trees are now proposed to be felled in the project. 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 User Agency briefed about the project before the committee and informed that 'Chalthiya' and 'Gadyura' villages are benefitting from the proposed road. The committee noted that village 'Chalthiya' is already connected with the road.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC is of the view that the proposal may be revised up to the location of village 'Gadyura' only.

Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 19.17 ha of forest land for construction of Rikhari Waachham Badiyakot Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/20882/2016)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 19.17 ha of forest land for construction of Rikhari Waachham Badiyakot Motor road. The committee noted that 814 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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. No violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The representative from the user agency briefed about the project.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to submission of following documents/ information / clarifications:

1. As per the DSS report of the CA area, it is seen that 07 ha area is falling in Moderately Dense Forest. State Government may replace this 07 ha area with some other area suitable for raising CA and documents/ KML file/ maps in this regard may be submitted/ uploaded.
2. It is seen that the Nodal office has not examined the proposal. Instead, the reply received from DFO's office has been simply forwarded, which is not acceptable. Nodal office should examine the proposal at its end and point wise reply should be sent to the Regional Office.



Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 5.48 ha of forest land for construction of Panarpul to Rasyun Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Almora Forest Division, District Pithoragarh & Almora, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/35018/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.48 ha of forest land for construction of Panarpul to Rasyun Motor road. The committee noted that 133 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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 representative from the user agency briefed about the project.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval with the following additional conditions:

1. The State Government may submit the original folder.
2. The State Government may submit the original copy of the FRA certificate of District Magistrate in prescribed format.
3. The State Government may submit the site specific measures of the muck disposal plan.

Agenda Item No. 08: Diversion of 8.137 ha of forest land for construction of village Supi to Jhuni motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/30634/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.137 ha of forest land for construction of village Supi to Jhuni motor road. The committee noted that 257 trees are proposed to be affected. 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 representative from the user agency briefed about the facts before the REC members.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval subject to the submission of the following additional conditions:

1. As per the DSS report of the CA area, it is seen that 10 ha area is falling in Moderately Dense Forest. State Government may replace this 10 ha area with some other area suitable for raising CA and documents/ KML file/ maps in this regard may be submitted/ uploaded.



Agenda Item No. 09: Diversion of 19.084 ha of forest land for construction of Construction of Rikhari-Wachham motor road Km 40 to Kuwari in District-Bageshwar in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/23224/2016)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 19.084 ha of forest land for construction of Construction of Rikhari-Wachham motor road Km 40 to Kuwari. The committee noted that 782 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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. No violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The representative from the user agency briefed about the project.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to submission of following documents/ information / clarifications:

1. As per the DSS report of the CA area, it is seen that 03 ha area is falling Very Dense Forest and 17 ha area is falling in Moderately Dense Forest. State Government may replace this 20 ha area with some other area suitable for raising CA and documents/ KML file/ maps in this regard may be submitted/ uploaded.
2. State Government may submit the original copy of the Site Inspection Report of DFO.
3. Eco class appears to be VI instead of V. State Government may correct the NPV calculation sheet accordingly.
4. It is seen that the Nodal office has not examined the proposal. Instead, the reply received from DFO's office has been simply forwarded, which is not acceptable. Nodal office should examine the proposal at its end and point wise reply should be sent to the Regional Office.

Agenda Item No. 10: Diversion of 8.02 ha of forest land for construction of Raintoli Jasoli Nagrasu Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Rudraprayag Forest Division, District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/38306/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.02 ha of forest land for construction of Raintoli Jasoli Nagrasu motor road. The committee noted that 610 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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 representative from the user agency briefed about the project.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land.

Agenda Item No. 11: Diversion of 6.143 ha of forest land for construction of Samya to Bagdiyal Gaon-Ligodiya Motor road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Garhwal, Pauri Forest Division, District Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/38454/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.143 ha of forest land for construction of Samya to Bagdiyal Gaon-Ligodiya motor road. The committee noted that 251 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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 representative from the user agency briefed about the project.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval subject to submission of following documents/ information / clarifications:

1. The State Government may upload the KML file of the proposed road as shown before the committee.
2. The State Government may upload the SoI toposheet and geo-referenced digital map of CA area at para-13, Part II online as submitted in hard copy.
3. It is seen that the Nodal office has not examined the proposal. Instead, the reply received from DFO's office has been simply forwarded, which is not acceptable. Nodal office should examine the proposal at its end and point wise reply should be sent to the Regional Office.

Agenda Item No. 12: Diversion of 59.243 ha of forest land for widening/ strengthening from 2 lane to 4/6 lane of NH-87, Rampur to Kathgodam (43.30 KM to 88.00 KM), in favour of NHAI, within the jurisdiction of Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital Forest Division, District Tarai East, Tarai Central and Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 59.243 ha of forest land for widening/ strengthening from 2 lane to 4/6 lane of NH-87, Rampur to Kathgodam (43.30 KM to 88.00 KM). The committee was apprised that the final approval has been accorded in the project by the Ministry HQ, New Delhi vide letter dt. 10.09.2014 but due to certain change in the alignment of the road and toll plaza the proposed area has been changed. The committee noted

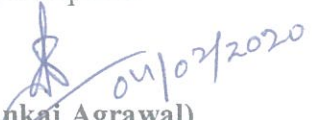


that 14,469 number of trees was proposed to be felled earlier and trees already felled in the project are 13,547. The Conservator of Forests informed the REC that 6,096 trees are also proposed for felling in additional area.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC is of view that the fresh proposal taking the following points in the consideration may be submitted:

1. The State Government may submit the fresh proposal for this purpose by marking the new area (i.e. the area that was not included in the earlier proposal) by different colors.
2. In view of the point 01 above, the State Government may submit the additional CA and NPV, with reference to the new area.
3. In view of the point 01 above, the State Government may ensure that the User Agency will hand over the area that is not included in the fresh proposal, but was part of the 59.243 ha area that was diverted earlier, to the forest department.
4. The area proposed for the Toll Plaza seems to be quite high. The State Government may provide the standard design and layout of Toll Plaza, with all dimensions.

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


(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF -cum-Chairman, REC

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Dated: 4 February, 2020

Distribution:

1. Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, IFS (Member, REC), 188/1 Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248 001 (Uttarakhand).
2. 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
3. Dr. R. S. Bisht, IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttaranchal colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
4. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
5. Principal Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
6. The APCCF-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.
7. 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.


(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF-cum-Chairman, REC

