

**MINUTES OF 19th MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA
HELD ON 23rd MAY 2023**

The 19th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 23rd May, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to Himachal Pradesh State.

Following official/non-official members and IRO team were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

S. no.	Name and Organization	Designation
1.	Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Chairman
2.	Dr. R. S. Bisht, IFS (Retd.)	Non-official Member
3.	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj (Retd.)	Non-official Member
4.	Shri H.V. Kathuria, IFS, HPFD	Nodal Officer (FCA)
5.	Dr. Anoop Kumar Das, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Scientist 'B'
6.	Sh. Ajay Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (i/c)
7.	Dr. Aman kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (on contract)
8.	Sh. Paranjay Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Research Officer (on contract)
9.	Representatives of the User Agencies and State Forest Department Officials	---

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members and other officials 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 were discussed in detail and the decision taken by REC are as under: -

Agenda no 1: Diversion of 6.82 ha of forest land for the construction of 220 KV MCT line from 400/220 KV PGCIL Sub –Station Arandwala to proposed 220/132/33KV HPPTCL Sub-Station Andheri at Kala Amb, within the jurisdiction of Nahan Forest Division, Nahan Tehsil, Nahan, Distt. Sirmour Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal no. FP/HP/Trans/155801/2022)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking **diversion of 6.82 ha of forest land** for the construction of 220 KV MCT line from 400/220 KV PGCIL Sub –Station Arandwala to proposed 220/132/33KV HPPTCL Sub-Station Andheri at Kala Amb of Sirmour District. The

Committee noted that a total of 25 trees are involved in the proposal. It is noted that the User Agency has submitted an Undertaking regarding payment of lump sum (0.5%) of total project cost against Soil Moisture Conservation Plan. The REC also noted that the capacity of the transmission line is 220 KV and width of the transmission line is 35 meters within the limits mentioned in FCA guidelines. The Committee also noted that the proposed alignment of the Transmission Line is falling outside from PA/default ESZ/Notified ESZ of nearby Protected Area, i.e.- Col. Sherjang NP Simbalwala. The Committee was apprised that as per DSS analysis, the proposed area for CA is covering 1 ha MDF. However, as per State Government reply, CCF has reported that DFO Nahan has visited the proposed CA site and is fit for plantation. Moreover, area shown as greenery in KML file of the CA area is due to presence of Kaddi patta and some other weeds which has to be cleared off before plantation. The Committee was apprised that IRO Shimla has raised EDS in the extant proposal multiple times and State Government has complied all the queries raised.

The discussion on following points were carried out in the REC meeting-

1. The Committee was apprised that the legal status of the land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation is not clear. The DFO concerned clarified that the land proposed for the CA is a notified forest land i.e. Reserved Forest.
2. The Committee was apprised that no dumping site has been proposed in the proposed diversion area. The User Agency has submitted that the entire muck will be utilized in the diversion area and hence no dumping site is required. The Committee decided that an Undertaking from the User Agency is required clearly mentioning that all the muck and boulders/rocks etc. generated will be utilized in the diversion area and no muck will be dumped in forest land.
3. The Committee noted that the Benefit to Cost ratio is 343.95 which is on very higher side. Therefore, same needs revision and rectification. The User Agency submitted that necessary rectification in CB analysis will be carried out.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to the submission of documents/clarifications on the following points:

- i. An Undertaking from the User Agency duly authenticated by concerned DFO to the effect that all the muck and boulders/rocks etc. generated during the erection of towers will be utilized in the diversion area for filling purpose and no muck will be dumped in forest land shall be submitted.
- ii. The revised and correct Cost-Benefit ratio shall be submitted.
- iii. Proper documentary evidence/revenue record etc. regarding the legal status of CA lands shall be submitted.

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Agenda item no. 2:- : Diversion of 8.1872 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the construction of 11 KV HT Transmission line to the un-electrified village Shagoure, Shakti and Maror in Banjar Block Distt. Kullu within the jurisdiction of GHNP Shamshi Forest Division Distt. Kullu Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal number FP/HP/TRANS/29322/2017).



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.1872 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the construction of 11 KV HT Transmission line to the un-electrified village Shagoure, Shakti and Maror in Banjar Block Distt. Kullu within the jurisdiction of GHNP Shamshi Forest Division Distt. Kullu Himachal Pradesh. The Committee noted that 651 no. of trees are proposed to be felled in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is a part of Protected Area i.e. Great Himalayan National Park. Approval from NBWL has been granted vide letter no. 6-3/2022-WL dated 25.04.2022. Further, User Agency submitted the Undertaking to deposit 2% of total project cost towards the cost of implementation of Wildlife Management Plan and 0.5 % of the project cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan. No violation has been reported by the State Government. **DFO GHNP and Representative of User Agency were present online in the meeting.**

The discussions on following points were carried out in the meeting and Committee appraised that:-

1. Alternates explored are not marked in the KML file. Therefore, the final alignment and all alternate alignments explored may be marked on the KML file in distinct colours. The User Agency agreed to submit the same and upload on the online portal as well.
2. The Cost of Project has been recalibrated to 375 lacs which needs to be updated on online portal Part – I as well. The User Agency agreed to submit the same and upload on the online portal as well.
3. Undertaking of CA, NPV and Addl. NPV is uploaded. However, documents need to be C/s/authenticated by the concerned DFO as well. The concerned DFO agreed to the needful.
4. There shall be no felling of *Hipophae species* coming in the alignment as recommended by CCF, GHNP {as they serve as feeding trees to Grandala (Nili Chidia), especially during winters}. The User Agency ensured that *Hipophae species* coming in alignment will not be felled unnecessarily. The concerned DFO also assured that felling permission shall not be given for unnecessarily felling of *Hipophae species* coming in the alignment. Similarly, there are highly valuable species *Taxus* and *Betula* standing in the diversion area also needs to be protected and poles/saplings of these species shall be translocated to the nearby area on experiment basis. The cost for the same shall be borne by the User Agency. An Undertaking for the same from User Agency duly authenticated by the concerned DFO is required to be submitted.
5. A large number of trees (651) are going to be affected in the proposal. Therefore, State Government may explore all the possibilities to reduce the number of trees to be felled. Possibility to reduce the numbers of trees to be affected needs to be properly explored. Since the proposal is for transmission line, therefore trees can be saved by lopping/pruning/branch cutting etc. The Committee decided that the team comprising of Range Officer, Site Engineer headed by concerned DFO shall review the enumeration after visiting the site and accordingly following details needs to be provided: -
 - i. List of trees **not** to be felled/lopped.
 - ii. List of trees to be lopped only.
 - iii. List of trees to be felled.
6. Committee noted that No Muck Dumping site has been proposed in the proposal and all the muck produced will be utilized in the tower location only by back filling. Committee

- is of the view that all the Muck generated during erection pole foundation will be back filled and no muck will be dumped in adjoining diversion site, and there shall be no impact/disturbance to the stream due to the dumping of Muck and sufficient measures to be adopted to save the riverine ecology of the stream. An Undertaking regarding the same is required to be submitted by the User Agency duly authenticated by the concerned DFO.
7. Committee noted that out of 17 ha CA land, 06 ha area is falling under MDF category. This needs to be revived by the concerned DFO, and DFO assured for the same.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval in the proposal subject to the submission of the following clarifications/documents: -

- i. User Agency shall mark all alternates explored and final alignment in the KML file in distinct colours.
- ii. The User Agency shall update the Cost of Project in online portal Part - I.
- iii. The State Government shall upload Undertaking of CA, NPV and Addl. NPV duly authenticated by the concerned DFO.
- iv. The State Government shall submit an Undertaking from User Agency duly authenticated by the concerned DFO that *Hipophae species* coming in alignment will not be felled unnecessarily, and the concerned DFO shall ensure that felling permission shall not be granted for felling of *Hipophae species* coming in the alignment unnecessarily. Similarly, an Undertaking for not felling of highly valuable species *Taxus* and *Betula* standing in the diversion area and translocation of the poles/saplings of these species in nearby area on experimental basis by the Forest Department, and cost of the same shall be borne by the User Agency shall be submitted.
- v. Since large number of trees (651) are going to be affected in the proposal, therefore, State Government shall explore all the possibilities to reduce the number of trees to be felled. The State Government shall ensure that a team comprising of Range Officer, Site Engineer headed by concerned DFO will review the enumeration after visiting the site and accordingly following details will be submitted: -
 - a. List of trees **not** to be felled/lopped.
 - b. List of trees to be lopped only.
 - c. List of trees to be felled.
- vi. State Government shall submit an Undertaking from User Agency duly authenticated by the concerned DFO that all the muck produced will be utilized in the tower location only by back filling and no muck will be dumped in adjoining diversion site, and there shall be no impact/disturbance to the stream due to the dumping of Muck. Sufficient bio-engineering measures shall be adopted to save the riverine ecology of the stream from the muck.
- vii. The concerned DFO will review the density of CA sites and accordingly revise suitable CA area with all requisite documents shall be uploaded at designated location of Part-II online portal.

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Agenda item no. 3:- : Diversion of 12.8537 ha of forest land in favour of NHAI for the construction on New 02 land with paved shoulder of Hamirpur bypass of NH-88 (New 103 & 3) (Design Chainage Kms. 121+175) to kms. 138-295), (design length 17.20 kms) in the State of Himachal Pradesh within the jurisdiction of Hamirpur Forest Division Distt. Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh (Online proposal no- FP/HP/Road/151932/2022)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion area of 12.8537 ha of forest land in favour of NHAI for the construction on New 02 land with paved shoulder of Hamirpur bypass of NH-88 (New 103 & 3) (Design Chainage Kms. 121+175) to kms. 138-295), (design length 17.20 kms) in the State of Himachal Pradesh. An Undertaking to deposit the detailed cost of implementation of Wild Life Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Plan has been submitted. Also, all the Muck Dumping Sites have been proposed in the Non-Forest land. The Committee noted that that 4905 trees are proposed for felling in the diversion area. 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 has been reported by the State Forest Department in the diversion area. Aerial distance from ESZ of Pong Dam Sanctuary is located at an aerial distance of approx. 22.3 km away from the nearest chainage of the proposed project. The DFO Hamirpur and was present on line and the representative/s of User Agency (UA) were present online as well as in-person in the meeting. UA made a power point presentation of the proposed project.

The discussion on following points were carried out in the meeting: -

1. Committee was apprised that the component of Wayside Amenities has been incorporated in the proposal, which is of length 135 m. however, this component has not been incorporated/added in the component wise breakup (B-2.4) of Part-I. UA submitted that the Wayside Amenities component is in Non-forest land and same will be updated/incorporated in the Non-forest land column of the component-wise breakup (B-2.4) of Part-I of the PARIVESH portal.
2. Committee was apprised the detailed chainage-wise proposed RoW (PRoW) along with the Khasra number has been provided, however details (Khasra no. and chainage wise) of ERoW falling in forest land has not been submitted. User Agency submitted that the documentary evidence of the same will be submitted.
3. Committee was apprised that the PRoW has been included the Existing RoW (ERoW) as well. However, area detail of ERoW that has been included in the PRoW has not been provided. User Agency informed and showed the document mentioning that the ERoW is only 10-14 Width and Length is 22.306 m. only, and the same is included in the PRoW. Therefore, State Govt needs to provide the area details of ERoW that has been included in the PRoW, along with approval of ERoW obtained under FCA, 1980.
4. Committee noted that the locations where structures like major bridges, minor bridges, and VOP, no trees will be felled. However, separate list of trees to be retained in major bridges, minor bridges, and VOP are required to be submitted. User Agency present in the meeting informed that there is no possibility to reduce the felling of trees in PRoW, as this alignment contains the minimum number of felling of trees. However, the Committee was of unanimous view that trees likely to be affected are in large numbers, therefore, possibility to reduce the numbers of trees to be felled needs to be explored properly. Committee is of view that State Government may further explore the possibility to reduce

the numbers of trees for felling and Committee under the chairmanship of DFO needs to be constituted for the same.

5. Committee noted that in the KML file of CA area, some part of the KML polygon (P27 BASARAL) is crossing/passing the existing road. UA informed that same will be reviewed and revised accordingly.
6. Committee was apprised that the status of CA land is not clarified/justified whether it is Govt. wasteland declared as PF under HP Govt. Notification of 1952 or it is notified as UPF/DPF under IFA, 1927 and the under the ownership/control of HP Forest department or not. DFO Hamirpur who was present in the meeting through online informed that the all the CA sites are in possession with State Forest Department. However, documentary evidence regarding legal status of all the CA sites are required to be submitted.
7. Committee noted that there is already existing bypass road, which bypasses the town (Hamirpur). Therefore, State Govt. need justify the necessity of construction of this new bypass. UA informed that already existing bypass is only 04 km and this bypass cannot be extended because houses and other industrial complexes. This new bypass will improve the connectivity and reduce traffic congestion of Hamirpur town.
8. Committee noted that the length of the road passing through the forest land is 1.2360 km and in Non-forest land is 15.884 km, and Width is 30 meters. However, the area of Forest Land is 12.8537 ha. There is ambiguity in the Length, Width and Area. User Agency informed that length passing through forest land is 3.678 km which has already been uploaded in additional information detail of Part-I and same has been verified.
9. Committee was apprised that the Width of the PRow varies from 30 meters to 56 meters. Committee noted that as per the IRC: SP 52-2019 "Guidelines for alignment Survey and geometric Design of Hill Roads" for double lane maximum permissible RoW/Width is 24 meters whereas the proposed Width of RoW is exceeding 24 meters which is not justified. User Agency justified the PRow exceeding beyond 24 meters as per IRC norms: **SP: 73:2018 (Manual of specifications and Standards for Two Laning of highways with Paved shoulder)**. The User Agency showed the IRC norms: **SP: 73:2018 (Manual of specifications and Standards for Two Laning of highways with Paved shoulder)** before the Committee, which mentions that this manual is applicable for Two laning of Highways (with or without paved shoulders) through PPP, EPC or any other mode. The User Agency further submitted that this project is on Hybrid Annuity Mode-PPP. So, in this proposal IRC: SP 52-2019 "Guidelines for Alignment Survey and Geometric Design of Hill Roads" will not be applicable.

User Agency further submitted that since the Width varies from 30m to 56m, the total diversion area of the forest land comes out to be 12.8537 ha, and the details have already been uploaded on the portal.

After detailed discussion on the above mentioned points, the committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/clarification on the following points: -

- i. State Govt. shall incorporate/updated the component of Wayside Amenities in the Non-Forest land column of the component-wise breakup (B-2.4) of Part-I in PARIVESH portal.
- ii. State Govt. shall submit the chainage-wise and Khasra number-wise detail of Existing

RoW (ERoW) along with approval of ERoW obtained under FCA, 1980.

- iii. State Government shall explore the possibilities to reduce the felling during execution of work. For this, State Forest Department shall constitute a Committee comprising Range Officer and Site Engineer In-charge and headed by the DFO concerned. The Committee shall examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend the removal of trees on case to case basis along the RoW of road after looking into the possibility of reducing the total number of trees to be affected. The DFO shall verify the enumeration and accordingly grant felling permission based on the actual requirement. DFO will submit the list of trees to IRO Shimla, granted felling permission by him and trees to be retained within a period of two (2) months after execution of the project. The undertaking for the same duly authenticated by the concerned DFO may be provided
- iv. State Govt. shall review and rectify the KML file of CA area (P27 BASARAL), as the polygon of the CA area is crossing/passing the existing road, and same shall be uploaded on the Part-II of PARIVESH portal.
- v. State Government shall submit/upload the documentary proof of the legal status of CA land.
- vi. State Govt. shall submit the detail of Length and Width of the proposal and components especially Wayside Amenities falling in Non-forest land.
- vii. State Government shall submit an Undertaking from UA duly authenticated by the concerned DFO that no extra forestland will be proposed in future for dumping of muck produced in this project.

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Agenda Item no.4 Diversion of 19.1788 ha of forest land in favour of NHAI for diversion of additional forest land requirement for four laning of NH-05 from Shakral Village to Dhalli Section (Shimla Bypass Package-II from Kms 146+300 to 156+560 and Shimla Connectivity from Kms 0+000 to 0+725 for Design length-10.985) in already approved FCA case of the entire Section from Kaithlighat to Dhalli, within the jurisdiction of Shimla Forest Division and Shimla (MC) Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal no. FP/HP/Road/154923/2022).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking **diversion area of 19.1788 ha of forest land** in favour of NHAI for diversion of additional forest land requirement for four laning of NH-05 from Shakral Village to Dhalli Section in already approved FCA case of the entire Section from Kaithlighat to Dhalli. The Committee noted that 3910 no. of trees (2583 saplings and 1327 trees) are proposed to be felled in the project. It is noted that the some portion of forest land proposed for diversion is a part of ESZ of Shimla Water Catchment WLS. No rare and endangered species of fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No violation has been reported in the SIR of DFO concerned. DFO Shimla Forest Division was present online and representatives of User Agency were present in-person in the meeting. User Agency presented the case before REC through power point presentation.

Discussion on following points were carried out in the REC meeting: -

1. Committee was apprised that the extant proposal is submitted for **additional** forest land

requirement in already approved proposal/alignment having proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015 in which 40.3 ha of forest land was approved by Ministry for diversion due to proposed change in alignment. User Agency submitted that an area of 4.8631 ha out of 40.3 ha from already approved alignment (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) has not been utilized and same has been handed over to HP Forest Department vide letter No. 3032 dated 20.03.2023 which is presently under the possession of State Govt. DFO concerned in this regard informed to the Committee that surrender letter has been received but joint inspection is required to be conducted for proper handing over and taking over of the forest land. Committee was of the unanimous view that instead of submitting new proposal for additional land requirement, State Government should have submitted a revised proposal for change in alignment in already approved case (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015). User Agency in this regard submitted that the extant proposal was submitted as a new proposal after discussion with the State Forest Officials and therefore same may be considered. Committee is of the view that unutilized area of 4.8631 ha in already approved alignment having proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015 in which 40.3 ha of forest land was approved by Ministry for diversion is required to be surrendered physically to the State Forest Department and State Government needs to submit the revision proposal in the already approved proposal (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) after deducting the surrendered forest land area.

2. Committee observed that the KML file is not properly prepared. Proposed forest/non-forest land including already approved alignment and surrendered portion (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) with distinct colors with correct area figure with legends area required to be marked properly. User Agency submitted that same will be complied.
3. Vegetation density of proposed diversion area falling under Shimla Forest Division is also required to be revised from Open Forest to Dense Forest in Part-II as NPV has been revised from Open to Dense class. User Agency submitted that same will be complied.
4. Committee was apprised that the Width of proposed RoW varies from 29.0 meters to 142 meters. User Agency submitted that Width of RoW is taken as per IRC norms IRC:SP: 84:2019 i.e-60 meters for 04 Lane with paved shoulders and authority can require additional land, if required in hilly terrain for slope stabilization etc. However, in locations of twin tube tunnels at chainage 155+000 to 155+240 Width of RoW is 142 meters which is in non-forest land, and at chainage 147+000 to 148+000 Width of RoW varies from 37.60 meters is 100 meters. The User Agency further submitted that Width of RoW in forest land is not going beyond 79 meters RoW. Committee is of the view that User Agency is required to submit the chainage wise justification of RoW exceeding Width beyond 60 meters with supporting documents.
5. SIR of DFO Shimla MC Forest Division is required to be uploaded at designated location of Part-II. User Agency and DFO concerned submitted that same has also been complied in Part-II.
6. Committee was apprised that some part of the project is falling within ESZ of Shimla Water Catchment WLS. Comments from CWLW has been submitted wherein it has been mentioned that as per ESZ notification of SWC WLS, proposed activity is a regulated activity and mitigation measures are to be prepared as per applicable laws and rules. Committee was further apprised that State Government has submitted that Wild Life Mitigation Measures shall be incorporated in Wild Life Management Plan which is under

progress and same shall be submitted before Stage-II approval.

7. Committee was apprised that an undertaking to deposit the detailed cost of implementation of Wild Life Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan has also been submitted by State Government.
8. Committee was apprised that 02 CA sites (Patch no. 3-DPF Narenty C 19-5ha and Patch no. 5-DPF Narenty C 17a-5ha) has been revised with 05 ha UPF Parech and 05 ha DPF Bargal. However, Toposheet, Geo-referenced map, Land Suitability Certificate and CA scheme of these revised CA lands are required to be submitted/uploaded. DFO concerned and User Agency has submitted that same will be uploaded at designated locations of Part-II.
9. Committee observed that an area of 8.5413 ha is proposed for muck dumping in forest land (for a proposal with total area of 19.1788 ha), which is on higher side. User Agency in this regard submitted that land holdings are very less in the area and an area of 3.0489 ha is also selected in private land for dumping of muck. Further, User Agency informed that these 10 no. of muck dumping sites shall not only be used for dumping of muck produced from extant proposal, however will also be used for dumping of muck produced from already approved alignment from Shakral to Dhalli (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) in which there was no muck dumping sites.
10. Committee noted that 1731 trees are standing over the muck dumping sites and same shall not be felled and Undertaking is required to be submitted. User Agency informed that these 1731 trees will not be felled
11. Committee noted that large number of trees are proposed for felling (2179 trees). User Agency has submitted that proposed 2179 trees are not reduced, however, it will be ensured that trees directly impinging upon the construction activity will only be felled. Committee is of the view that felling in the area is required to be monitored by the Committee formed under the chairmanship of DFO concerned and the said committee shall ensure the possibilities to reduce the felling in the diversion area. Also, DFO concerned shall ensure that no blanket felling permission shall be granted, rather felling permission shall be granted on case to case basis after exploring the possibilities to reduce the felling.
12. Committee was apprised that FRA Certificate is not submitted. However, an Undertaking to submit the same has been furnished. User Agency submitted that same will be submitted before Stage-II (final) approval.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval in the proposal subject to the submission of documents/clarification on following points: -

- i. User Agency shall surrender the unutilized area of 4.8631 ha in already approved alignment having proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015 in which 40.3 ha of forest land was approved by Ministry for diversion to State Forest Department after following due procedure. Also, State Government shall submit the revision proposal in the already approved proposal (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) after deducting the surrendered forest land area before Stage-II (final) approval). An Undertaking to this effect from User Agency duly authenticated by concerned DFO shall be submitted in this regard.

- ii. State Government shall upload the revised KML file with marking of forest/non-forest land of extant proposal (proposal number. FP/HP/Road/154923/2022) with correct area figures, already approved proposal (proposal number FP/HP/Road/9295/2015) and surrendered portion of the already approved proposal.
- iii. Vegetation density shall be updated from Open forest to Dense forest in Part-II of PARIVESH portal.
- iv. State Government shall submit chainage wise justification of RoW exceeding width beyond 60 meters in forest and non-forest land with supporting documents.
- v. State Government shall upload toposheet, Geo-referenced map, Land Suitability Certificate and CA scheme of the revised CA lands (05 ha UPF Parech and 05 ha DPF Bargal) in Part-II at designated locations.
- vi. User Agency shall submit an Undertaking duly authenticated by the concerned DFO to the effect that 1731 trees standing over the muck dumping sites shall not be felled.
- vii. The State Forest Department shall constitute a Committee comprising Range Officer and site Engineer In-charge and headed by the DFO concerned. The Committee shall examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend the removal of trees on case to case basis along the RoW after looking into the possibility of reducing the total number of trees to be affected. The DFO shall verify the enumeration and accordingly grant felling permission based on the actual requirement. DFO will submit the list of trees to IRO Shimla, granted felling permission by him and trees to be retained within a period of two (2) months after execution of the project. The Undertaking for the same duly authenticated by the concerned DFO shall be provided.

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Agenda no. 5: Diversion of 0.9022 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of link road from Ganed Badyana Tantha via Osal Jungle Km. 0/0 to 3/710, within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division Distt. Bilaspur, H.P. (Online proposal number FP/HP/Road/144773/2021).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking **diversion of 0.9022 ha of forest land** in favour of HPPWD for the construction of link road from Ganed Badyana Tantha via Osal Jungle in Bilaspur District. The Committee was apprised that in the proposal **violation** has been reported and penal NPV has also been provided. It was informed that the proposal involved 91 trees. The Committee was apprised that Length of the road is 3.710 km with Width ranging between 4 to 6 m. As per DSS analysis, CA site is found satisfactory and the proposed DA is outside from the nearby PA/default ESZ/Notified ESZ, i.e.-Bandli WLS. The Committee was apprised that EDS was raised multiple times and the State Govt. has replied to all the queries raised by IRO Shimla.

The discussion on following points were carried out in the REC meeting:

1. The Committee was apprised that 0.0895 ha out of 0.9022ha of forest land is already broken. The year of violation in Para-11 of Part II was mentioned as 2001 and no detail of person/officials responsible for violation was provided. However, on raising query by IRO Shimla on violation details, State Government has changed year of violation from 2001 to 1978 and informed that Local People and Panchayat have been held responsible for violation,

and Certificate regarding the construction of the road by the concerned Panchayat has been provided. Also, the Committee was apprised that no action has been taken against the violators as well as Officers responsible for not preventing FCA violation. Further, old records in the concerned Forest Division have been weeded out as per the reply of State Government. It was apprised that in the SIR User Agency has violated the FCA 1980. DFO concerned in this regard clarified that the road was constructed in 1978 by local people and Panchayat Pradhan has submitted a Certificate regarding the construction of road. Committee noted that proper documentary evidence of the construction of road in 1978 (i.e. before 1980) is required from any of the concerned Department either PWD and/or Forest Department. Further, it was also discussed that a Certificate regarding not carrying out any construction after 1978 and current status of the proposed diversion area is also required to be submitted.

2. The Committee was apprised that NPV is given as per Open Forest, but as per DSS analysis, the DA is falling in MDF category. The DFO concerned submitted that as per calculation, the density of the proposed diversion area is within Open Forest only. Committee noted that this needs to be reviewed and revised, if required.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee noted that proper and satisfactory documentary evidence of construction of road in 1978 has not been provided. Therefore, Committee decided for the further document/ clarification as below: -

- i. If satisfactory documentary evidence of construction of the road in 1978 (i.e. before 1980) is provided by the State Government, the proposal shall not be considered as violation and accordingly will be processed at IRO level. If satisfactory documentary evidence of construction of the road in 1978 is not provided, the proposal shall be considered as violation and the matter may be processed accordingly for further consideration in the Ministry.
- ii. Density of the proposed DA needs to be reviewed and revised, and accordingly NPV/Penal NPV also needs to be reviewed and revised, if required.

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Agenda no. 6: Diversion of 6.2455 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for construction of link road from Dadriara to Chakki Km. 0/00 to 13/500, within the jurisdiction of Dalhousie Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal no. FP/HP/ROAD/47175/2020)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking **diversion of 6.2455 ha of forest land** in favour of HPPWD for construction of link road from Dadriara to Chakki of district Chamba. The Committee was apprised that 617 trees (includes 75 trees at dumping site) are involved in the proposal. It was noted that the proposed diversion area is 12.72 km from Kalatop Khajjiar WLS as per DSS. The Committee noted that The Cost-Benefit analysis is required in ratio form. It was also noted that FRA Certificate has been provided but the proceeding/records of DLC, SDLC, FRC and Gram Sabha of Rathbora Village is also required to be submitted before Stage II. The Committee also noted that a large number of ecologically important trees (617 individuals) especially *Quercus*, *Rhododendron* and *Alnus* etc. are going to be affected in the proposed road and therefore possibility of reducing the number of trees to be affected in the proposal needs to be explored. As per DSS analysis, the proposed area for CA is found satisfactory.

The discussion on following points were carried out in the REC meeting:

1. The committee noted that the CB analysis has been provided. The Cost-Benefit analysis is required in ratio form. The User Agency submitted that the needful correction in CB ratio will be taken up and the revised CB analysis report will be submitted.
2. The Committee noted that the FRA certificates has been provided. However, the proceeding/records of DLC, SDLC, FRC and Gram Sabha of Rathbora Village are still missing in the documents provided. The User Agency submitted the undertaking for submission of the same before Stage-II is will be provided.
3. The Committee also noted that a large number of ecologically important trees (617 individuals) especially *Quercus*, *Rhododendron* and *Alnus* etc. are going to be affected User agency in this regards submitted that the actual number of trees to be felled in the proposal will be finalised during the actual execution of the project.
4. The Committee noted that legal status of the proposed CA land, if it is a Waste Land declared as Protected Forest land as per 1952 Notification of HP Govt., the proposed CA land is required to transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department before Stage-II approval. The DFO concerned submitted that the proposed CA land is Forest land and is under the possession of Forest Department. DFO further submitted that needful documents in this regard will be provided.
5. The Committee noted that the alignment of the road varies from 1200 meters to beyond 2000 m elevation and therefore Eco-Class of NPV may be revised from Eco-Class V to Eco-Class VI and accordingly NPV bill is required to be reviewed and revised. The DFO agreed to revise the NPV bill from Eco-class v to Eco-class VI.
6. The Committee noted that the dumping sites are on the bank of stream/rivulet and are located in slopes and therefore, an Undertaking regarding safe disposal of muck and adoption of proper protective measures (bio-engineering methods) to prevent rolling down of muck from muck disposal sites is required. The User Agency agreed to provide the undertaking.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/clarification on the following points: -

- i. The revised and correct CB analysis in ratio form shall be submitted.
- ii. The User Agency shall submit an Undertaking to submit the proceeding/records of DLC, SDLC, FRC and Gram Sabha of Rathbora Village before Stage-II approval is required.
- iii. State Government shall explore the possibilities to reduce the number of trees to be felled especially of ecologically important tree species like *Quercus*, *Rhododendron* and *Alnus* etc. For this, State Forest Department shall constitute a Committee comprising Range Officer and Site Engineer In-charge and headed by the DFO concerned. The Committee shall examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend the removal of trees on case to case basis along the RoW of road after looking into the possibility of reducing the total number of trees to be affected. The DFO shall verify the enumeration and accordingly grant felling permission based on the actual requirement. DFO will submit the list of trees to IRO Shimla, granted felling permission by him and trees to be retained within a period of two (2) months after execution of the project. An

Undertaking for the same from UA duly authenticated by the concerned DFOs shall be provided.

- iv. State Government shall submit documents/revenue records mentioning the legal status of the proposed CA land in possession with Forest Department.
- v. The NPV bill shall be revised from Eco-class V to Eco-class VI.
- vi. The User Agency shall submit an Undertaking regarding the safe disposal of muck and adoption of proper protective measures (bio-engineering methods) to prevent rolling down of muck from muck disposal sites to the nearby river/stream.

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Agenda no. 7: Diversion of 76.8033 ha of Forest land for widening/Improvement of Road Sumdo Kaza-Gramphoo from Existing Km 169+970 to Km 211+364 (Design Km166+000 to Km 203+770) with net length 41.394 Km (Design Length 37.770 Km) under 94 RCC/38 BRTF project Deepak in District Lahaul & Spiti of Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/DEF/120623/2021)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking **diversion 76.8033 ha of Forest land** for widening/Improvement of Road Sumdo Kaza-Gramphoo from Existing Km 169+970 to Km 211+364 (Design Km166+000 to Km 203+770) with net length 41.394 Km in district Lahaul and Spiti. The Committee was apprised that the User Agency has submitted the Wildlife Management Plan and accordingly undertaking for payment of Rs.85,41,700 has been also provided. It was also noted in the meeting that the User Agency has submitted Soil Moisture Conservation plan accordingly undertaking for payment of Rs.1,74,96,400 has been provided. The Committee was apprised that the proposal is for widening of already existing road (constructed before 1980) by Border Road Organization in which existing RoW has been included in the proposed RoW. The Committee noted that proposed alignment of the road is outside PA/default ESZ/Notified ESZ of nearby Protected Areas i.e., Inderkila NP and Chandratat WLS. Also it was noted that as per DSS analysis the proposed area for CA is found satisfactory. DFO concerned attended the meeting online and User Agency present in-person in the meeting.

The discussion on following point have been carried out in the REC meeting:

1. The Committee noted that the capacity of Dumping site is 4,62,000 cum and muck to be dumped is 3,57,716 cum. The UA clarified that the quantity of muck calculated is based on swell factor of the soil which is not fixed and proposed area of dumping site has been considered on the conservative side in order to check the spillage of muck and overloading at any particular dumping site.
2. The Committee was apprised that all the dumping sites are nearby river/streams. The UA has clarified that all the muck disposal sites are more than 40 meter away from the river and above the observed HFL. Further it was submitted by the User Agency that to avoid the spillage of muck into the river, engineering structures like gabion walls, crate walls etc. along the all sides of the dumping sites have been proposed in Muck Management Plan.
3. The Committee noted that in the extant proposal, large number of trees (174 saplings and 56 trees) of ecologically important Birch species are going to be felled in such a high altitude and fragile area. The possibility of reducing the number of trees is required to be

explored, as these species are distributed in few locations in Himachal Pradesh. The User Agency submitted that during the actual implementation of the project, the number of trees actually required to be felled will be much lesser. Further, the Committee enquired about the possibility of translocation of the Birch poles/saplings. In this regards the concerned DFO submitted that there is no report of successful transplantation/translocation of Birch species as of date, however on experimental basis in this current project, the poles/saplings of Birch species will be tried to be translocated provided the User Agency bears the cost for the same. The User Agency agreed.

4. The Committee noted that separate enumeration list of trees standing at the dumping sites is required to be submitted. The DFO concerned agreed to provide the same.
5. The Committee noted that legal status of CA land is not clear. In this regard, the DFO concerned has submitted that the CA site proposed in Dulling is DPF, Ranikar Mallig and Shansha Sarovar are notified as UPF under HP Government notification, 1952.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/clarifications on the following points: -

- i. The State Government shall submit an Undertaking from the User Agency duly authenticated the concerned DFO regarding the translocation of poles/saplings of Birch species on experimental basis by the Forest Department and cost of the same shall be borne by the User Agency.
- ii. State Government shall submit a separate enumeration list of trees standing in the dumping site. An undertaking from User Agency duly authenticated by concerned DFO to the effect that trees standing on dumping sites shall not be felled.
- iii. State Government shall explore the possibilities to reduce the number of trees to be felled. For this, State Forest Department shall constitute a Committee comprising Range Officer and Site Engineer In-charge and headed by the DFO concerned. The Committee shall examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend the removal of trees on case to case basis along the RoW of road after looking into the possibility of reducing the total number of trees to be affected. The DFO shall verify the enumeration and accordingly grant felling permission based on the actual requirement. DFO will submit the list of trees to IRO Shimla, granted felling permission by him and trees to be retained within a period of two (2) months after execution of the project. An Undertaking for the same from UA duly authenticated by the concerned DFOs shall be provided.

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Agenda item no. 8:- : Diversion of 6.4843 ha of forest land in favour of Chief En. (BRO) C/O 56 APO, Chief Engineer Project Rohtang Tunnel C/o 56 APO Oni-93170 for the construction of Palchan Bypass Road, within the jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, HP. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/DEF/157139/2022)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.4843 ha of forest land in favour of CHIEF En. (BRO) C/O 56 APO, Chief Engineer Project Rohtang Tunnel C/o 56 APO Oni-93170 for the construction of Palchan Bypass Road, within the

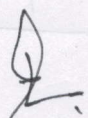
jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division. An Undertaking to deposit the detailed cost of implementation of Wild Life Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Plan has been submitted. The Committee noted that 1326 trees are proposed for felling in the diversion area. Committee observed that some important ecologically tree species viz. *Aesculus indica*, *Cedrus deodara*, and *Pinus wallichiana* etc. are present in the diversion area. 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 has been reported by the State Forest Department in the diversion area. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Govt. As per State Government, the aerial distance of proposed DA area is 3.810 km away from Manali PA/WLs and 3.230 km away from its notified ESZ. The ACF Kullu and representative of User Agency (UA) were present online in the meeting.

The discussion on following points were carried out in the meeting: -

1. Committee was apprised that the average Width of RoW in Forest land is mentioned as 24 m and Non-forest is mentioned as 18.1377 m. However, documentary proof of the IRC norms has not been submitted. User Agency submitted that the proposed RoW (24 meters) is specified as per the IRC norms and documentary evidence of the same will be submitted.
2. Committee was apprised that, out of proposed 6.5 ha area of CA, 03 ha of area falls under Moderately Dense Forests category. ACF concerned submitted that CA site will be reviewed and rectified accordingly.
3. Committee was apprised that, comprehensive CA scheme has not been submitted/uploaded as per para-2.8 (ii) of the FCA guidelines 1980. ACF concerned submitted that the same will be submitted/uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
4. Committee was apprised that the proposed CA land is a Wasteland declared as PF under HP Govt. notification of 1952. The proposed land is in the possession of Forest Department. However, the documentary proof of the same is not uploaded. ACF concerned submitted that same shall be provided.
5. Committee was apprised that the detail of trees (to be retained and to be felled) mentioned in the revised abstract list and enumeration is not matching with the justification given in the compliance report. ACF concerned submitted that same shall be reviewed and correct list will be provided.
6. Committee was apprised that total 1326 number of trees and saplings have been enumerated. Out of these, 700 number of trees & saplings are to be felled and 626 number of trees & saplings are to be retained. However, the proposed DA is habitat of ecologically and economically important species like Kail, Deodar, and Indian Horse Chesnut etc. Therefore, State Govt. should again explore the possibility at its level so that less number of ecologically and economically trees to be cut/felled. User Agency in this regard submitted that possibilities shall be explored to reduce the felling during execution of work. ACF concerned submitted possibilities of translocation/transplantation of poles/saplings of these species on experimental basis shall be explored.

After detailed discussion of various aspects of the proposal, Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to the submission of documents/clarifications of following points:

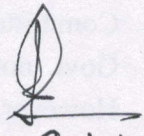
- i. State Govt. shall submit the IRC norms for 24m Width of RoW applicable for the proposed project.



- ii. Concerned DFO shall review the density of CA site and accordingly revise suitable CA area with all requisite documents shall be uploaded at designated location of PARIVESH portal.
- iii. State Govt. shall upload comprehensive CA scheme of proposed CA site on the PARIVESH portal.
- iv. Documentary proof regarding legal status of proposed CA site shall be submitted.
- v. DFO concerned shall review the detailed abstract of trees to be felled and to be retained and accordingly revised and correct list of the same shall be submitted.
- vi. State Government shall explore the possibilities to reduce the felling during execution of work. For this, State Forest Department shall constitute a Committee comprising Range Officer and Site Engineer In-charge and headed by the DFO concerned. The Committee shall examine the alignment at the time of execution of work and will recommend the removal of trees on case to case basis along the RoW of road after looking into the possibility of reducing the total number of trees to be affected. The DFO shall verify the enumeration and accordingly grant felling permission based on the actual requirement. DFO will submit the list of trees to IRO Shimla, granted felling permission by him and trees to be retained within a period of two (2) months after execution of the project. The Undertaking for the same duly authenticated by the concerned DFO may be provided.
- vii. State Government shall explore the possibilities for translocation/transplantation of poles/saplings of conifers on experimental basis by the Forest Department and User Agency will bear the cost of the same. An Undertaking in the regard from User Agency duly authenticated by the concerned DFO shall be submitted.

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

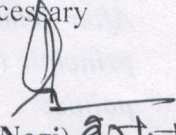

 (S.P. Negi) 25/5/2023
 Chairman, REC

File. No.: 14-4/IRO/REC/2021/2/ 138

Dated: 25 May, 2023

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3. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.(Email:forestsecy-hp@nic.in).
4. 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 & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action. (Email:nodalcahp@yahoo.com).


 (S.P. Negi) 25/5/2023
 Chairman, REC