

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

The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, IIPFD	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 HHPSEB 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 - 1 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.

Encl. No 1379.

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Dated 13/05/2023.

copy is forwarded to Sr. Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPSEBL Thalot DIST. Mandi HP for information and necessary action. He is requested to submit the clarifications/documents required as above

DCP GHRP Shakti