

**MINUTES OF THE 38TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 15TH MAY, 2019**

The 38th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office (North Central Zone) Dehradun was held on 15 May, 2019 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
1	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.	Chairman
2	Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, IFS	Non-official Member
3	Dr. R. S. Bisht, IFS	Non-official Member
4	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
5	Shri D. J. K. Sharma, IFS	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (UK)
6	Shri Rajesh Sharma, IFS	Representative of Nodal Officer (HP)
7	Representatives 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 1.1211 ha of forest land (instead of 1.1322 ha) in favour of M/s Lakshmi Narayama Hydro Energy Pvt. Ltd. for the construction of 2.50 MW Khalara HEP within the jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion 1.1211 ha of forest land (instead of 1.1322 ha) for the construction of 2.50 MW Khalara HEP. The committee informed that the proposal was previously submitted for the approval of 1.1925 ha of forest land and then revised to 1.1322 ha requirement of forest land. Further, this office vide this of letter dt. 22.03.2017 the proposal was previously approved for "Diversion of 1.1322 ha (proposed of 1.1925 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s Lakshmi Narayama Hydro Energy Pvt. Ltd. H. No. 123-5,

Raghunathpur, Kullu-175101 HP for the construction of 2.5 MW Khalara SHEP with laying of transmission line, within the jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division & District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh". Now, the User Agency has submitted that 0.2159 ha area has been surrendered by User Agency from the area earlier approved i.e 1.1322 ha and additional area of 0.2048 ha area has been added due to change in the location/ alignment of road to power house/ penstock. The area now reduced to 1.1211 ha. It is also noted that the tree enumeration now submitted for additional 32 trees in addition to earlier proposed 29 trees. However, no tree felling is involved in this 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. The committee noted that due to illegal dumping of muck there is violation of FCA, 1980 for 0.82 ha area which has been reported by the State Government.

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 with the following additional condition:

1. In addition to the normal NPV for 1.1211 ha area already deposited, the State Government will submit the Penal NPV against the broken area as per the revised guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC. Any excess amount deposited by the user agency under NPV, if any, may be adjusted against the above mentioned Penal NPV amount.

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 6.147 ha of forest land for construction of motor road from Ratighat to Budalakot (11.432 km) in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No.- FP/UK/ROAD/19915/2016).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.147 ha of forest land for construction of motor road from Ratighat to Budalakot (11.432 km). The committee^{was} informed that 464 trees (in 9 m width) are proposed to be affected in the project and 382 trees (in 7 m width) are proposed to be felled after excluding 27 saplings falling in 0-10 dia class. 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.

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

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 6.287 ha of forest land for construction of Kapkot-Pindari Glacier Motor Road to Kafli Kameda Motor Road in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No.- FP/UK/ROAD/13065/2015).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.287 ha of forest land for construction of Kapkot-Pindari Glacier Motor Road to Kafli Kameda Motor Road. The committee noted that 551 trees (in 9 m width) are proposed to be affected in the project and 271 trees (in 7 m width) 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 KML file of the proposed road is seen by the committee and it shows that the villages are already connected with motor road and there is no such need for the construction of the proposed road. The representative of the user agency could not justify the requirement of the proposed road.

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

1. A site inspection report of DFO, mentioning names of villages, total population to be benefitted, actual requirement of the road and distance of the village from the existing road.
2. It is required that DFO should ensure his presence in the next REC meeting and a detailed presentation to be done before the REC in its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 6.8378 ha of forest land for construction of Berinag-Gangolihat Motor Road to Kanara Gunth Motor Road (10 km) in favour of Public Work Department (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.(Online proposal No.- FP/UK/ROAD/27164/2017).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of of 6.8378 ha of forest land for construction of Berinag-Gangolihat Motor Road to Kanara Gunth Motor Road (10 km). The committee noted that 310 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 KML file of the proposed road is seen by the

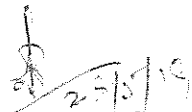
committee and it shows that the villages are already connected with motor road and there is no such need for the construction of the proposed road. Again, the representative of the user agency could not provide details and could not justify the requirement of the proposed road.

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

1. A site inspection report of DFO, mentioning names of villages, total population to be benefitted, actual requirement of the road and distance of the village from the existing road.
2. It is required that DFO should ensure his presence in the next REC meeting and a detailed presentation to be done before the REC in its next meeting.

Here, the committee wishes to place on record its displeasure over the absence of suitable representatives of the user agency or the concerned DFO who could have presented the factual details of the concerned proposals. The committee expects that the concerned Nodal Officers will take suitable corrective measures in this regard.

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

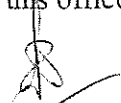

(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF-cum- chairman, REC

File. No. RO-DDN/REC/1-2014/VOL-4/ 415

Dated: 23 May, 2019

Distribution:

1. Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, IFS (Member, REC), 188/1 Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248 001 (Uttarakhand).
2. Dr. R. S. Bisht, IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttarakhand colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
3. Prof. 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. The Addl. Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
5. Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
6. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. for information. She 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 & 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.


(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF-cum- chairman, REC