

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: June, 2023**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Forest and Environment,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh,  
Shimla.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 211.8427 ha. of forest land for construction of 500 MW Dugar Hyrdo Electric Project in favour of NHPC Ltd. under Pangri Forest Division and Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/123533/2021).**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The site inspection report (SIR) for this proposal has been submitted by Integrated Regional Office, Shimla vide letter No.14-3/IRO/SIR/2021/1/213 dated 05.06.2023. After examination of SIR, the following issues have emerged:

- i. The status of 04 CA sites namely Killar Dhar-1, Killar Dhar-2, Rogi and Findpar is not clarified by Forest Department/User Agency whether these sites are Waste Lands declared as (Un-demarcated) Protected Forests by HP Government Notification of 1952 or notified as Un-demarcated Protected Forests under IFA, 1927. This needs to be furnished with documentary proof.
- ii. It is noted that 12.505 ha area (Quarry site 1:- Upstream of Punto Hasku Bridge, Quarry site 2:- Downstream of Punto/Hasku Bridge, Quarry site 3:- Near Village Dharwas, Barrow Area 1:- Near Tail Race Outfall, Barrow Area 2:- Tail end of Reservoir near Findru Village) is proposed for quarry and borrow area in which mining will be carried out. However, the approved mining plan has not been provided and therefore the same needs to be submitted.
- iii. A Mitigation Plan is required to be prepared to avoid the adverse impact on ecology and environment of the area due to mining in Hill Side Quarry sites.
- iv. The trees of DBH >50 cm were also observed in the diversion area. These large-sized trees of Girth Class 121-150 cm and >150cm have not been recorded in Part-II, but these are mentioned in Enumeration list and cost of trees document. DFO concerned has recorded the Class IV (20-30 DBH) and Class V (10-20 DBH) category trees in Girth Class 0-30cm (i.e. Saplings Category) of Part-II in PARIVESH portal that seems incorrect. Therefore, saplings mentioned in Part-II may be reviewed properly and revise/rectify according to the Enumeration List and

properly filled as per the category of Girth Class on PARIVESH portal.

- v. The Cost Benefit ratio of the project has been calculated on previous NPV amount, therefore, the same is required to be calculated on revised rates of NPV in accordance with Ministry's Letter dated 06.01.2022. It may be rectified on PARIVESH portal.
- vi. The cost of the project may be rectified as per CEA, Ministry of Power's letter No. CEA-SY-25-44/3/2020-PAC Division/74-115 dated 26.04.2022 on PARIVESH portal.
- vii. There is a mismatch in density of vegetation class and NPV rates applied and hence error in the calculation of NPV Bill. This needs to be reviewed and rectified keeping in view the revised rates of NPV prescribed vide letter dated 06.01.2022.
- viii. As per the SIR, the proposed diversion area has presence of unique endemic tree of *Pinus gerardiana* and *Corylus spp.* These species need special protection from adverse impacts of the proposed HEP. The State Government shall submit its comments in this regard.
- ix. The IRO Shimla in the report has mentioned that the staff of Forest department was not present during the site inspection, which has been intimated by IRO, Shimla to the State Govt. vide letter dated 04.05.2023. The State shall submit a detailed report in this regard.

In view of above, State Government is requested to furnish the reply on the points as above for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**  
**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.