

No.RK/Misc/2006/FRA 1766
HP Forest Department

From

Divisional Forest Officer
Dalhousie Forest Division
Dalhousie

To

The Executive Engineer
Chowari Division
HPPWD Chowari

Dated Dalhousie, the 01-06-2023

Subject: - Proposal for diversion of 6.2455 hectare of forest land for C/O- link road from Dadriara to Chakki. Km. 0/0 to 13/500 Km within the jurisdiction of Dalhousie Forest Division, District Chamba(H.P).

Sir,

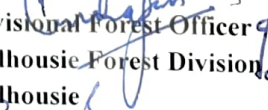
Kindly refer to Minutes of 19th meeting of Regional Empowered Committee of Integrated Regional office Shimla held on 23rd May 2023.

You are requested to attend the observations as per the discussions on following points were carried out in the REC meeting:

- Point No.1 The committee noted that the CB analysis has been provided. The Cost-Benefit analysis is required in ratio form. Therefore do the needful correction in CB ratio and submit revised CB analysis report.
- Point No.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. Therefore submit the undertaking for submission of the same before Stage-II approval and do the needful.
- Point No.3 The Committee also noted that a large number of ecologically important trees (617) individuals especially here *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 finalized during the actual execution of the project. Therefore, submit the undertaking in this regard.
- Point No.6 The Committee noted that the dumping sites are on the bank of stream/rivulet und relocated 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.

Encl: Copy of minutes of 19th REC Shimla

Yours faithfully


Divisional Forest Officer
Dalhousie Forest Division
Dalhousie

**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

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.

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. EP/HPP/ROAD/17175.2020)

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 Khaffar 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 D.C., SDLC, ERC and Gram Sabha of Rathbora Village is also required to be submitted before Stage 1. The Committee also noted that a large number of ecologically important trees (617 individuals) especially *Quercus*, *Rhododendron* and *Thuja* etc. are going to be affected in the proposed road. Further, as per DSS analysis, the number of trees to be affected in the proposal needs to be 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 D.L.C, S.D.L.C, F.R.C 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 D.L.C, S.D.L.C, F.R.C 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