

**MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE (REC) OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE,
DEHRADUN HELD ON 27TH JUNE, 2018**

The 29th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office (North Central Zone), Dehradun was held on 27th June, 2018 at Regional Office Dehradun, under the Chairpersonship of Ms Kamal Preet, Addl. PCCF(i/c), Regional Office, Dehradun.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting.

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Kamal Preet , Addl. PCCF(i/c), RO, Dehradun	Chairperson
2.	Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.)	Non-official Member
3.	Shri Dr. S.P.Singh, member, REC	Non-official Member
4.	Shri Parveen Thapliyal, IFS (Retd.)	Non-official Member
5.	Dr. Manoj Chandran, CCF&Nodal officer(FCA), UK	Special Invitee
6.	Shri Harsh Vardhan Kathuria , CF Solan, HP.	Special Invitee
7.	Representatives of the User Agencies	

Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the state of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Agenda Item No. 01 : Diversion of 54.2487 ha of forest land in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Chandigarh for construction of Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri new Rail Line (Kms 0/0 to 20/00 & 20/00 to 63/100), within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division, District Bilaspur, H.P. (Online Proposal No.-FP/HP/RAIL/25170/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 54.2487 ha of forest land in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Chandigarh for construction of Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri new Rail Line (Kms 0/0 to 20/00 & 20/00 to 63/100), within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division, District Bilaspur, H.P. The committee was informed that 3,600 number of trees and 74 bamboo clumps having 7,400 sticks & 5,245 saplings are proposed to be felled in this proposal. 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.

The case was earlier discussed in REC meeting held on dated 18.05.2018 in which the case was deferred on account of requirement of certificate indicating aerial distance of project site from nearest Protected Area which was required to ensure compliance of directions of the Standing Committee of the NBWL circulated vide letter dated 08.02.2018. The Committee was informed that the certificate has since been received from the State Government vide letter dated 06.06.2018 and was found to be satisfactory.

The REC was apprised about the concerns raised by Hon'ble NGT in infrastructure projects and the muck dumping sites and structures proposed for stability were discussed threadbare. The representative of the user agency informed that the project details are also available in their website and that regular updates on progress of muck dumping and associated works would be made available on it. The Committee directed that a hyperlink should be made available in the project details in Part I online so that it is available for wider public view.

➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval with following additional conditions:*

- 1) *The State Government shall incorporate hyperlink of the project details available in the website of the user agency in Part I online.*
- 2) *The State Government shall upload detailed muck management plan including engineering structures proposed in Part I online.*
- 3) *The user agency shall submit the six month compliance report regarding muck management to the Regional Office.*

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 7.17 ha of forest land for construction of Paliur to Drabla Motor Road in favour of HPPWD within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/ROAD/13442/2015

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.17 ha of forest land for construction of Paliur to Drabla Motor Road in favour of HPPWD within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. The committee was informed that 134 number of trees are proposed to be felled 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. It is reported to be a case of violation.



The committee was informed that the Regional Office had conveyed observations vide EDS dated 16.06.2017 which were partly replied by the state government vide letter dated 04.06.2018 and a large no. of observations still remain unattended which were placed before the committee. The Committee desired that the state government may be requested to comply with the observations and then to place the matter before REC for its consideration.

In view of above, the Committee decided to defer the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 71.9788 ha of forest land in favour of HPPTCL for construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Barshani to Choror within the jurisdiction of Parvati Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, H.P. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/TRANS/19075/2016)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 71.9788 ha of forest land in favour of HPPTCL for construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Barshani to Choror within the jurisdiction of Parvati Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, H.P. The committee was informed that 920 number of trees including 109 saplings are to be felled 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.

The committee was apprised that the case was earlier discussed in the meeting held 18.05.2018 and was deferred for want of comments of Chief Wildlife Warden which has since been received from the State Government vide letter dated 07.06.2018. Other aspects of the proposal were found to be in order.

➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval.*

Agenda No. 04: Diversion of 36.4344 ha of forest land in favour of HPPTCL for construction of 66 KV D/C Transmission Line from 66/22 kV GIS Sub-station Bagipul to 66/220 KV Sub-station Kotla, within the jurisdiction of Ani at Luhri & Rampur Forest Division, District Kullu & Shimla, H.P. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/TRANS/32067/2018)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 36.4344 ha of forest land in favour of HPPTCL for construction of 66 KV D/C Transmission Line from 66/22 kV GIS Sub-station Bagipul to 66/220 KV Sub-station Kotla, within the jurisdiction of Ani at Luhri & Rampur Forest Division, District Kullu & Shimla, H.P. The committee was informed that 367 number of trees (under Ani Forest Division) & 128 number of trees (under Rampur Forest Division) are proposed to be felled 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. The forest land proposed for diversion is also not a part of any eco sensitive zone as per report submitted by the state government.

The committee was apprised that the FRA certificate with all requisite annexure is yet to be submitted by the state government and scientific names of the trees proposed to be felled are required to be mentioned in Part II online.

- *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval subject to fulfilment of the following condition*
- i) *The state government shall submit FRA certificate alongwith requisite mandatory annexure and upload the same online in Part I at designated place.*
 - ii) *The state government shall specify scientific names of trees affected by the project online in Part II.*

Agenda No. 05: **Renewal of Mining lease of Makhroti Slates Quarry over an area of 1.392 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Himachal Slates Stone, Mohali Bangotu P.O. Chamba, within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, H.P. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/MIN/22298/2018)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking renewal of mining lease of Makhroti Slates Quarry over an area of 1.392 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Himachal Slates Stone, Mohali Bangotu P.O. Chamba, within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, H.P. The committee was informed that no trees are proposed to be felled 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.

The committee was apprised that the state government is required to upload again the documents related to area proposed for diversion i.e. digital map and SoI toposheet as well as detailed land use plan at M 2 (vi) in Part I online after duly c/s by DFO. The compliance of conditions against previous approval accorded on 28.05.2013 is also required to be uploaded online. Since it is a case of renewal of mining lease, fresh NoC from Gram Sabha concerned is also required as per the instructions of the Ministry, New Delhi. It was also pointed out that the KML file uploaded in Part I does not show the safety zone.

- *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to the Ministry, Government of India, New Delhi, subject to fulfilment of following condition :*
- i) *The state government shall upload again maps at para C(iii) , C(iv) and M2 (vi) in Part I after c/s by DFO.*



- ii) *The state government shall submit fresh NoC from Gram Sabha, in original and upload the same.*
- iii) *The state government shall upload KML file of the area proposed for diversion showing safety zone.*
- iv) *The state government shall upload compliance of all the conditions stipulated in previous approval granted vide letter dated 28.05.2013.*

Agenda No. 06: **Diversion of 4.3847 ha of forest land for the construction of Chate Ka Nallah Small Hydro Power Electric Project (5 MW) in favour of M/s Jagdambey Hydro Project V&PO Bharmoti, Tehsil-Nadaun, Distt. Hamirpur, within the jurisdiction of Bharmour Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, H.P.**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 4.3847 ha of forest land for construction of Chate Ka Nallah Small Hydro Power Electric Project (5 MW) in favour of M/s Jagdambey Hydro Project V&PO Bharmoti, Tehsil-Nadaun, Distt. Hamirpur, within the jurisdiction of Bharmour Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, H.P. The committee was informed that 73 number of trees are proposed to be felled 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. The forest land proposed for diversion is also not a part of any eco sensitive zone as per the state government. No representative of the user agency was present in the meeting.

The case was earlier placed before REC in its meeting held on 29.06.2017 and was recommended to the Ministry, Govt of India, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of information/documents on 02 points i.e. the state government will provide soft copy of the area proposed for diversion in KML file, which stands complied, and will propose CA over equivalent non-forest land. The committee was apprised that there has been change in the guidelines issued by the Ministry conveyed vide letter dated 17.04.2018 and now the state government can propose CA over twice the degraded forest land and same has been requested by the state government. It was further informed that as per DSS analysis of the CA area proposed on degraded forest land, the calculated area is 6.2 ha instead of proposed 9.0 ha area, hence the state Govt is required to submit revised digital map & KML for area 9.0 ha. The committee directed that the state government may be asked to comply with the observation and then place the case before the committee.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to defer the proposal on above mentioned grounds.

Agenda No. 07: **Diversion of 0.967 ha (instead of 1.634 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s Shakti Hydro Electric Company Ltd., 204 Madan Lal Chowk, Asiad Village Khel Gaon, New Delhi for the construction of**



approach road to 3.5 MW Project Laying of Transmission Line & Drift, within the jurisdiction of Nachan Forest Division and Distt. Mandi, H.P.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.967 ha (instead of 1.634 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s Shakti Hydro Electric Company Ltd., 204 Madan Lal Chowk, Asiad Village Khel Gaon, New Delhi for the construction of approach road to 3.5 MW Project, Laying of Transmission Line & Drift, within the jurisdiction of Nachan Forest Division and Distt. Mandi, H.P. The committee was informed that 66 number of trees are proposed to be felled 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. The forest land proposed for diversion is also not a part of any eco sensitive zone as per state government.

The committee was informed that the case was earlier placed before REC in its meeting held on 22.06.2016 and was deferred for submitting information on 04 points i.e. evacuation plan, equivalent non-forest land for CA, clarification on drift/tunnel proposed and geo-coordinates of towers proposed. The committee was apprised that the state Government vide letter dated 02.06.2018 has submitted required information and has reduced the forest area required from earlier proposed 1.632 ha area to 0.967 ha due to acquisition of private land and the now area required for diversion of forest land is only 0.967 ha out of which 0.455 ha is for T/L and 0.512 ha for tunnel, road, and dumping site as per component-wise break-up placed. It was also apprised that in view of reduced area requirement which is less than 01 ha, the state government has requested for plantation of 967 trees as per guidelines which was accepted by the committee.

➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to the Ministry, Government of India, New Delhi subject to fulfilment of following condition :*

1. *The state government will submit plantation scheme of 967 trees @ of 1000 trees per ha.as per guidelines.*

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 7.544 ha of forest land for construction of Langsi - Molta Motor Road in favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Nanda Devi National Park Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/10589/2015).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.544 ha of forest land for construction of Langsi -Molta Motor Road in

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favour of Gramya Vikas Vibhag (PMGSY) within the jurisdiction of Nanda Devi National Park Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. The committee was informed that 368 number of 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..

The committee was apprised that the proposed CA area after DSS analysis has been calculated as 14.71 ha instead of required 15.09 ha, and that the state government is required to upload correct KML file for area proposed for diversion. The committee was apprised that the forest land proposed for diversion falls under Eco sensitive zone of Kedarnath Wild life Sanctuary. The Nodal officer of the state government informed that the area does not fall in the proposed ESZ but as per the guidelines since the ESZ is not notified so far, hence 10 km from boundary of Protected Area would be considered, hence comments of CWLW would be required as per the directions issued by the Standing Committee of NWLW.

➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to defer the proposal on following grounds:*

- i) *The state government shall submit rectified CA area and correct the same online.*
- ii) *The state government shall uploaded correct KML file for area proposed for diversion.*
- iii) *The state government shall submit comments from Chief Wildlife Warden.*

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 6.105 ha of forest land for construction of Jamak to Kamar motor road under PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/23734/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.105 ha of forest land for construction of Jamak to Kamar motor road under PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. The committee was informed that 493 number of 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. The representative of the user agency gave a brief outline of the project as well as its justification.

The committee was apprised that out of proposed 12.21 ha for CA, upon DSS analysis, it is observed that 01 ha falls in VDF and 03 ha falls under MDF and that as per guidelines, the state government can be requested to submit plantation scheme for 4000 plants as per guidelines which was accepted by the committee.



➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principal' approval with following additional condition:.*

- i) *The State Govt. shall submit plantation scheme for 4000 trees in lieu of 4.00 ha MDF and VDF in CA area proposed.*

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 5.4675 ha of forest land for Construction of Khanshu to Tanda M/R under PMGSY in Nainital District within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/25624/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.4675 ha of forest land for construction of Khanshu to Tanda M/R under PMGSY in Nainital District within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. The committee was informed that 742 number of 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.

The committee was informed that the state government is required to submit justification for locating the project in forest land duly c/s by the DFO and upload the same. The distance of the area proposed for diversion from the boundary of the forest was shown zero which was discussed and was accepted. It was also informed that the Part III uploaded was without signature of CF which was required to be corrected. The matter of tree enumeration in 9.00 mts vs 7.00 mts was also discussed and tree enumeration list submitted by the state government for 9.00 mts was accepted. The shape of KML file for CA was also found corrected and matched with that in digital map, hence was accepted.

➤ *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principal' approval subject to fulfilment of following conditions:*

- i) *The state government shall submit justification for locating the project in forest land duly C/S by DFO and upload the same.*
- ii) *The state government shall upload again the recommendation of CF in Part II.*

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 8.64 ha of forest land for construction of Helong dumak motor road under PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Joshimath Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/10226/2015)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.64 ha of forest land for construction of Helong dumak motor road under PMGSY

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within the jurisdiction of Joshimath Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. The committee was informed that 405 numbers of 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.

The Committee was apprised that the state government was requested to submit original hard copy of the complete proposal which was received vide letter dated 25.06.2018.

- *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord 'in-principal' approval.*

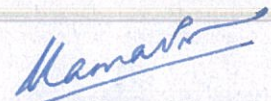
Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 7.31 ha of forest land for construction of Sipti to Amkaria M/R under PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Champawat Forest Division, District Champawat, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/10138/2015)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.31 ha of forest land for construction of Sipti to Amkaria M/R under PMGSY within the jurisdiction of Champawat Forest Division, District Champawat, Uttarakhand. The committee was informed that 317 number of 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.

The REC was apprised that the state government vide letter dated 15.05.2018 had submitted reply to EDS raised by this office. However, it was observed that the state government is yet to submit original hard copy of the proposal. Besides, the state govt. had reportedly changed CA area but had not revised KML file and digital map of CA online. VLC proceedings of all the affected villages were also awaited. The state government was also required to review NPV. REC decided that these may be attended by the state government and then the proposal be placed before REC for its consideration.

- *After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, REC decided to defer the proposal.*

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



(Kamal Preet)
APCCF (I/C)-cum-
Chairperson, REC

Distribution:

1. Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.), 102/2, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248006.
2. Shri Parveen Thaplyal, IFS (Retd.), Shivkripa, Sangam Vihar Chouras, P.O. Kikileshwar, Distt. Tehri -249161, Uttarakhand.
3. Dr. S.P. Singh, New Vasant Vihar Enclave, House No.-09 (Right Row), Opp. Polly Kids School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
4. 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.
5. The CCF & 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.



(Kamal Preet)
APCCF (I/C)-cum-
Chairperson, REC