

**MINUTES OF 10th MEETING of REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA
HELD ON 12th August, 2022**

The 10th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 12th August, 2022 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 Special Invitee were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

S. no.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Chairman
2.	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
3.	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
4.	Smt Richa Banchta, HPSFD	DFO(FCA)
5.	Dr. Yogesh Gairola, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Technical Officer (Special Invitee)
6.	Dr. Anoop Kumar Dass	Scientist 'B'
7.	Sh. Joginder Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (i/c)
8.	Sh. Ajay Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (i/c)
9.	Dr. Aman Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer
10.	Sh. Paranjay Kumar Singh, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Research Officer
11.	Representatives of the User Agencies and State Forest department	---

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members 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 case wise decision taken by REC is as under:

Agenda item no. 1:- : Diversion of 50.091 ha of forest land in favour of ITBP Floor 03 Block 02, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road New Delhi for the construction of Dubling-Rishi-DogriLamcheDogri road, within the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh (FP/HP/Road/145666/2021).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 50.091 ha of forest land in favour of ITBP, Floor 03, C.G.O complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The Committee noted that 122 no. of trees are proposed to be felled in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area. Schedule I species of Blue sheep, Himalayan Red Fox, Common leopards have been reported in the area proposed for diversion by the DFO concerned in online Part II for which no protection and conservation plan has been furnished. The aerial distance from the diversion area is 26.50 km & 31.70 km from LippaAsrang and Sangla Valley (RakchamChitkul) WLS. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. Representative of User agency and CCF Rampur were virtually present in the meeting. The committee noted that the proposed width of the road is not as per the prescribed IRC norms. The suggested width for hill roads is 12 m for two lane roads while in the proposal the width of the road is proposed as 18m without giving any technical justification. Further, the committee also noted that the areas identified for raising CA are on steep slope and 3000m above sea level. The committee was in an opinion that these sites should be reviewed by the State Govt for its suitability. The concerned CF ensured to the committee members that the necessary action and amendment will be carried out in this matter.

The discussions on following points were carried out in the meeting and committee appraised that:-

1. As per MoEF & CC latest order dated 16.02.2022, FRA certificate needs to be submitted. UA submitted before the committee that same will be provided before Stage-II approval.
2. The NPV calculation sheet/bill has been submitted for Eco-class-V. Same is required to be submitted for Eco Class-VI.
3. District profile in Part-II, para-14 is required to be rectified.
4. A list of unique floral species prevailing in the area is also required along with Action Plan for their protection and conservation.
5. The proposed area is a part of Cold desert Biosphere Reserve and there may be possibility of erosion. Therefore, Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan and Wild life Management Plan along with detail cost of its implementation as per MoEF & CC vide letter No. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022 is required to be submitted.

6. The khasra no. wise detail of components (Row, Muck Dumping site) is provided, however the detail of bridge component has not been incorporated. Therefore the component wise or khasra number wise details of all the component is required. UA agreed for the same.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to *defer the proposal* to next REC meeting and desired to submit the following clarifications/documents :-

- i. The FRA certificate with all prescribed annexures including records of all consultation & meetings with Gram Sabha (S) & FRC (S) of all the concerned villages needs to be submitted before Stage-II (final approval).
- ii. The NPV calculation sheet/bill has been submitted for Eco-class-V. Same is required to be submitted for Eco Class-VI.
- iii. The State Govt. may rectify and fill the district profile in Part-II, para-14 on the PARIVESH portal.
- iv. State Govt. may provide the list of unique floral species prevailing in the area with their Action Plan for their protection and conservation. Same may be duly authenticated by DFO concerned.
- v. State Govt. may submit Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan and Wild life Management Plan along with detail cost of its implementation as per MoEF & CC vide letter No. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022.
- vi. State Govt. has submitted the khasra no. wise detail of components (Row, Muck Dumping site), however the detail of bridge component has not been incorporated. Therefore State Govt. may provide the component wise or khasra number wise details of all the required components.
- vii. The status of CA land whether it is under the possession of H.P Forest Department or not may be provided.
- viii. The proposed CA sites are at high altitude areas and on steep slopes. Therefore, the State Govt. may review the proposed CA sites with respect to its feasibility for raising plantation. If required, then revised CA sites of vegetation density <40% along with KML file and requisite documents of CA needs to be submitted and uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
- ix. CA scheme may also be reviewed as per the prevailing rates of raising CA in the State of HP.
- x. The extant proposal involves width of 18 m of the proposed road therefore; the project

proponent will provide detailed technical justification in view of existing IRC norms for the hill roads which justified the requirement of 18m width.

- xi. The State Govt. may explore the possibility to reduce the numbers of trees proposed for felling and revise the enumeration list of trees mentioning trees to be felled and not to be felled.

Agenda item no.2:- Diversion of 17.1697 ha of forest land in favour of BRO, 108 RCC (GREF) for C/o 56 PO for the widening/improvement of road Sumdo-Kaza-Gramphoo from Existing kms. 161+850 to km 169+970 (Design km 157+850 to km 166+00) with net length 8.230 km (Design length 8.150 km), within the jurisdiction of Lahaul Forest Division at Keylong, Distt. Lahaul&Spiti, HP.(Online Proposal No. FP/HP/DEF/117865/2020)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 17.1697ha of forest land in favour of BRO, 108 RCC (GREF) for C/o 56 PO. The Committee noted that no trees are to be felled in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is a part of ESZ of the nearest Protected Area (within 10km default distance from boundary of Chandertal WLS because the ESZ for the same is not yet notified). As per DSS analysis, the aerial distance of diversion area is 2.74 km from Chandratal, 23.29 km from PinValley, 39.98 km from Manali, 39.21 km from Kanawar, 41.35 km from Kibber and 44.04 km from Great Himalayan National Park PAs/WLSs. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. Concerned User agency and DFO, Lahaul Forest Division at Keylong were present in the meeting. The DFO concerned has informed to the committee that the site proposed for muck dumping in the proposal will be developed as road side amenities after necessary reclamation by the project proponent. The committee suggested to the State Govt. that no such work can be carried out without having prior approval of Govt. of India under the provision of FCA, 1980. If the State Govt. has some plans to develop road side amenities, this must have to be part of the project and the details of such work shall be incorporated as an additional component in the proposal. The following points were also discussed in meeting:-

1. Committee apprised that Administrative Approval of the Project is not provided with the proposal. User agency submitted that same will be provided.
2. Documentary evidence of the existing road prior to 1980 is not provided with the proposal. User Agency submitted that road exists prior to 1980 and documentary evidence for the same shall be submitted.
3. The PRoW (Proposed RoW) of the road is 18 m. User agency submitted that proposed project is widening/improvement of existing National Highway and the PRoW is as per the IRC norms. Committee is of the view that the detailed (Existing RoW) ERoW and (Proposed RoW) PRoW, along with chainage-wise area calculation in tabulated form and

Layout plan showing ERoW and PRoW, Carriageway, Paved Shoulder, Earth Filling, Drain, and Protection Work is required to be submitted duly authenticated by DFO concerned.

4. The FRA certificate has not been provided. Committee apprised that same is under process and will be submitted before Stage-II (final) approval.
5. Committee noted that certificate uploaded for minimum Use of Forest Land does not mention the area required. User Agency submitted that same shall be provided.
6. Committee noted that some documents (Muck Management Pan and Reclamation Plan, Item wise breakup of Forest land are not authenticated by Concerned DFO, Details of Forest Land involved and Undertakings of CA, NPV and Addl. NPV). User Agency submitted needful will be done.
7. Committee noted that NPV bill is not submitted with the proposal. DFO submitted that same shall be submitted.
8. Committee noted that a brief note on the vulnerability of forest land diverted to erosion is not correctly filled in Online Portal-II. Committee is of the view that since area falls in the Cold Desert Area and execution of project may cause erosion, therefore Soil Moisture Conservation Plan (SMC), along with its cost of implementation as per MoEF&CC dated 07.06.2022 is required.
9. Committee noted that Online Portal –II, Para-8 (i) (Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion) is not properly filled. DFO submitted that needful will be done.
10. Committee noted that proposed area is adjacent to Chandertal WLS and is home to various unique Wildlife such as Snow Leopard, Wolf, and migratory, and resident birds, therefore Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with CWLW of HPFD along with the details cost of its implementation as per the MoEF&CC letter vide File No. FC/11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022 is required.
11. Committee noted that in the CA scheme, the Plantation method is mentioned as “Artificial Plantation.” User Agency submitted that same shall be rectified by DFO concerned.
12. Committee apprised that as per DSS Analysis of the CA site, 04 ha area falls in Very Dense Forest and 03 ha of Moderate Dense Forest category. Committee is of the view that DFO concerned may review the CA site and revised CA area having density less than 40% may be submitted.
13. Regarding incorrect District profile and geographical area, Committee suggested that same can be rectified by DFO concerned.
14. The DFO recommendation does not mention the proposal number and the date. DFO concerned submitted that same shall be rectified.



15. Committee apprised that proposed diversion area is 2.74 km from Chandertal WLS and the ESZ of the Chandertal WLS is only draft notified, therefore 10km default aerial distance of proposed site from boundary of Chandertal WLS may be considered and in view of the same, comments of CWLW regarding Animal Passage Plan etc. are required.
16. Committee apprised by the DFO concerned that some road and way side amenities like Public toilets etc. have been proposed under the Muck Reclamation Plan. Committee is of the view that if any additional component is required in the proposal, it should be the part of proposal and reflected under component wise breakup in Part-I, Para-B (2.4).
17. Since only one dumping site has been proposed near the vicinity of the river, therefore Committee is of the view that details of special precautionary measures to be taken to avoid the spillage of muck into the river need to be provided to the committee.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to defer the proposal to next REC and desired to submit the following documents/clarifications:

- i. Administrative Approval of the Project is required.
- ii. The documentary evidence of the existence of existing road prior to 1980 is required.
- iii. The extant proposal involves 18 m width of proposed RoW. Therefore, justification along with the IRC norms may be provided for the requirement of 18 m width of RoW for the proposed road.
- iv. The detailed (Existing RoW) ERoW and (Proposed RoW) PRoW, along with chainage-wise area calculation in tabulated form and Layout plan showing ERoW and PRoW, Carriageway, Paved Shoulder, Earth Filling, Drain, and Protection Work is required to be submitted duly authenticated by DFO concerned.
- v. The FRA Certificate along with all prescribed annexures shall be submitted before Stage-II (Final) approval.
- vi. The Certificate for minimum Use of Forest Land mentioning the area of proposed diversion shall be required.
- vii. All the documents viz. Muck Management Plan, Reclamation Plan, Item wise breakup of Forest land, details of Forest Land involved and Undertakings of CA, NPV and Addl. NPV are required to be submitted after authentication of DFO concerned.
- viii. NPV bill is required to be submitted.

- ix. Since proposed Diversion area falls in the Cold Desert Area and execution of project may cause erosion, therefore Soil Moisture Conservation Plan (SMC), along with its cost of implementation as per MoEF&CC dated 07.06.2022 is required.
- x. Since the proposed area is adjacent to Chandertal WLS and is home to various unique Wildlife such as Snow Leopard, Wolf and migratory & resident birds, therefore Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with CWLW of HPFD along with the details cost of its implementation as per the MoEF&CC letter vide File No. FC/11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022 is required.
- xi. In Online Part –II, Para-8 (i) Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion is required to be filled properly.
- xii. The clarification and rectification (if required) regarding “Artificial Plantation” mentioned in the CA scheme is required to be submitted by DFO concerned.
- xiii. Since 04 ha CA area falls in Very Dense Forest and 03 ha CA area falls in Moderate Dense Forest category, therefore, DFO concerned may review the CA site and revised CA area having canopy density less than 40% may be submitted (if required).
- xiv. Since the proposed diversion area is 2.74 km from Chandertal WLS and the ESZ of the Chandertal WLS is only draft notified and not finally notified. Therefore 10km aerial distance as default ESZ of proposed site from boundary of Chandertal WLS may be considered, Hence comment of CWLW may be required.
- xv. State Government shall rectify District profile and geographical area on online Part-II, Para-14.
- xvi. Since only one dumping site has been proposed near the vicinity of the river, therefore Committee is of the view that details of special precautionary measures to be taken to avoid the spillage of muck into the river need to be provided to the committee.
- xvii. Revised recommendation of DFO along with title, proposal number of project and date is required to be submitted.
- xviii. If the State Govt have some plans to develop road side amenities, this must have to be part of the project and the details of such work shall be incorporated as an additional component in the proposal.

Agenda item no.3 Diversion of 5.7027 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. For the construction of 66/22 KV 2x10 MVA Sub station Hatkotialongwith 66 KV Single Circuit

Line on D/C Tower from Hatkoti to Samoli Distt. Shimla HP, within the jurisdiction of Rohru Forest Division Distt. Shimla Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Trans/37139/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.7027 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. For the construction of 66/22 KV 2x10 MVA Sub station Hatkoti along with 66 KV Single Circuit Line on D/C Tower from Hatkoti to Samoli Distt. Shimla HP. The committee noted that a total of 140 trees are to be felled in the project. It is noted that the proposed forest land for diversion is not part of any protected area, and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna are reported in the diversion area. Further, no violation of FCA was reported by the State Government. Concerned User Agency, was present in the meeting. The following point were discussed in the meeting and Committee apprised that:-

1. A document showing the total length and width (RoW) of the transmission line passing through Forest and Non-Forest land is required to be submitted.
2. Large of trees (140) are proposed for felling, therefore, a list of trees which are to be felled, pruned, or retained is required.
3. The area calculated for individual tower is incorrect. User Agency submitted that same will be rectified.

After detailed discussion on the above mentioned points, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/clarification on the following points:

- i. The State Govt. shall submit a detailed document regarding the length and width of the proposed transmission line including the number of towers proposed in forest land and non-forest land.
- ii. The State Government shall review the possibility of reducing the numbers of trees to be affected, and accordingly a fresh enumeration list of trees that are to be felled, pruned, or retained will be provided.
- iii. The State Government may provide a revised document showing correct dimension and area of each tower.

Agenda item no.4:- Diversion of 35.1655 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB, HP, for the construction of SoP to AIIMS Kothipura, within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur and Suket Forest Divisions, District Bilaspur and Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/TRANS/148191/2021)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 35.1655ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. HP. The Committee noted that 6348 trees (2354 trees, 3991 saplings and 03 bamboo) to be felled in Bilaspur Forest Division and no tree felling is proposed in Suket Forest Division in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. The aerial distance of the proposed site from Eco-Sensitive Zone of Bandli WLS is 3.450 Km and is outside from proposed ESZ of Bandli WLS. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. DFO Bilaspur was present virtually in the meeting. User Agency and DFO, Suket were not present in the meeting. The following points were discussed in meeting and Committee apprised that:

1. The KML file of 0.4 ha CA area proposed by Suket Forest Division is neither uploaded in portal nor others documents of CA are uploaded at designated locations of Part-II.
2. The Cost –Benefit analysis has been provided and ratio of Benefit to Cost is provided as 178.5239. Committee is of the view that revised Cost Benefit analysis needs to be submitted in ratio form.
3. The length and Width of Tower component in proposed project is not provided. Committee is of the view that dimension wise detail of each tower in tabulated form along with revised Layout Plan showing width of RoW, location of each tower is required.
4. To arrest the soil erosion along the RoW, sample plan has been submitted. In this sample plan, various methods that are to be employed to arrest soil erosion and the soil conservation practices are highlighted. However, way of implementation of this sample plan in the extant proposal is not submitted. Since large number of trees are proposed for felling and there is possibility of soil erosion in the proposed Diversion area, therefore Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with its cost of implementation as per MoEF&CC order dated 07.06.2022 is required to be submitted.
5. The information regarding the proposed CA patches whether they are in possession of Forest Dept. is not clear in the proposal. DFO Bilaspur in this regard submitted that status of CA land shall be provided.
6. All the affected trees are proposed to be felled which may not be essentially required. Therefore Committee is of the view that the DFO and User Agency should reassess the same and may explore possibilities to reduce the numbers of trees to be affected.
7. The status of the existing sub-station when constructed and whether it attracts FC Act is not clear in the proposal. DFO concerned submitted land ownership of land in which existing sub-station was constructed is vested with Animal Husbandry department.

8. In FRA certificate, proceedings of DLC, SDLC and FRC has been enclosed, however, proceedings of Gram Sabha (s) are not provided.
9. Tree abstract and tree enumeration of Bilaspur Forest Division has not been uploaded. DFO submitted that same shall be uploaded.
10. The proposed Transmission Line is passing over Sutlej river, therefore Committee is of the opinion that if it is passing through submergence area of Bhakra Dam, then proposal can be processed in terms of re-diversion of land.

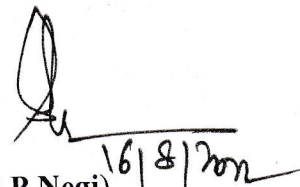
*In the extant proposal EDS was issued by IRO, Shimla on dated 04.08.2022 with a direction to present the case before REC of August 2022 with reply of above said EDS. The reply of EDS has not been submitted and User Agency, and DFO, Suket were not present in the meeting, however DFO, Bilaspur was present virtually in the meeting. After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to **defer the proposal** to next REC with a direction to User Agency and DFO concerned that they shall present the proposal in the next REC and desired to submit the following documents/ clarification/ information on following points:*

- i. The KML file of 0.4 ha CA area proposed by Suket Forest Division along with all required documents of CA shall be uploaded at designated locations of Part-II.
- ii. The revised correct Cost –Benefit analysis in ratio is required to be submitted.
- iii. The dimension wise detail of each tower in tabulated form along with revised Layout Plan showing width of RoW and location of each tower is required.
- iv. Since large number of trees (6348) are proposed for felling and there is possibility of soil erosion in the proposed Diversion area (Tower locations), therefore Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with its cost of implementation as per MoEF&CC order dated 07.06.2022 is required to be submitted.
- v. DFO concerned and User Agency shall explore possibility to reduce the numbers of trees proposed for felling and provide a list of trees to be felled, pruned and to be retained.
- vi. The DFO concerned (Bilaspur and Suket Forest Division) shall clarify the status the CA patches whether it is in possession of HP Forest Department or not.
- vii. The DFO concerned shall submitted the documentary proof that land ownership of whole area of existing sub-station is with Animal Husbandry department.
- xii. The annexures of FRA viz. records of consultations and meetings with Gram Sabha(s) is required to be submitted before Stage-II (final approval).

- viii. The DFO Bilaspur shall upload abstract and enumeration detail of trees proposed for felling.
- ix. Since the proposed Transmission Line is passing through submergence area of Bhakra Dam, the consent for re-diversion of land under FCA, if required, shall be obtained from concerned authorities of Bhakra Dam.

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



(S.P.Negi)

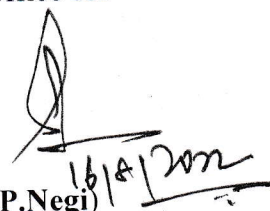
Chairman, REC

File. No.: 14-4/IRO/REC/2021/1/ 446.

Dated: 16 August, 2022

Distribution:

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2. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan- 173 212, Himachal Pradesh. (Email: shrwande@yahoo.co.in)
3. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
(Email:forestsecy-hp@nic.in)
4. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. 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. (Email:nodalfcap@yahoo.com)



(S.P.Negi)

Chairman, REC