



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
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BY SPEED POST/E-mail
F. No. 4-KRC1486/2024-BAN
Dated the August, 2024

To
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject – Diversion of 10.1301 ha. of forest land in Kanchiganahalli Village Sy No. 2 & 30 and Yellapura village Sy No. 34,35 & 36 (Marashettihalli Reserved Forest), Nitturu Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Tumkur District for construction of Yettinahole Main Canal in favour of the Assistant Executive Engineer, Visvesvaray Jala Nigama Niyamitha (VJNL) Yettinahole Project Sub-Division No. 1 2, Tiptur, Tumakuru District (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/Canal/43809/2020)-Reg

Sir

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 447 FLL 2023 (e) dated 19.06.2024 on the above-mentioned subject. In this regard, it is requested that clarification / additional information on the following may kindly be furnished:-

- i. In the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted, it has been mentioned that the project requires 1200 ha of area for the project out of which 50% of the area falls in Forest Area. The instant proposal is submitted for diversion of 10.1301 ha. Further if more forest land is required for the instant proposal the State Govt. shall submit a consolidated proposal instead of submitting the proposals in a piece meal manner. In this regard the State Govt. shall offer its comments.
- ii. In the year 2016, a proposal for diversion of 13.93 ha (revised from 18.32 ha.) of forest land in Sakleshpura Taluk of Hassan District was submitted, for implementation of the Yettinahole Project in favour of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Niravari Nigama Limited (KNNL), for providing drinking water supply to the drought prone areas of Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Ramanagara, Bangalore Rural Districts, Devanahalli industrial area and part of Hassan District (Online proposal no. FP/KA/WATER/16795/2014). Further the State Government vide letter dt 13.11.2019 requested for modification (re-orientation) of the Stage-II approval. This office after analyzing the proposal through satellite imagery, informed the State Govt. vide letter dt 27.11.2019, that the user agency had utilized forest area outside the approved areas and

was further requested to resurvey the forest area approved vis-a-vis utilized, for the entire project and report to this office. The reply in this regard is still awaited. The State Government is requested to comply with the same.

- iii. The State Govt. shall offer its comments on whether the instant proposal i.e. diversion of 10.1301 ha. of forest land is linked with the earlier diverted Yettinahole Project. If the proposals are linked to each other, the state Govt. shall submit the justification for submitting the proposal in a piecemeal manner.
- iv. The State Govt. is requested to submit the complete compliance of Stage-II/final approval letter dt 15.09.2016 with reference to the 13.93 ha diversion proposal of the Yettinahole Project.
- v. On analysis of the KML file of the instant proposal, it is not clear whether there are any other components in the project in non-forest land. If there any other components in the non-forest land linked to this project, then State Govt. is requested to submit the details of the component and the complete KML files for further analysis. Also, no information on the alternatives examined by the User Agency has been made available. This information may be provided.
- vi. The State Govt. is requested to submit the Site suitability certificate of the CA land identified.
- vii. The State Govt. is requested to submit the CA Scheme with reference to the identified CA land.
- viii. On analysis of the KML file of the instant proposal with reference to the CA land identified, it is observed that there are roads passing through the patch. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the non-encumbrance certificate. Further the State Govt. may also offer its comments on the status of the road present in the CA land identified.
- ix. As per the DSS report, part of the non-Forest land identified for CA falls in Thirthampura State Forest land. The State Government is requested to clarify the same.
- x. In the PCCF & Nodal officer's letter dt 16.12.2023 it has been mentioned that the DCF Tumakuru and CF Hassan have recommended for a Wildlife Mitigation Plan but the said recommendation is missing in the Site inspection report and recommendation letter of DCF & CF. In this regard the State Government is requested to offer its comments.
- xi. The recommendation of the Project Screening Committee (PSC) with reference to the instant proposal is not submitted along with the proposal. The State Government is requested to submit the same.
- xii. Further the kind attention of the State Government is drawn to the Down To Earth report of March 2022, entitled "*Yettinahole water project: Not a drop at end of the pipeline after spending Rs 22,000 crore*". The report mentions that the implementation of the Yettinahole project has led to massive landslides, destruction of the ecologically sensitive western ghats without achieving the objective of supplying drinking water. A factual report on the issues raised, along with the feasibility of the entire project may be submitted to this office.

Yours faithfully,


(Praneetha Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. The Executive Engineer, Visvesvaray Jala Nigama Niyamitha (VJNL), Yettinahola project Sub-Division No. 12, Tiptur, Tumakuru-577204.

Signed by Praneetha Paul
Date: 07-08-2024 10:47:57