



Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



Sr. Manager (Env)
NHPC Ltd.
Uri Power Station
Gingle Baramulla (UT of J&K)

No. PCCF/FCA/3386/2332-36

Dated 4-09-2024

Sub: Diversion of 17 ha of forest land for URI I Stage II HE Project under NHPC Uri-I Stage-II Division J.V. District Baramulla, UT of Jammu and Kashmir- EDS Reg.

Ref: Your office communication No. NH/UPS/GM-61/FC/2024/58 dated 06-08-2024

Sir,

Please refer to your office above communication on the subject. The reply furnished by you for the observation of the MoEF & CC Government of India with respect to cumulative Impact Study (CIS) and Carrying Capacity Study (CCS) report for the Jhelum River Basin, is not accepted.

The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) vide its order dated 29-12-2023 in suppression to all previous guidelines, issued a Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. All the provisions enshrined in these guidelines are applicable w.e.f. 1st December, 2023.

Para No. 9.3 of Chapter-9 of the said consolidated guidelines is with respect to Carrying Capacity and Cumulative Impact Assessment Study of river basin. Para No. 9.3 is reproduced as under:-

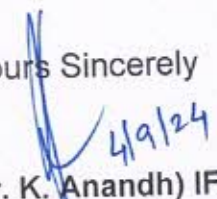
- (i) *Cumulative Impact Study: Cumulative Impact study of a basin would reflect the cumulative impact of commissioned/up-coming hydro-power projects in the basin on environmental flow, bio-diversity, muck disposal sites, traffic flow in the region, R&R issues, etc. While, the first project in a basin could come up without insisting on cumulative study for all subsequent hydro-power projects in the basin, it should be incumbent*

on the developer of the second/other project(s) to incorporate all possible and potential impact of other project(s) in the basin to get a cumulative impact assessment done. This condition shall be stipulated at the ToRs stage itself during the EC process. Once such a cumulative impact study has been done, the same could be shared by Expert Appraisal Committee with AC. The Cumulative impact study in respect of bio-diversity component may be separately got done by one of the specialized institutes. While making recommendation on EC/FC for such projects, the EAC/FAC will take into account the results of such cumulative studies.

- (ii) **Carrying Capacity Study:** The carrying capacity study of a river basin is important to plan optimal number of power projects in a basin. All State Governments will be required to get such studies done for river basins in their State. The process may be initiated in the next three months and completed within a period of two years, after which the carrying capacity study report would be made a pre-requisite for considering 97 EC/FC cases of projects of any basin. All State Governments will send the details of river basins where such studies are to be done and confirm Initiation of studies to MoEF within 3 months of issuance of this OM. The institutes for such studies may be settled by the State Government in consultation with the EAC.
- (iii) studies, as mentioned under para (i) and (ii) above, shall be a prerequisite for grant of 'in-principle' approval under the Adhiniyam and environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006

In view of the above, you are requested to get the Cumulative Impact Study (CIS) and Carrying Capacity Study (CSS) report for the Jhelum River Basin as desired by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Yours Sincerely


(Dr. K. Anandh) IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy:-

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir.
2. Conservator of Forests, North Circle Sopore
3. Divisional Forest Officer, Sindh Forest Division.
4. Sr. PS to Pr.CCF & HoFF for kind information of the Pr.CCF & HoFF J&K