

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 5th September, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 211.8427 ha. of forest land for construction of 500 MW Dugar Hyrdo Electric Project in favour of NHPC Ltd. under Pangri Forest Division and Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/123533/2021).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh's letter No. Ft. 48-5297/2021 (FCA) dated 02.07.2022 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal has been considered in Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting held on 21.08.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting is available on www.parivesh.nic.in.

2. The AC, after detailed discussion and deliberation with concern Dy. Director General of Forests (C), deferred the proposal and sought the following information:

- i. A study of the project area, impact of the proposed project and feasibility shall be conducted by the renowned/reputed Institute in the field such as Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun at the cost of the user agency.
- ii. There is only one Muck Dumping site which involves 8.5797-hectare forest land. State Govt. may shall explore the possibility of muck dumping on non- forest land and away from the river. A detailed plan containing the details of muck generation and proposed utilization shall be submitted.
- iii. The copy of the approved CAT plan for instant proposal shall be submitted.
- iv. The approved mining plans in case of the proposed quarry sites shall be submitted.
- v. The details of saplings/poles shall be correctly uploaded in the Part-II of the application on PARIVESH portal.
- vi. The State Govt. shall intimate the status of the River basin Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Study (CIA&CCS) in case of Chenab river on which this project is located.
- vii. As per proposal submitted, the project is a run of the river project, whereas a huge area is proposed for submergence at the same time. The State shall clarify the position in this regard.
- viii. The State Govt. shall submit a detailed report regarding the impact of the project on the water flow in the areas downstream. The impact of the project on farming and flow of water in the distributaries downstream shall also be studied and a report shall be submitted.

3. In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to provide the information/document/clarification on the points indicated in Para 2 above to this Ministry for further consideration of the instant proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The DDGF(C),Regional Office, Chandigarh.
3. Sub-Office, MoEF & CC, Shimla.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.