

F. No. 9HPC366/09-CHA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110510.

Dated: 14 June, 2011

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla.

Sub: Diversion of 17.6857 ha of forest land for construction of 130 MW Integrated Kashang -Stage II & III Hydro Electric Project in favour of M/s Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. FFE-B-F(2)-67/2009 dated 05.08.2009 on the subject cited above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 22.03.2011 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

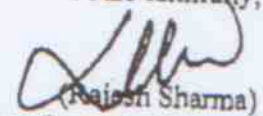
2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Nodal officer (FCA) of the State Government vide letter no. Ft.48-1712/2008/ FCA dated 23.03.2011, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 17.6857 ha of forest land for construction of 130 MW Integrated Kashang -Stage II & III Hydro Electric Project in favour of M/s Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation will be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
3. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
4. The User Agency shall implement all the conditions of the Muck Rehabilitation Plan under supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost.

5. In addition to condition 4 above, following activities shall be undertaken by the User Agency under supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost:
 - (i) The User Agency should ensure that muck does not roll down the slopes. All such areas where muck has rolled down the slopes shall be rehabilitated at the cost of User Agency and under the supervision of State Forest Department.
 - (ii) Construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.
 - (iii) The dumping area should be stabilized and reclaimed and plantation of suitable species be carried out over dumping areas at the cost of the User Agency under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in place. Stabilization and reclamation of such dumping sites shall be completed before handing over the same to the State Forest Department in a time bound manner as per Plan.
6. The State Government shall implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee of NBWL on the EIA/EMP of the project area and its impact on Lipa and Asrang wildlife Sanctuary.
7. The user agency shall set up Ecological Monitoring Unit to monitor the impact of the project on flora and fauna of the area.
8. The user agency shall keep the effect of camping labourers on the flora and fauna during the construction phase of 48 months at minimum by providing alternate fuel for cooking and heating.
9. The entire reservoir created due to submergence shall be declared Reserve Forest under Indian Forest Act, 1927. However, regulated fishing shall be allowed.
10. Catchment Area Treatment Plan should be implemented at the project cost under the supervision of the State Government.
11. Green belt of adequate width shall be raised by the user agency around the reservoir at the cost of the project.
12. The user agency shall implement the outcome of the basin level study on the impact of HEPs on the flora & fauna of the as per the TOR submitted to MoEF.
13. The User agency to consult other companies having experience in construction of roads in hilly areas such as BRO to avoid frequent road blockade due to land slides, etc, and shall provide breast walls and retaining walls wherever necessary.

14. The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.
15. Other standard conditions as applicable to proposals relating to Hydro Electric Projects will be applicable in this case also.
16. Any other condition that the Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh, may impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall also be applicable.

Yours faithfully,



(Rajesh Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
3. The Conservator of Forests (Central), Northern Regional Office, Chandigarh.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Section.
6. Guard File.



(Rajesh Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests