

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai held on 13.02.2015

The 2nd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai was held on 13.02.2015 in the office of the Addl.PCCF (Central) HEPC building, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai. The following members / special invitee were present during the meeting.

1. Shri.K.S.Reddy,
Addl.PCCF (Central),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai ... Chairperson
2. Shri. K.JudeSekar
Flat No. R-33, Arihant Heirloom Apartments,
P.O. Thalambur, Off. OMR
Chennai ... Non-official Member
3. Dr.C.N. Rao,
9-10-3 Giddi Lane
Gandhi Nagar, Kakinada,
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh ... Non-official Member
4. Shri B.S.S.Reddy
107, White House Apartments,Road No.13,
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad ... Non-official Member
5. Shri. AsutoshSamant Singhar
Addl.PCCF/Nodal Officer,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Chennai. ...Special Invitee

At the outset, Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of REC and special invitee representing the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The proposals in the agenda were examined by the Committee. The representatives of the project proponents present were also heard. Recommendations / decisions of the Committee, based on the deliberations, are as under: -

Agenda No.1: Diversion of 4.05 Ha of forest land in Sy No. 300/1/P Compartment No. 594/P, 593/P of Julakalva Village, Singanamala Mandal, Ananthapur District, for mining lease for Dolomite, Steatite & White Shale, in favour of M/s AVSR Minerals.

Information sought by the Regional Office, MOEF & CC, Chennai yet to be received. Committee deferred subject proposal for next REC meeting.

Agenda No.2: Diversion of 3.69 Ha of forest land in Compartment No. 216 & 205 of Paradarami R.F & Ragimanupenta R.F. of Yadamarri Village, Bangarupalem Mandal, Chittoor District, for quarrying of black granite, in favour of M/s Sri Jyotheeswaram Granites, Prop: Sri B. Bajalingam.

Information sought by the Regional Office, MOEF & CC, Chennai, yet to be received. Committee deferred subject proposal for next REC meeting.

Agenda No.3: Diversion of 4.90 Ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 233 & 234 of Santhapeta Reserve Forest for quarry lease of Black Granite, in favour of M/s Sri Jayashree Industries, Prop;A.M.Vinod, Chittoor Town.

Information sought by the Regional Office, MOEF & CC, Chennai, yet to be received. Committee deferred subject proposal for next REC meeting.

Agenda No.4: Diversion of 6.42 ha. of forest land in Papparapatti RF (Palakkode Range) in Dharmapuri Forest Division of Dharmapuri District for laying of 765 KV S/C Transmission line between Dharmapuri (Salem)-Madhugiri in favour of Chief Manager, Nagapattinam - Madhugiri Transmission Company Ltd., subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Bangalore.

The proposal is part of Salem (Dharmapuri) – Madhugiri 765 KV S/C line. The line falls in Hosur Forest Division also. The project authority has stated that the line has to necessarily pass through the forest area in the Hosur Division.

The proposal pertaining to 6.42 ha is inter-linked with the proposal pertaining to 9.1904 ha falling in Hosur Division. The 9.1904 ha area forms a part of “Nilgiri-Eastern Ghat Elephant Reserve”. Comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden have not been furnished pertaining to the same. Hence, proposal is deferred for the next meeting.

Agenda No.5: Diversion of 11.00 ha. of forest land in Pallipatty Reserved Forest Harur Forest Division in Dharmapuri District for laying of 765 KV S/C Transmission line between Nagapattinam- Dharmapuri in favour of

Chief Manager, Nagapattinam - Madhugiri Transmission Company Ltd., subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Bangalore

The Committee noted the following in the proposal: -

1. Legal status of the forest area proposed for diversion is Reserve Forest.
2. Density of the vegetation is less than 0.4
3. The area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
4. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
5. For raising Compensatory Afforestation, 22.00 ha of degraded forest land have been identified in Pattukonampatti RF, Pappireddipatti Taluk, Dharmapuri District. CA scheme includes 10 years of maintenance has been furnished.
6. Certificates related to ensuring compliance of the Schedule Tribe & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been furnished.
7. Alternatives examined on map of each alignment have been furnished.
8. Permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court has been obtained for felling of 175 trees of spontaneous origin.
9. The subject proposal has been recommended at all levels.

For compensatory afforestation of the degraded forest, it is proposed to spend Rs.30000/- per ha. The Committee is of the opinion that the amount proposed to be spent on CA is grossly inadequate and feels that the investment has to be substantially increased to make pits of larger size, filling the pits with suitable borrowed soil, to plant bigger ~~tal~~ seedlings, etc. The Committee feels that a minimum of Rs.5 lakh per ha will be required to do any meaningful rehabilitation of degraded forest.

The proposal is part of Nagapattinam – Salem (Dharmapuri) 765 KV D/C line. The line falls in Attur, Harur and Dharmapuri Forest Divisions. The project authority has stated that the line has to necessarily pass through the forest area in the Attur and Dharmapuri Divisions also. The Committee after deliberations has decided to grant permission for the proposals in Attur and Dharmapuri Forest Division also.

The project is expected to carry bulk power and help utilize surplus power in deficit regions. The felling of trees is proposed only in the area where the towers are proposed to be constructed. The height of the line is proposed to be raised by additional 6 meters compared to normal level. Due to this, no felling of trees is proposed in the remaining area proposed for diversion. The Committee approves the proposal for diversion with the following conditions in addition to the usual conditions for transmission line projects:-

- (i) Forest Block map indicating the degraded area selected for Compensatory Afforestation shall be furnished with DGPS readings.

- (ii) Cost of raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest and its maintenance for 10 years shall be paid @ Rs.5 lakh per ha. Revised detailed CA scheme duly signed by the DFO along with soil suitability certificate and approved by the Conservator of Forests shall be furnished.

Agenda No.6: Diversion of 12.40 ha. of forest land in Nathahalli RF of Dharmapuri Range and Noolhalli and Reddihalli RF (Dharmapuri) of Dharmapuri Forest Division in Dharmapuri District for laying of 765 KV S/C Transmission line between Nagapattinam- Dharmapuri in favour of Chief Manager, Nagapattinam - Madhugiri Transmission Company Ltd., subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Bangalore.

The Committee noted the following in the proposal: -

1. Legal status of the forest area proposed for diversion is Reserve Forest.
2. Density of the vegetation is 0.25
3. The area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
4. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
5. DFO reported that the area proposed by the user agency is minimum requirement and there is no alternate for the 765KV D/C transmission line.
6. For Compensatory Afforestation 24.8 ha for Compensatory land have been identified in Thoppur RF. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance have been furnished.
7. Certificates related to ensuring compliance of the Schedule Tribe & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been furnished.
8. Alternatives examined on map of each alignment have been furnished.
9. Permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court has been obtained for felling of 217 trees, ~~of spontaneous origin.~~
10. The subject proposal has been recommended at all levels.

For compensatory afforestation of the degraded forest, it is proposed to spend Rs.30000/- per ha. The Committee is of the opinion that the amount proposed to be spent on CA is grossly inadequate and feels that the investment has to be substantially increased to make pits of larger size, filling the pits with suitable borrowed soil, to plant bigger tall seedlings, etc. The Committee feels that a minimum of Rs.5 lakh per ha will be required to do any meaningful rehabilitation of degraded forest.

The proposal is part of Nagapattinam – Salem (Dharmapuri) 765 KV D/C line. The line falls in Dharmapuri Forest Division. The project authority has stated that the line has to necessarily pass through the forest area in the Attur and Harur Divisions also. The Committee after deliberations has decided to grant permission for the proposals in Attur and Harur Forest Division also.

The project is expected to carry bulk power and help utilize surplus power in deficit regions. The felling of trees is proposed only in the area where the towers are proposed to be constructed. The height of the line is proposed to be raised by additional 6 meters compared to normal level. Due to this, no felling of trees is proposed in the remaining area proposed for diversion. The Committee approves the proposal for diversion with the following conditions in addition to the usual conditions for transmission line projects:-

- (i) Forest Block map indicating the degraded area selected for Compensatory Afforestation shall be furnished with DGPS readings.
- (ii) Cost of raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest and its maintenance for 10 years shall be paid @ Rs.5 lakh per ha. Revised detailed CA scheme duly signed by the DFO along with soil suitability certificate and approved by the Conservator of Forests shall be furnished.

Agenda No.7: Diversion of 6.70 ha of Forest Land in Mathikuttai Reserve Forest of Vazhappadi Range for laying of 765 KV D/C transmission line Nagapattinam-Dharmapuri (Salem) by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

The Committee noted the following in the proposal: -

1. Legal status of the forest area proposed for diversion is Reserve Forest.
2. Density of the vegetation is 0.25
3. The area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
4. It is reported that, proposal does not affect any monuments of historical religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
5. It is reported that, the area proposed for diversion is minimum requirement and there is no alternate alignment for the 765 KV S/C transmission line.
6. For Compensatory Afforestation, 12.84 ha of compensatory land have been identified in Thoppur RF. CA scheme includes 10 years of maintenance have been furnished.
7. Certificates related to ensuring compliance of the Schedule Tribe & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been furnished.
8. Alternatives examined on map of each alignment have been furnished.
9. Permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court has been obtained for felling of 234 trees of spontaneous origin.
10. The subject proposal has been recommended at all levels.

For compensatory afforestation of the degraded forest, it is proposed to spend Rs.30000/- per ha. The Committee is of the opinion that the amount proposed to be spent on CA is grossly inadequate and feels that the investment has to be substantially increased to make pits of larger size, filling the pits with suitable borrowed soil, to plant bigger tall seedlings, etc. The Committee feels that a minimum of Rs.5 lakh per ha will be required to do any meaningful rehabilitation of degraded forest.


The proposal is part of Nagapattinam – Salem (Dharmapuri) 765 KV D/C line. The line falls in Attur Forest Division. The project authority has stated that the line has to necessarily pass through the forest area in the Harur and Dharmapuri Divisions also. The Committee after deliberations has decided to grant permission for the proposals in Harur and Dharmapuri Forest Divisions also.

The project is expected to carry bulk power and help utilize surplus power in deficit regions. The felling of trees is proposed only in the area where the towers are proposed to be constructed. The height of the line is proposed to be raised by additional 6 meters compared to normal level. Due to this, no felling of trees is proposed in the remaining area proposed for diversion. The Committee approves the proposal for diversion with the following conditions in addition to the usual conditions for transmission line projects:-

- (i) Forest Block map indicating the degraded area selected for Compensatory Afforestation shall be furnished with DGPS readings.
- (ii) Cost of raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest and its maintenance for 10 years shall be paid @ Rs.5 lakh per ha. Revised detailed CA scheme duly signed by the DFO along with soil suitability certificate and approved by the Conservator of Forests shall be furnished.

Agenda No.8: Diversion of 9.1904 ha. of forest land in Tally Reserve Forest of Jawalagiri Range Hosur Division for laying of 765 KV S/C Transmission line between Dharmapuri (Salem)-Madhugiri in favour of Chief Manager, Nagapattinam - Madhugiri Transmission Company Ltd., subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Bangalore

The area proposed for diversion forms a part of "Nilgiri-Eastern Ghat Elephant Reserve". Comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden have not been furnished. Hence, proposal is deferred for the next meeting. In the mean time the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu may be obtained.



(Shri.K.Jude Sekar)
Non-official Member



(Dr.C.N. Rao)
Non-official Member



(Shri B.S.S.Reddy)
Non-official Member



(Shri.Asutosh Samant Singhar)
Addl.PCCF /Nodal Officer, T.N.&
Special Invitee



(K.S.Reddy)
Addl. PCCF (Central) &Chairperson