

**MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (REC)
NORTH CENTRAL, REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN
ON 27th August, 2015**

Venue: Committee Room of Regional Office

Time: 12:30 AM

AGENDA

Forenoon Session: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM.

1. Welcome of participants by Member Secretary.
2. Introduction of participants.
3. Discussion on individual forest land diversion proposals for recommendation/approval of REC pertaining to Uttarakhand.
4. **Lunch break: 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM.**

Afternoon Session: 2:40 PM to 5:30 PM.

5. Discussion on individual forest land diversion proposals for recommendation/approval of REC pertaining to Himachal Pradesh.
6. Vote of thanks by Member Secretary.

**MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE
(REC) OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 27TH AUGUST, 2015**

The fifth meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office, North Central Zone, Dehradun was held on 27th August, 2015 at Regional Office, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Kumar, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting.

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Ajay Kumar Addl. PCCF, R.O., Dehradun	Chairman
2.	Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.)	Member
3.	Shri Praveen Thaplyal, IFS (Retd.)	Member
4.	Shri M.S. Negi DCF, R.O., Dehradun	Member Secretary
Special Invitee		
5.	Shri V.K. Singh, Deputy Director Representative of Addl.PCCF & Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand.	
6.	Representatives of the User Agencies	

The following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes pertaining to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh were discussed in detail and the decision taken by REC is as under:-

S. N.	NAME OF PROPOSAL	DECISION TAKEN BY THE REC
UTTARAKHAND		
1.	Diversion of 6.390 ha of forest land for construction of Pokhri-Chandikaghat Motor Road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion of 6.390 ha of forest land for construction of Pokhri-Chandikaghat Motor Road before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. The committee also noticed that the width of RoW is proposed as 9m but the counting of trees is done in 7 m width only. After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC noticed that some essential documents/information is required to be submitted by the State Govt. It was, therefore, decided that the State Govt. may be asked to submit the following information/documents & the proposal will be considered in the next REC meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Density is mentioned as <0.4 in Part-II and 0.4 at page no. 68. State Govt. may remove this discrepancy in density in different documents. 2. RoW is taken as 9m but tree counting is done in 7m width only. The enumeration list for trees in 9m width of RoW may be submitted. 3. Geo-referenced map showing geo-coordinates in both hard and soft copy (kml file) may be submitted by the State Govt. for the forest land proposed for diversion and the land proposed for CA. 4. State Govt. has not mentioned anything about exploring alternative alignment to reduce no. of trees to be felled as asked vide Regional Office letter dated 21.04.2015 reply of which is submitted

		by the State Govt. vide letter dated 27.07.2015. State Govt. may take action on this issue and intimate the outcome.
2.	Diversion of 6.1863 ha of forest land for construction of Kalauta Motor Road from Km 50.00 of Almora-Ghat Motor Road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Civil & Soyam Forest Division, Distt. Almora, Uttarakhand (FP/UK/ROAD/9428/2015).	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion of 6.1863 ha of forest land for construction of Kalauta Motor Road from Km 50.00 of Almora-Ghat Motor Road before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. The committee also noticed that the no. of project affected trees is reported as 734 including 145 Oak trees.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of 6.1863 ha of forest land subject to submission of following documents/information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proceedings of Sub-Division Level Committee meeting and Gram Sabha meeting under FRA. 2. Although the C/B analysis is submitted as per formats given in Annexure VI (b) & VI (c) of Handbook but some of the parameters have not been quantified and expressed in monetary terms. May be re-submitted by the State Govt. after doing the needful. 3. In the hard copy, the no. of trees present in forest land come to 734 and that in Nap land comes to 113 totalling 847. But, the no. of trees in online Part-II is mentioned as 847 instead of 734. State Govt. may correct the figure in Part-II and upload again online. 4. The State Govt. will ensure planting of 25% Oak seedlings in the CA. An undertaking to this effect may be submitted by the State Govt.
3.	Diversion of 6.16 ha of forest land for construction of Bajaun Motor Road from Dyon-Dyuri Motor Road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Champawat Forest Division, Distt. Champawat Uttarakhand (FP/UK/ROAD/10874/2015).	The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion of 6.16 ha of forest land for construction of Bajaun Motor Road from Dyon-Dyuri Motor Road before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and

		<p>endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. The committee also noticed that the no. of project affected trees is reported as 119. The committee also observed that the Eco class of the forest is mentioned as Eco class-II. Keeping in view the kind of trees species present in the forest area, the Eco class does not appear to be correct.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of 6.16 ha of forest land subject to submission of following documents/information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 19 trees per ha may not account for 0.3 density. State Govt. may review the density and intimate correct position. 2. The Eco Class of the forest area cannot be Eco Class-II (Littoral and Swamp Forests). Hence, Eco class may be reviewed by the State Govt. 3. Based on the information/data of 1 & 2 above, NPV calculation may also be reviewed, if required.
4.	<p>Diversion of 6.7301 ha of forest land for construction of Bui Motor Road (Km. 0.00 to Km8.90) from Dhapaband-Milam Motor Road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand (FP/UK/ROAD/7242/2014).</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion of 6.7301 ha of forest land for construction of Bui Motor Road (Km. 0.00 to Km8.90) from Dhapaband-Milam Motor Road before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. The no. of project affected trees is reported to be 76. The committee noticed that the NPV calculation has not been submitted by the State Govt. and the density also does not appear to be correct.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of 6.7301 ha of forest land subject to submission of following documents/information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geo-referenced digital map for forest land identified for CA in Matela Civil (13.46 ha) in both hard & soft copy (kml file) duly authenticated by DFO & suitability certificate for CA site. 2. 11 trees per ha may not account for 0.3 density. Therefore, density may be

		<p>reviewed and correct figure may be informed.</p> <p>3. Based on information/data of 2 above, NPV calculation may also be reviewed, if required and submitted.</p>
HIMACHAL PRADESH		
5	<p>Diversion of 20.4857 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV D/C Transmission Line from 66/132/220 KV Pooling Station Sunda (Chirgaon) to 220 KV Switching Station Hatkoti, in favour of HP Power Transmission Corporation Limited, within the jurisdiction of Rohru Forest Division, Shimla, H.P.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 20.4857 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV D/C Transmission Line from 66/132/220 KV Pooling Station Sunda (Chirgaon) to 220 KV Switching Station Hatkoti before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported.</p> <p>The committee also observed that out of total 22.693 km long 220 KV T/L, 5.853 km length passes through forest land and balance 16.840 km through non-forest land. The proposed RoW is 35 mtr. which is as per prescribed guidelines of Govt. of India. It was also noticed that Eco class of the forest land is recorded as Eco class-VI but keeping in view the presence of <i>Pinus roxburghii</i> and <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> in the area, Eco class is required to be reviewed.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of 20.4857 ha of forest land subject to submission of following documents/information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keeping in view the presence of <i>Pinus roxburghii</i> (75 trees) and <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> (47 trees) in the area proposed for diversion, State Govt. may review the Eco Class of the forest area and inform the correct position. 2. Density is mentioned as 0.09 in Part-II and 0.0099 in the C/B analysis for calculation of environmental losses. This may be corrected suitably and conveyed accordingly. 3. After review of Eco class and density, revised NPV calculation may also

		<p>submitted, if required.</p> <p>4. The no. of trees is mentioned as 129 in online Part-II but the no. is mentioned as 130 in SIR of DFO. This discrepancy may be corrected and revised Part-II may be submitted online.</p>
6.	<p>Diversion of 38.70 ha. of forest land for setting up of New Industrial Area at village, Dabhota in favour of Deputy Director of Industries, Single Window Clearance Agency, Baddi, within the jurisdiction of Nalahgarh Forest Division, Distt. Solan, H.P.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 38.70 ha of forest land for setting up of New Industrial Area at village, Dabhota before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. REC observed that 38.70 ha forest land is proposed for setting up of new Industrial Area which is a non-site specific activity and the area proposed to be utilized for building construction is more than 1.00 ha which is also not permissible under para-4.5 (ii) of the guidelines issued under FCA. After perusal of the detailed layout plan which proposes to demarcate about 23 ha area for industrial plots of various sizes to be allotted to prospective industrialists and 2.39 ha for construction of a commercial centre where shops will be allotted to businessmen, the committee was of the view that this proposal very closely relates to a real estate project proposing to allot forest land to businessmen/industrialists for commercial activity where felling of 2541 trees and 10338 saplings is involved including sizeable number of khair & sheesham. Moreover, no concern has been shown for environmental aspects like rain water harvesting, mitigating industrial pollution, creating green areas, solid waste management etc. Committee was specifically concerned about likely pollution in river as the proposed area is part of catchment. In addition, impact on wildlife specially Nilgai and Wild boars getting displaced and causing damage to agricultural fields of nearby villages has also not been evaluated. Committee also observed that success rate of establishment of industrial areas in HP in the past has not been encouraging and no information is available in the proposal regarding benefit to industrialists from the State and local population. Moreover, no detail is available about the type of</p>

		<p>industries proposed and how many would be of red, orange & green pollution category. Hence, sacrificing such large chunk of forest land for this project did not appeal convincing to the committee.</p> <p>In addition, following shortcomings were also noticed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Density of vegetation is mentioned as 41.78% or 0.42 but the NPV Rate is charged for very dense forest category i.e. @ Rs. 9.39 lakh per ha. This needs to be clarified the State Govt. 2. Eco Class is mentioned as Eco Class-V (Sub Tropical Broad Leaved Hill Forest, Sub Tropical Pine Forest and Sub Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest). But considering the kind of tree species present in the area proposed for diversion, State Govt. may review and confirm the Eco Class. 3. Soft copy of the geo-referenced digital map has not been received in the Regional Office which needs to be submitted. <p>In view of the above, the REC expressed inability to recommend the proposal in present form unless State Govt. comes up with a revised comprehensive proposal addressing all the above concerns and decided to request the State Govt. to explore non-forest land for setting up of this industrial area.</p>
7.	<p>Diversion of 36.7296 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line from Choror to Banala in favour of HP Transmission Corporation Ltd., within the jurisdiction of Parbati, Seraj & Mandi Forest Divisions, Distt. Kullu & Mandi, H.P.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 36.7296 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line from Choror to Banala before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. REC observed that out of total length of 17.533 km, the length of T/L in forest land is 10.485 km with RoW of 35 m for 220 KV T/L and 46 m for 400 KV T/L, which is as per guidelines of Govt. of India. REC also observed that the area is mentioned as 36.2831 ha instead of 36.7296 ha in the FRA documents. The User Agency informed that the above area falls in Kullu district and separate FRA documents are obtained for balance 0.4465 ha area falling in Mandi district. The FRA documents pertaining</p>

		<p>to 0.4465 ha area of Mandi Distt. were handed over in the meeting. The soft copy of the geo-referenced map for the forest land proposed for diversion and the land proposed for CA was also handed over in the meeting by the User Agency.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of 36.7296 ha of forest land.</p>
8.	<p>Diversion of 12.39 ha of forest land for construction of 14 MW UHL Khad HEP in favour of M/s Kharnal Hydro Electric Power Pvt. Ltd. within the jurisdiction of Mandi Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, H.P.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 12.39 ha of forest land for construction of 14 MW UHL Khad HEP before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. The committee observed that the proposal also involves construction of 8500 mtr. long 33 KV T/L through underground XLPE Cable, out of which 7470 mtr passes through forest land with the proposed RoW of 5.6 mtr which has been approved by HP Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (HPPTCL) (A State Govt. Undertaking). The Committee also observed that the MoEF & CC has not prescribed any specific guidelines regarding RoW for laying of T/L through underground XLPE Cable.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal and in view of the fact that no guidelines exist for RoW of T/L through underground XLPE Cable and the proposed arrangement stands technically authenticated by HPPTCL, (A HP Govt. Undertaking) having necessary technical expertise, the REC decided to recommend the proposal to be submitted to the MoEF & CC for approval subject to MoEF & CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi taking a considered decision on proposed T/L and RoW and submission of following information/documents:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geo-referenced map in both hard and soft copy for the forest land proposed for diversion and the forest land proposed for CA as the maps submitted are not proper. 2. In Part-II, density is mentioned as 25% (above 10%) while in NPV calculation

		<p>forest cover percentage is mentioned as 15.67 and NPV rate is charged for dense forest category. However, the no. of trees per ha. comes to 110. State Govt. may, therefore review density and NPV and intimate the correct position.</p> <p>3. In the general abstract, the no. of trees is mentioned as 1359 but this no. is mentioned as 1207 in para-7 (vii) of Part-II. This discrepancy may be clarified by the State Govt and correct number of trees conveyed accordingly.</p> <p>4. User Agency may submit an undertaking to hand over unused forest land earmarked for muck dumping if the same is not required after the project work is over.</p>
9.	<p>Diversion of 2.00 ha of forest land for renewal of mining lease for collection of Sand, Bazri and Stone in favour of Ruma Stone Crusher within the jurisdiction of Joginder Nagar Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, H.P.</p>	<p>The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 2.00 ha of forest land for renewal of mining lease for collection of Sand, Bazri and Stone in favour of Ruma Stone Crusher before the committee members. Committee noticed that on the first occasion, final approval for diversion of 2.00 ha of forest land for collection of Sand, Bazri & Stone in favour of Ruma Stone Crusher was accorded by Regional Office, Chandigarh vide letter No. 9-HPB 791/2005-CHA/9429 dated 24.10.2008 which was valid for 5 years from the date of issue of the approval letter. The Nodal Officer-cum-APCCF (FCA), Govt. of H.P. has informed vide letter dated 27.05.2014 that User Agency submitted the application for renewal of FCA approval in the past which was discussed in the SAG meeting on 19.02.2013. It was decided in the SAG meeting that the User Agency should submit a consolidated proposal including fresh mining lease over an area of 2.035 ha for which the User Agency had submitted a separate proposal simultaneity. Subsequently, the User Agency requested for dropping the fresh mining lease proposal of 2.035 ha and requested to process the case for renewal for mining lease over 2.00 ha of forest land only. The forest land proposed for renewal of mining lease is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the forest land diversion proposal submitted first time in the past.</p>

		<p>Committee also noticed that the CA over 4 ha has already been done and the NPV has also been realized on the occasion of first time diversion of forest land. The mining plan approved by the State Govt. of HP was also discussed in the meeting which is approved for 5 years and is proposed to be revised every 5 years. However, the mining lease has been approved by State Industries Department for 15 years.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to recommend the proposal to the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi for approval for a period of not more than 15 years, co-terminus with the lease, subject to submission of following documents/information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the short narrative the User Agency has sought deletion of stipulation No. 8 of earlier approval limiting validity of approval to 5 years from the date of issues of the letter i.e. 24.10.2008 and not for prior approval for renewal of mining lease which has been granted approval earlier under FCA. State Govt. may submit revised Form-B Part-I. 2. Geo-referenced digital map for the area in both hard and soft copy. 3. In the purpose wise break up, it is mentioned that the entire 2.00 ha area is required for collection of material. No area is earmarked for waste (Silt/Clay mixture) disposal measuring 10,625 Metric Tons in five year (para-9.2 of Mining Plan). State Govt./User Agency may submit clarification on the aspects. 4. The khasra no. mentioned in FRA certificate does not tally with the khasra no. mentioned in the proposal.
10.	Diversion of 1.4170 ha. of forest land for construction of 3.5 MW Manuni Small Hydro Electric Project in favour of M/s Winsome Textile Industries Ltd. within the jurisdiction of Dharamshala Forest Division, Distt. Kangra, H.P.	The Member Secretary presented all the facts about the proposal seeking diversion 1.4170 ha of forest land for construction of 3.5 MW Manuni Small Hydro Electric Project before the committee members. Committee noticed that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported. No felling of trees is involved in

		<p>the project. This proposal was also discussed in the 4th REC meeting held on 22.07.2015 and REC decided that the State Govt. be asked to submit certain essential documents/information and the proposal be placed in the next REC meeting. The State Govt. has submitted the information/documents vide letter dated 20.08.2015. REC observed that the Regional Office, Chandigarh accorded final approval for diversion of 2.4947 ha of forest land for construction of Manuni Small HEP (2.5 MW) vide letter dated 15.02.2002. User Agency mentioned that some geological problems were found at the time of designing of the project and it was decided to re-locate some of the project components. Accordingly, revised techno economic clearance was obtained for 3.5 MW SHEP from the competent authority in the State Govt. As a result, the requirement of forest land has also changed. Now, the State Govt./User Agency has mentioned that the total requirement of forest land comes to 2.3768 ha which includes 0.9598 ha old forest land already diverted & 1.4170 ha fresh forest land proposed for diversion now. The State Govt./User Agency has also proposed that 1.5349 ha of forest land diverted in the past will be surrendered and handed over to the forest department. Thus, the revised land requirement is 0.1179 ha less than the previous land requirement. REC also noticed that the State Govt. has made mention of violation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 in some documents and violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in some other documents. Accordingly, State Govt. was asked to clarify as to which Act has actually been violated. The State Govt. vide letter dated 20.08.2015 has clarified that the violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 was done in the year 2010 and case has been settled by imposing penalty under the provision of Indian Forest Act, 1927.</p> <p>After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to recommend the proposal to the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi for approval.</p>
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This issues with the approval of Addl.PCCF, Regional Office (North Central) Dehradun-
Cum-Chairman REC.


(M.S. Negi)

Member Secretary

O/C

File. No. RO-DDN/REC/1-2014/1192
Copy for information & confirmation to:

dated 7th September, 2015

1. Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS (Retd.), 102/2, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun-248006.
2. Shri Praveen Thaplyal, IFS (Retd.), Shivkripa, Sangam Vihar Chouras, P.O. Kikileshwar, Distt. Tehri -249161, Uttarakhand
3. The Addl.PCCF & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun for information. He is requested to communicate the decisions taken in REC meeting to respective User Agencies/Field Officers of the Forest Department at his own level and forward necessary documents, where required, so that further action is taken by this office accordingly. No separate letters conveying individual case wise decision will be issued by this office.
4. The Nodal Officer-cum-Addl.PCCF (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. for information. He is requested to communicate the decisions taken in REC meeting to respective User Agencies/Field Officers of the Forest Department at his own level and forward necessary documents, where required, so that further action is taken by this office accordingly. No separate letters conveying individual case wise decision will be issued by this office.


(M.S. Negi)

Member Secretary

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