

To,  
Ms Jayanti Natrajan,  
Hon'ble Minister of Environment/Chairperson NBWL standing committee  
Government of India,  
New Delhi

**Sub: Request to reject Wildlife Clearance for Teesta HEP Stage IV**

Hon'ble Madam,

With due respect and humble submission I, the undersigned a resident of North Sikkim and a former Honorary wildlife warden would like to place these facts for your kind information and request your honour to kindly reject the Wild Life Clearance as sought by NHPC for Teesta HEP Stage IV.

At the outset I would like to state that by initiating the process of seeking clearance of the NBWL standing committee for Hydro project before the commencement of the work is welcome, otherwise the NBWL has failed miserably in the discharge of their duty to the Nation by letting Mega Hydro Electric power Project Like Teesta HEP stage III being constructed without the wild life clearance even though the project is within the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve. However, the lack of transparency and opportunity for public participation in free, fair and informed decision making process is highly objectionable.

The reasons for the request for rejection of clearance sought by NHPC for development of 520 MW Teesta HEP Stage IV are many and some important ones are as follow:

1. NHPC was fined Rs 75 lakhs by the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department of Sikkim for violation of forest laws and unauthorised dumping of muck in the process of constructing the Teesta HEP Stage V. This was an out of court settlement for civil suit no 28 between DFO(T) east Sikkim versus GM NHPC and 7 others. The Hon'ble District Judge had issued an ad-interim injunction against the NHPC (judgement copy enclosed).
2. 48 persons died in the process of constructing the Teesta HEP Stage V, which make NHPC the worst safety enabled company to develop hydro project. It is infact a Human Right violation (news clipping enclosed).
3. The resident of project affected area of Teesta HEP Stage V still suffering due to negligence of NHPC (press clipping attached).
4. The Mines and Geology Department has clearly indicated the NHPC for all the structural damages project affected areas of Teesta HEP Stage V (press clipping attached).
5. In a reply to the Expert Appraisal Committee, the NHPC in their own submission has stated that 50 km of total 110 km of River Teesta in Sikkim will not flow in its natural course. Further NHPC had assumed that Teesta HEP Stage II will not

get Environment but fact is that it has been granted permission for scoping after initial restrain due to the report of the carrying capacity report. This adds up to further at least 7-8 km tunnels. Therefore, if this project is approved then the only stretch through which Teesta is flowing in its natural course will be gone too. Causing irreversible damage to the biodiversity.

6. Teesta HEP Stage IV is within the radius of 5.83 km of Khangchendzonga National Park/Biosphere Reserve and 4.3 km radius of Fambongla Sanctuary, which prohibit any commercial activities.
7. The first and second public hearing of the project was boycotted completely by the Hon'ble Power Minister cum Area MLA, Dzongu constituency, Government of Sikkim and all elected Panchayats of Dzongu and public of proscribed area of Dzongu.
8. The State Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department has apparently recommended for wild life clearance for the project without any free prior information of the stake holders and public at large.
9. The NHPC has stated that they have sifted the damsite away from the traditional play ground of Namprikdang in Dzongu. This in no way justify their commitment toward the sentiment of locals as the project is still in the proscribed area of Dzongu, by shifting the dam by 4 - 5 km does not lessen the impact on the indigenous communities.
10. The NHPC has mentioned that most of the colonies and activities will be in the opposite side of Dzongu but the fact is that these areas (Mangan, Rangrang, Thingchim, Mangsila) also fall under the Dzongu Assembly constituency, thereby having serious dilution of the political and economic right of the lepcha community.
11. The NHPC has applied for clearance of 520 MW but the MOU is only for 495 MW.

Submitted in anticipation of favourable response to save the last stretch natural course of River Teesta and the last bastion of indigenous lepcha civilization.

Thanking you,  
Yours Faithfully

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