

Supreme Court of India
Writ Petition No. 838 of 2019
Dr.M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ors. v. Union of India

**Status Report Prepared by Three Member Committee Appointed by Hon'ble SC vide
order dated 19.04. 2021 in I. A. No. 85618 of 2020**

Date of Submission: 16.01.2023

Prepared By:

Dr Rahul Rawat, Dr Sutirtha Dutta and Dr Devesh Gadhavi

Supreme Court of India
Writ Petition No. 838 of 2019
Dr.M.K. Ranjitsinh and Ors. v. Union of India

**Status Report of the Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by
order dated 19.04.2021 in the subject writ petition**

1. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its order dated 19.04.2021 in the I. A. No. 85618 of 2020 in subject Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019, constituted a Committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in 'Priority and Potential Great Indian Bustard (GIB) habitat', after taking into consideration all technical details (hereinafter, the "Committee"). The Committee comprises of:
 - i. Dr. Rahul Rawat, Scientist, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, New Delhi
 - ii. Dr. Sutirtha Dutta, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
 - iii. Dr. Devesh Gadhavi, Deputy Director, The Corbett Foundation, Kutch, Gujarat.
2. As per the order, the Committee may also obtain technical reports, if need be, from experts in the field of electricity supply to arrive at their decision (paragraph 15 of the order dated 19.04.2021).
3. This Hon'ble Court, vide order dated 31.03.2022 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019, directed the Committee to file a status report within three weeks appraising the Court of the work which the Committee has carried out. Accordingly, a report dated 20.04.2022 was filed before the Hon'ble Court wherein the status of 8 (eight) applications were submitted. Out of these 8 applications, 2 were disposed of, and the remaining 6 were under examination. Further, in compliance with Hon'ble Court's order dated 21.04.2022, the Committee submitted its second status report on 19.07.2022 for a total 16 applications (including 6 earlier applications). Out of 16 applications, 11 were disposed of, responses from applicants were awaited for 2 applications, and 3 applications were under examination.
4. This Hon'ble Court, vide order dated 30.11.2022 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 directed the Committee to file an updated report before the next date of listing on the status of the applications. Accordingly, an updated status report has been prepared and is being submitted.
5. Since the last report, the Committee has received 41 (forty one) additional applications, i.e., a total 57 (Fifty Seven) applications (including 16 earlier applications) till 13.01.2023 for assessment of feasibility (S. No 17 of the table below has 10 applications). The overall status of applications is given as under:

- Total number of applications received: 57
 - Total number of applications disposed off: 44
 - Total number of applications regarding which queries sent/ to be sent: 6
 - Total number of applications under examination: 7
6. The applications and corresponding decisions taken by the Committee are listed below in Table. The applications listed at S. No. 1 to 11 were already disposed of (as per the status report dated 20.04.2022 and 19.07.2022). The response is pending from the applicant for the application listed at S. No. 12. The applications listed from S. No. 13 to 41 that were received on/before 31.12.2022 were discussed during the Committee meetings held on 06.10.2022, 23.11.2022, 06.12.2022, 19.12.2022, 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023 through video conferences. Minutes of meetings held on the said dates are attached herewith as Annexure – I. The applications listed from S. No 42 to 48 have been received after 01.01.2023 and are under examination.
7. Approximate lengths and percentage of powerline applications that are **a)** ratified for overhead laying, **b)** not ratified for overhead laying/recommended for re-routing away from critical areas, **c)** pending are tabulated below:

Sr No	Decision	Approx line length (km)		Percentage of line length (%)	
		Rajasthan	Gujarat	Rajasthan	Gujarat
1	Ratified for overhead lines	2306	3341	98%	82%
2	Not ratified for overhead lines / recommended for re-routing	50	753*	2%	18%
3	Application under examination	113	38	-	-
4	Incomplete application/response to queries pending from the applicant	791	0	-	-
5	Total	3260	4132		


* Mostly 11 kV & 0.44 kV lines (refer to Annexure I for further details)

As summarized above, the Committee has received applications for about 3260 km powerline in GIB Area of Rajasthan and has reached a decision for about 2356 km line, out of which ~98% of line length has been ratified for overhead laying with Bird Flight Diverters (and additional mitigation measures such as horizontal stringing and minor realignments wherever required), whereas, 2% of line-length has not been ratified for overhead laying since they are proposed through the Prioritized GIB Area (enclosed herewith as Annexure II) that is critical for the survival of the species, has recorded recent mortalities of GIB (enclosed as Annexure III), and therefore needed to be safeguarded from further expansion of overhead transmission lines.

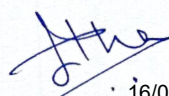
Similarly, the Committee has received applications for about 4132 km powerline in GIB Area of Gujarat and has reached a decision for about 4094 km line, out of which

~82% of line length has been ratified for overhead laying with Bird Flight Diverters (and additional mitigation measures such as horizontal stringing and minor realignments, re-routing wherever required), whereas, 18% of line-length has not been ratified for overhead laying since they are proposed through either the Priority or Potential Area having high-frequency of movement (enclosed herewith as Annexure IV) that is critical for the survival of both the bustard species found in Gujarat and therefore needed to be safeguarded from further expansion of overhead transmission lines.

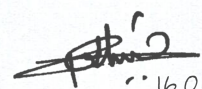
8. Note from Committee Members (Dr. Gadhavi and Dr. Dutta): The Committee sent a communication dated 03/05/2021 to concerned agencies/respondents requesting applications of existing transmission lines for which exemption from undergrounding is to be sought. However, the Committee has not received any application for existing transmission lines in Rajasthan to be exempted from undergrounding. Further, to the best of the knowledge of these Committee members, no existing transmission line in Rajasthan and only a ~10 km segment of a much longer 66kV transmission line in Gujarat have been laid underground; whereas the length of transmission lines (installed before the Hon'ble SC order) that have been marked with Bird Flight Diverters is <25% of the total line length. Given the high mortality risk and recent evidence of two GIB mortalities in the Prioritized Area of Rajasthan, and frequent movements of both species of bustards in the Prioritized Area of Gujarat, the above members request the Hon'ble SC for necessary directions to concerned agencies for expediting the underground laying of transmission lines inside the Priority Areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
9. This is to confirm that we, the members of this Committee, who have signed below, have read all pages of this status report including the table below. All the things mentioned in this report are correct to the best of our knowledge and the same is being submitted to the Hon'ble SC in compliance of the order dated 30.11.2022 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019.


16/1/2023

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16/01/23

Dr. Sutirtha Dutta
Scientist E,
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Dehradun


16.01.2023

Dr. Devesh Gadhavi
Deputy Director,
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Kutch, Gujarat.

Note: The table showing the stats of the total applications received by the Committee is as follows

Table: List of the applications received by the Committee for assessment of feasibility by 13.01.2023

Sr. No.	Name of Applicant	Date of Application	Transmission Line Concerned	Status of Application
1	PGCIL – POWERGRID Sikar Transmission Limited	10.09.2021	765 kV D/c new transmission line, 106.4 km in length in Potential Area of Rajasthan	Application ratified CEA's technical report received. The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters.
2	M/s. Azure Power	03.02.2022	400 kV new transmission line, 29.2 km in length in Potential Area of Rajasthan	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters.
3	Gujarat Energy Transmission Co. Ltd. (GETCO), Gujarat	24.05.2021 Re-submitted detail on 16.09.2021	11 existing transmission lines in Priority & Potential Areas of Gujarat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 220 kV – 17.63 km & 19.823 km (2 lines) ● 66 kV – 10 km to 24 km (9 lines) 	Application not ratified Lines in Priority area and listed in order by Hon'ble SC to be undergrounded The CEA's technical report received on 25.04.2022 stating that up to 25 km is possible to underground barring agricultural and mining area. Application discussed on 03.05.2022. 220 kV – Insufficient technical justification and lines are located in the Priority Area. 66kV – Undergrounding of the same capacity has been done by the applicant through approach roads, moreover, the lines fall inside areas having regular and high movement of GIB.

4	PGCIL – POWERGRID Bhadla Transmission Limited	10.09.2021	765 kV D/c new transmission line, 190.51 km in length in Potential Area of Rajasthan	Application ratified with partial re-routing suggestion The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line for ~160 km length and suggested re-routing for remaining ~35 km, with installation of Bird Flight Diverters for the entire line
5	PGCIL – POWERGRID Ramgarh Transmission Limited	10.09.2021	400 kV D/c new transmission line, 44.15 km & 49.97 km in length in Potential Area of Rajasthan	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters.
6	Gujarat Energy Transmission Co. Ltd (GETCO), Gujarat	13.01.2022	66kV new transmission line, 47.25 km of length in Potential Area of Gujarat	Application partially ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line for approx. 11 km length, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters, and requested to examine the feasibility of undergrounding the remaining approx. 25 km. A section of the proposed line is outside GIB area, and hence outside the purview of the Committee. The applicant informed that they are in the process of assessing feasibility.
7	Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Ltd (PGVCL)	23.02.2022 Resubmitted required information on 25.05.2022	144 existing 0.440 kV existing transmission line, about 463 km in length in Priority & Potential Areas of Gujarat	Application partially ratified The Committee approved the following ● Overhead laying of 77% of the proposed transmission lines, about 356 km length without bird diverters in village settlement

				<p>areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhead laying of 2.5% of the proposed transmission lines, about 12 km in length, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters on aerial bunch cable. • Underground laying of 0.5% of transmission line, 2 km length • Overhead laying of 0.2% of transmission line, about <1 km length subject to the installation by aerial bunch cable without diverter. • About 19.8% of the proposed lines were outside the GIB area and beyond the purview of the Committee.
8	NTPC Ltd	09.05.2022	400 kV new transmission line, 28 km in Potential Area of Rajasthan	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters.</p>
9	Avaada Sunrays Energy Private Limited	20.05.2022	220 kV new transmission line, 22.42 km in Potential Area of Rajasthan	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Flight Diverters.</p>
10	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd	31.05.2022	220 kV new transmission line, 9 km out of 25.6 km total length in Potential Area of Rajasthan	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters.</p>
11	Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Ltd (PGVCL)	02.07.2022	Four 11 kV new transmission lines	<p>Application partially ratified</p>

				Three lines in the Potential area have been ratified for overhead laying with Aerial Bunch Cable with diverters. One line located in the Priority Area has not been ratified and recommended for undergrounding.
12	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasartan Nigam Ltd. (RVPN), Rajasthan	01.06.2021	17 new transmission lines, Rajasthan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 kV – 150 km & 200 km (2 lines) • 220 kV – 3 km to 72 km (7 lines) • 132 kV – 1.1 km to 38 km (8 lines) 	Response pending from the applicant The Committee has requested to re-submit the application, with sufficient details and case-to-case non-feasibility reasons of undergrounding. <u>A response is pending from the applicant.</u>
13	Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Ltd.	12.05.2022 Resubmitted responses to the queries on 29.12.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 lines of 220 kV (1.6 km, 2.3 km, 4 km, 28.5 km, 29.4 km) • 1 line of 132 kV (4.4 km) in Potential Area of Rajasthan 	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
14	M/s Adani Renewable Energy Holding Seventeen Private Limited	28.06.2022 Resubmitted responses to the queries on 12.12.2022	220 kV new transmission line, 50 km	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors, and b) installation of Bird Diverters.

				<i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022)</i>
15	M/s Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited	28.06.2022 Resubmitted responses to the queries on 12.12.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 kV new transmission line, 40 km • 220 kV new transmission line, 45 km 	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The applicant agreed to lay EHV D/c lines on horizontal configuration, as recommended by the Committee, that reduces the number of vertical levels of wires and mortality risk to GIB. The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors, b) re-routing in same corridor, and c) installation of Bird Diverters.</p> <p><i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022)</i></p>
16	M/s. Altra Xergi Power Pvt.Ltd.	01.07.2022	220 kV new transmission line, 4.3 km	<p>Response pending from the applicant</p> <p>The Committee has requested to submit the Google Earth (kml) file of the proposed route. A response is pending from the applicant.</p>
17	Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Ltd (PGVCL)	Total 10 applications received on 25.07.2022, 29.07.2022 (2 nos), 17.08.2022, 20.08.2022, 30.08.2022, 14.09.2022, 18.10.2022, 21.10.2022, & 14.11.2022	11 kV & 0.440 kV line of around 3471.2 km (total 75358 sections of line)	<p>Application partially ratified</p> <p>For these applications, the total length of the existing powerline was about 3455, while 15.87 km were proposed new lines. Of which, 2868 km, almost (83% of the total) have been ratified for overhead laying with necessary mitigation, while about 603 km of the line (about 17% of the total) passing through the priority or prioritized area have not been ratified and recommended for undergrounding as they will be highly risky for both the bustard species</p>

				found in the area. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)
18	M/s. AMP Energy Green Pvt. Ltd	08.08.2022 Resubmitted responses to the queries on 05.01.2023	220 kV line of 10 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)
19	M/s. Renew Power Pvt. Ltd.	30.08.2022	2 No. of 220 kV lines of length 35.75 km and 17.98 km having S/c, D/c and M/c sections	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors of S/c section only, and b) installation of Bird Diverters. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)
20	NTPC Ltd.	10.09.2022	220 kV line of 20 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors as per design proposed by the applicant, and b) installation of Bird Diverters. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)
21	Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan	19.09.2022	220kV - Optional route of 41 / 30 / 43 km	Application under examination Since all the optional routes of the proposed

	Limited			line is passing through Prioritized area where GIB mortality has been reported in recent past, the Committee has decided to defer the application for detailed deliberation, to explore alternatives that do not pass through this important area. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
22	M/s. ReNew Solar Power Private Limited	22.09.2022	400 kV line of 17.3 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022)</i>
23	ReNew Solar Power Private Limited	22.09.2022	400 kV line of 27.5 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022)</i>
24	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	31.10.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 No. of 220 kV line: 8 km & 8 km ● 3 No. of 132 kV line of 3.5 km, 3.5 km & 48 km length 	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
25	PFC Consulting Limited	02.11.2022	‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part A1’	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) installation of Bird Diverters, and b) aligning

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 400 kV line of 23 km length 	<p>the proposed line along the existing line & sharing the RoW, to the extent possible. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)</p>
26	PFC Consulting Limited	02.11.2022	<p>‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part A3’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 400 kV line of 272 km length 	<p>Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) installation of Bird Diverters, and b) aligning the proposed line along the existing line & sharing the RoW, to the extent possible. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)</p>
27	PFC Consulting Limited	02.11.2022	<p>‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part G’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 765 kV line of 323 km length out of which 182 km is passing through GIB Potential area 	<p>Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) installation of Bird Diverters, and b) aligning the proposed line along the existing line & sharing the RoW, to the extent possible. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)</p>
28	PFC Consulting Limited	02.11.2022	<p>‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part B1’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 765 kV line of 347 km length out of which 138 km is passing through GIB Potential area ● 400 kV line of 244 km length 	<p>Application partially ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of 765 kV transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. Since a section of the proposed 400 kV line (around 20 section) is passing through Prioritized area where GIB mortalities have been reported in recent past, the Committee has</p>

				decided to ask the applicant to explore the possibility of any other alternative, such as connecting the line to any other substation outside the Prioritized area. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
29	PFC Consulting Limited	02.11.2022	‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part E’ ● 765 kV line of 313 km length out of which 110 km is passing through GIB Potential area	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to a) installation of Bird Diverters, and b) aligning the proposed line along the existing line & sharing the RoW, to the extent possible. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)</i>
30	Adani Renewable Energy	03.11.2022	400 kV line of around 33 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022)</i>
31	Beawar Transmission Ltd (REC P&DCL)	04.11.2022	‘Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part F’ ● 765 kV line of 308.3 km length out of which 193.4 km is passing through GIB Potential area	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to (i) re-routing the first ~35 kms from Fatehgarh III substation to align it along the earlier ratified line, within a distance of 150 m, (ii) re-routing the remaining section of proposed line to align it along the earlier ratified line (preferably within 150 m from the earlier ratified line), to

				the extent possible, and (iii) installation of Bird Diverters. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)
32	Ramgarh II Transmission Ltd (REC P&DCL)	09.11.2022	Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under phase-III part -C1 ● 765 kV line of 189.402 km length out of which 172.557 km is passing through GIB Potential area of	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to (i) either horizontal stringing or re-routing of a section away from the Prioritized GIB Area, and (ii) installation of Bird Diverters. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)
33	GETCO	16.11.2022	4 No. of 66 kV lines of 18.4 km, 18.11 km & 13.2 km	Application not ratified Lines are either in the Priority area or in the areas of extensive movements of GIB. The applicant has not submitted any justification for the non-feasibility of laying them underground. The applicant itself has informed the Committee about undergrounding of other 66 kV lines in an earlier application. These lines can be very risky for the species. (Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022)
34	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	16.11.2022	2 No. of 132 kV lines of around 22 km length each	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters.

				<i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
35	M/s. Malur Renewables pvt. Ltd. (Rays Power Infra)	16.12.2022	400kV line from 1800 MW solar PV project to Bhadla-III GSS - 14 km	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
36	M/s. Sembcorp Green Infra Ltd.	19.12.2022	220 kV line from 400 MW solar project to Jaisalmer-II RVPN Grid Substation – 11.5 km	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
37	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	20.12.2022	132 kV line of around 25 km length	Application ratified The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters. <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
38	NTPC Renewables Ltd	29.12.2022	400 kV line from 500 MW solar project to Bhadla GSS of RVPN - 1.2 km	Incomplete Application Query to be sent to the applicant <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>
39	Acme Aklera Power Technology Pvt. Ltd.	29.12.2022	250MW solar power project to Jaisalmer-II RVPN Grid Substation - 16.65 km	Incomplete Application Query to be sent to the applicant <i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i>

40	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	30.12.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 220 kV line of around 5.7 km length ● 132 kV line of around 1.6 km length 	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The Committee approved the overhead laying of these transmission lines, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters.</p> <p><i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i></p>
41	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	30.12.2022	132 kV line of around 2.2 km	<p>Application ratified</p> <p>The Committee approved the overhead laying of this transmission line, subject to the installation of Bird Diverters.</p> <p><i>(Ref. Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023)</i></p>
42	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	06.01.2023	132 kV line of around 6.7 km	Application under examination
43	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	06.01.2023	220 kV D/C Kolayat - Panchu line of around 49.6 km	Application under examination
44	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	06.01.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LILO of 220 kV S/C BLTPSKhinvsar line at 220 kV GSS Panchu of around 4.6 km ● 132 kV D/C line from 220 kV GSS Panchu to 132 kV GSS Panchu of around 3.2 km 	Application under examination
45	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited	06.01.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LILO of circuit-I of 220 kV D/C Bhadla-Kolayat line at 220 kV GSS Bikampur of around 1.4 km ● LILO of 132 kV S/C Bajju-PS2 line (HTLS) at 220 kV GSS Bikampur of around 2.3 km 	Application under examination

46	M/s. AMP Energy Green Pvt. Ltd.	10.01.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 220 kV line of around 4 km ● 33 kV multiple lines using aerial bunched cable (ABC) on overhead lines 	Application under examination
47	PGVCL	13.01.2023	23 nos. of 11 kv lines of total 10.66 km	Application under examination
48	GETCO	13.01.2023	400 kV Bhachunda- Varsana line of around 27.1 km	Application under examination

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Annexure of Report # I

Minutes of Meeting held on 06.10.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in Great Indian Bustard Priority and Potential Areas

A meeting of the committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 19.4.2021 in the I.A. No. 85618 of 2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 was held through Video Conference on 06.10.2022 at 05.00 PM. All members of the committee were present in the meeting.

The following applications/ matters were discussed during the meeting:

1. Miscellaneous letters

The committee noted that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) vide its letter dated 01.07.2022 has forwarded a request letter from Solar Power Developers Association (SPDA) to this committee for examination and appropriate decisions. SPDA has requested the committee to apply the relaxation given to M/s Azure (400 kV line) to other applications of 400kV transmission lines. Further, a letter dated 20.06.2022 was also received from Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd, Jaisalmer, with a request to exempt Jodhpur Discom from underground cabling and installation of Bird Diverters.

In this regard, the committee decided that as per the Hon. SC Order dated 19.4.2021, the committee is mandated to examine applications for ratification on a case-to-case basis, and generic ratifications cannot be granted. The committee decided to respond to these letters accordingly.

2. Application from Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Ltd.

Earlier, the application was discussed in meeting dated 13.06.2022 & 14.07.2022, and some queries were sent to the applicant on 28.06.2022. The applicant responded on 12.07.2022. Some queries were not addressed satisfactorily. Accordingly, during the meeting dated 14.07.2022, it has been decided to communicate queries and observations of the committee to the applicant. However, it was observed that the queries and observations are yet to be communicated to the applicant. The committee decided to send the queries to the applicant.

3. Application from M/s Adani Renewable Energy Holding Seventeen Private Limited for construction of 220 kV D/C new transmission line of 50 km length from the proposed 600 MW solar power project at Baiya to Fatehgarh III PS. The applicant has requested approval for laying overhead transmission lines on the following grounds:

- Line length is 50 km (approx)
- Proposed line is passing through rocky terrain and sand dunes
- Generation of high capacitive MVAR,
- Multiple cable joints, transportation limitation, RoW, restriction in farming activities, etc.

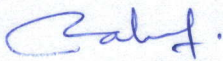
The committee discussed the application and found that the line length (50 km) is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation. Dr. Dutta submitted that as per the field observations, the proposed line is passing mostly through the agricultural area with small segments in rocky and sand dune terrains. The line is passing through Potential GIB Area but is outside the Prioritized GIB Area. The line route poses low-level of risk to GIB. Hence, considering the length of the line, if overhead laying is considered, the applicant may be asked about the feasibility of horizontal stringing (alignment) of conductors, to reduce the collision risk for the GIB. Dr. Gadhavi submitted that the line is close to the Desert National Park (originates within 2 km from the Park), which is a Protected Area and requires NoC from Forest Department. Dr. Rawat submitted that the applicant is bound to take all necessary NoCs/ permissions as per law, and it is not in the purview of the committee. Dr. Gadhavi submitted that Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued an order regarding the Eco-sensitive Zone and hence a committee constituted by the Hon'ble Court must mention in the final letter that the applicant should follow the rules & regulations applicable to the Eco-sensitive Zone Area of the Desert National Park. For instance, the committee decided to ask the applicant: a) about the feasibility of horizontal stringing of the powerline and use of the same RoW or pylons for the different lines b) if the three lines shown in the kml are conductors of the same powerline. Besides, the applicant will be informed about the requirement of other NoCs as per law.

4. Application from M/s Adani Renewable Energy Holding Four Limited for 400 kV S/C and 220 kV D/C new transmission line from proposed 1500 MW solar power project at Kotha to Fatehgarh III PS. The applicant has requested approval for laying overhead transmission lines on the following grounds:

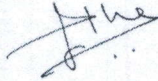
- Line length is 400 kV S/C is 40 km (approx)
- Line length is 220 kV D/C is 45 km (approx)
- Proposed line is passing through rocky terrain and sand dunes
- Generation of high capacitive MVAR,
- Multiple cable joints, transportation limitation, RoW, restriction in farming activities, etc.

The committee discussed the application and found that the line lengths (40 and 45 km) are not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation. Both lines are proposed to run parallel to each other; however, the distance between these lines range between 50 – 400 m. Therefore, despite running parallel to each other, they are not using the same Right of Way (RoW). Further, these lines are partly passing through the Additional Important Area within the Potential GIB Area, although they are probably not passing through any deemed forest (such as Degray Oran in Rasla). Considering the length, technical difficulties of undergrounding 400 kV, and route alignment (both lines in parallel), the overhead laying of these lines may be considered, provided the applicant considers the horizontal alignment of conductors of both lines, use the same tower for both lines or use the same RoW, in order to reduce the collision risk of GIB. Dr. Rawat

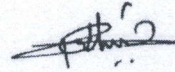
informed that a minimum safe distance is required between two transmission lines, and it may be very difficult to take RoW for two lines in the same farmland, however, the applicant may be asked about the above queries. Accordingly, the committee decided to ask the applicant: a) for horizontal stringing of the powerlines, b) using the same tower or same RoW for aligning the powerlines, and c) if the three lines shown in the kml are conductors of the same power-line.



Dr. Rahul Rawat
Scientist 'C' MNRE



Dr. Sutirtha Dutta
Scientist,
Wildlife Institute of India



Dr. Devesh Gadhavi
Deputy Director,
The Corbett Foundation

Minutes of Meeting held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted Committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in Great Indian Bustard Priority and Potential Areas

A meeting of the Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 19.4.2021 in the I.A. No. 85618 of 2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 was held through Video Conference on 23.11.2022 at 06:30 PM and 06.12.2022 at 11.00 AM. All members of the Committee were present in the meeting.

The following applications/ matters were discussed during the meetings:

1. **Application dated 01.07.2022 from M/s. Altra Xergi Power** for laying of 220 kV S/c overhead transmission line of 4.3 km from 380 MW Solar Plant to Fatehgarh III S/S. The Committee discussed the application on 23.11.2022 and observed that the applicant has not submitted kmz/ kml (Google earth file) of the proposed route. Accordingly, it was decided that the applicant may be requested to submit kmz/ kml (Google earth file) of the proposed route of transmission line, for further examination.
2. **Application dated 08.08.2022 from M/s. Amp Energy Green Private Limited** for laying of overhead power lines (220 kV) from 300 MW Solar Power Projects situated in Tehsil-Bap to PGCIL Bhadla-2 765/400/220 kV substation (length of 10 kms). The Committee discussed the application on 23.11.2022 and observed that the applicant has not submitted kmz/ kml (Google earth file) of the proposed route. Accordingly, it was decided that the applicant may be requested to submit kmz/ kml (Google earth file) of the proposed route of transmission line, for further examination.
3. **Application dated 30.08.2022 from M/s. Renew Power Private Ltd.** for laying of 2 nos. of 220 kV overhead transmission lines (17.98 km and 35.75 km lengths) from evacuating power from 6 nos. solar power plants in Fatehgarh Tehsil, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan having a cumulative capacity of 1720 MW to PGCIL Fatehgarh-3 substation. The Committee discussed the application on 23.11.2022, and observed that the proposed transmission lines are around 10 kms away from the prioritized GIB area, hence moderately risky to the bird. Further the Committee observed that followings are not clear from the application:
 - a) Number of conductors in the proposed lines
 - b) Whether the proposed lines are single /double/ multi circuit? What is the length of each type of line?

Accordingly, the Committee decided that the applicant may be requested to clarify the above queries and to explore whether horizontal stringing of these lines are feasible.

4. **Application dated 10.09.2022 from M/s. NTPC Ltd.** for laying of 220kV overhead transmission line from 300MW Solar Project located at Nokhra, Bikaner, Rajasthan to PGCIL Bhadla-II substation (20 km). The Committee discussed the application on 23.11.2022, and observed that the proposed transmission line is around 50 km away from the prioritized GIB area and is comparatively less risky for the bird, although it runs entirely through GIB potential area. The applicant has submitted that they have designed the proposed line to further reduce the chance of GIB collision by horizontally stringing of conductors as per

technical feasibility instead of vertical stringing on double circuit tower. The applicant proposed that two phase stringing will be done on one side (Top and middle cross arm) and one remaining phase stringing will be done on another side (top cross arm). In addition, the applicant has submitted that approx. 1 km of transmission line will be shared with other developers on multi circuit tower as per standard stringing design. The Committee noted the above points and decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to (i) horizontal stringing of the conductors as per the proposed design and (ii) installation of bird diverters as recommended by the Committee.

5. **Application dated 02.11.2022 from M/s. PFC Consulting Limited** for laying of overhead 400 kV EHV line and establishment of 400/220 kV pooling station w.r.t. 'Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part A1'. The details of proposed transmission system is as under:

S. No.	Name of Line/Substation	Substation Area/ Route Length (Approx.)	Line Length/Substation Land Passing through Potential GIB Area
1.	Establishment of 5x500 MVA, 400/220 kV pooling station at Fatehgarh-4 along with 2x125 MVAr Bus Reactor	159 Acre	Entire Land is within the Potential Area of GIB
2.	400 kV Fatehgarh-4- Fatehgarh-3 D/c line	23 km	Entire Line is within the Potential Area of GIB

The Committee discussed the application on 06.12.2022 and observed that the proposed 400 kV line is of 23 km length, which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation. Further, the proposed line is passing through GIB potential area and is around 10 km away from the prioritized GIB area, posing comparatively less risk to the bird. However, it is observed from the kml file submitted by the applicant that there are some existing overhead transmission lines available along/ near the proposed line.

In view of above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to (i) installation of bird diverters and (ii) aligning the proposed line along the existing line and sharing the RoW to the extent possible. Further, in line with earlier decision of the Committee in relevant applications of GETCO (MoM dated 04.05.2022), it was decided that the approval of Committee is not required for establishment of substation.

6. **Application dated 02.11.2022 from M/s. PFC Consulting Limited** for laying of overhead 400 kV EHV line w.r.t. 'Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part A3'. The details of proposed transmission line is as under:

Name of Line	Route Length (Approx.)	Line Length Passing through Potential GIB Area
400kV Fatehgarh 3- Bhadla-3 D/c line	272 km	Entire Line is within the Potential Area of GIB

The Committee discussed the application on 06.12.2022 and observed that the proposed 400 kV line is of 272 km length, which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's

recommendation. Further, the proposed line is passing through GIB potential area, posing comparatively less risky to the bird. Further, it was noted from the kml file submitted by the applicant that there are some existing overhead transmission lines available along/ near the proposed line.

In view of above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to (i) installation of bird diverters as recommended by the Committee, and (ii) aligning the proposed line along the existing line by sharing RoW to the extent possible

7. **Application dated 02.11.2022 from M/s. PFC Consulting Limited** for laying of overhead 765kV & 400kV EHV line and establishment of 765/400/220 kV PS w.r.t. 'Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part B1'. The details of proposed transmission system is as under:

S. No.	Name of Line/Substation	Substation Area/ Route Length (Approx.)	Line Length/Substation Land Passing through Potential GIB Area
1.	Establishment of 2x1500 MVA 765/400kV & 3x500 MVA 400/220 kV pooling station at Bhadla-3	150 Acre	Entire land is within the Potential Area of GIB
2.	400 kV Fatehgarh-2 PS – Bhadla-3 PS D/c line	244 km	Entire line is within the Potential Area of GIB
3.	765 kV Bhadla-3 PS – Sikar-II D/c line	347 km	138 km of the line out of 347 km is passing through Potential Area of GIB

The Committee discussed the application on 06.12.2022 and observed that the proposed 765 kV & 400 kV line is of 347 km and 244 km length, which are not feasible to lay underground as per CEA's recommendation. The proposed line in SN 3, i.e., 765 kV Bhadla-3 PS – Sikar-II D/c line is around 20 km outside of the Prioritized GIB Area and poses comparatively less risk to GIB. The Committee decided to ratify this line / section. However, it was noted that a portion of the proposed 400 kV transmission line in SN 2 is passing through Additional Important GIB area, where recent powerline induced mortalities of GIB have been recorded. Further, the remaining portion of this line is running parallel to another proposed line (400kV Fatehgarh 3- Bhadla-3 D/c line of application 6) at a distance of 1-8 km. These two proposed lines can be re-routed to share the same RoW. Given these concerns, it was decided to deliberate on the application 7 - SN2 in detail for alternative solutions during the next meeting.

8. **Application dated 02.11.2022 from M/s. PFC Consulting Limited** for approval of Committee for laying of overhead 765 kV Extra High Voltage line w.r.t. 'Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part G'. The details of proposed transmission line is as under:

S. No.	Name of Line	Route Length (Approx.)	Line Length Passing through Potential GIB Area
1.	765kV Fatehgarh-3 – Beawar D/C (2nd) Line	323 km	182 km of the line out of 323 km is within the Potential Area of GIB

The Committee discussed the application on 06.12.2022 and observed that the proposed line is of 765 kV, which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation. Further, the proposed line is passing through GIB Potential Area, and is outside the Prioritized GIB Area (>12 km away), posing comparatively less risk to the bird. However, it was observed from the kml file submitted by the applicant that there are some existing overhead transmission lines available along/ near to the proposed line.

In view of above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to (i) installation of bird diverters and (ii) aligning the proposed line along the existing line by sharing RoW, to the extent possible.

9. **Application dated 02.11.2022 from M/s. PFC Consulting Limited** for approval of Committee for laying of overhead 765 kV Extra High Voltage line w.r.t. 'Transmission system strengthening scheme for evacuation of power from solar energy zones in Rajasthan (8.1 GW) under Phase-II Part-E'. The details of proposed transmission line is as under:

S. No.	Name of Line	Route Length (Approx.)	Line Length Passing through Potential GIB Area
1.	765kV Bhadla-II PS – Sikar-II D/c line (2nd)	313 km	110 km of line out of 313 km is within the Potential Area of GIB

The Committee discussed the application on 06.12.2022 and observed that the proposed line is of 765 kV, which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation. Further, the proposed line is passing through GIB Potential Area and is around 40 km away from the Prioritized GIB Area, posing less risk to the bird. However, it is observed from the kml file submitted by the applicant that there are some existing overhead transmission lines available along/ near to the proposed line.

In view of above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to (i) installation of bird diverters and (ii) aligning the proposed line along the existing line, by sharing RoW to the extent possible.

10. Applications from GETCO

The Committee discussed the application sent by GETCO vide email dated 16.11.2022, seeking permission for the overhead laying of multiple 66kV lines. The application includes total four lines, as per GoogleEarth files shared by GETCO , as detailed under:

Sr No	kV	Name as per kml	Length (km) as per kml file	Location
1	66	DUMRA- BAYATH LINE	18.4	About 3.7 km section of this line falls within the priority area, while the rest is within a distance of 55-1000 meters from the boundary of the nearest priority area.
2	66	VINZAN LILO AT 66KV D-C HAJAPAR - BHACHUNDA LINE	12.5	About 7.67 km section of this line is within a Priority Area, while the rest is within 0 to 4.5 km distance from the nearest priority area.
			5.61	This line is located in the Potential Area within a distance of 3.5 to 5.5 km from the nearest priority area.
3	66	EXI.LOC.NO.-114 to PRO.GANTRY SABHRAI	13.2	This line is located in the Potential Area within a distance of 2.36 km from the nearest priority area.

The Committee discussed the above application during its VC meetings held on 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022. The Committee observed the following points in regard to these lines.

1. Dr Gadhavi suggested that application by GETCO is not submitted properly, as it neither contains proper information nor gives any technical justification for the non- feasibility of under grounding the transmission line.

Dr Rahul and Dr. Dutta agreed with the above point and informed that the situation is similar with applications from PGVCL. Further, it was agreed that multiple applications of powerlines are being submitted by GETCO & PGVCL (instead of consolidated applications), which is creating confusion and delaying the ratification process. Accordingly, the members agreed to request GETCO & PGVCL to submit consolidated applications, with complete information of the proposed line along with proper justification, as suggested by the Committee in its email dated 31.05.2021. Further, it may also be communicated that the Committee will not consider future applications submitted without justifiable technical reasons and related documents/ google earth file.

2. The Committee noted that all three lines are 66 kV with lengths less than 25 km, which is technically feasible to be laid underground as per CEA report. Further, these lines are either within the Priority Area or in areas having extensive movements of GIB and Lesser Florican, posing a high risk of collision, as per telemetry data showed by Dr. Dutta. Moreover, the applicant has not submitted any justification for non feasibility of laying them underground. The applicant has informed the committee about undergrounding of

66kV lines in earlier applications. Although a section of 66kV line has been undergrounded by GETCO on Tera-Kunathiya road, a similar line is being requested for overhead laying on the same road in the Priority Area by the agency, that can be highly risky for the species. The Committee has already suggested undergrounding of 66kV lines in Priority Areas in its earlier communication.

Considering the above reasons, the Committee decided that the lines mentioned in the above application can not be ratified for overhead laying.

11. Applications from PGVCL

The Committee discussed ten applications of various 11 kV and 0.440 kV lines submitted by PGVCL between 25.07.2022 to 21.10.2022 (Table-1) during online video meetings held on 06.10.2022, 23.11.2022 and 06.12.2022. Dr Gadavi informed the Committee that these applications have about 75,358 sections of lines, as per the KML files (GoogleEarth file) shared by PGVCL. The total length of these sections is about 3471.2 km, of which about 3455.3 km is existing network of lines while the remaining ~15.9 km are new lines.

The Committee discussed the following points during the meeting.

1. Based on the earlier applications of 11kV and 0.440 kV lines and discussions held on 06.10.2022, Dr Gadavi had carried out an analysis to classify the network of lines as per their location with reference to the Priority Area, Potential Area and bustard movements. Based on this classification, lines are categorized as follows:
 - The **lines located within 100-meter buffer around village settlements**, as suggested by the Committee vide its report dated 19.07.2022 may be ratified for overhead laying without the installation of bird diverters for reasons stated in the earlier report by the Committee. KML (Google Earth file) of these lines "**overhead without BFD**" is attached herewith.
 - The **lines outside the Priority Area and 100 meter-buffer but within the Potential Area**. These lines are slightly away or at a safer distance from the boundaries of the areas intensively used by GIB and Lesser Florican. Moreover, considering the height at which these lines would be aligned, the movements of GIBs and Lesser Floricans in the regions, it appears that the risk posed to both the species is comparatively low, and hence these lines may be ratified on a case-to-case basis. For these lines, it is essential to reduce the number of cables by bundling them in aerial bunch cable (spiral bundle cable) and marking them with diverters at every 5 m distance as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide its report dated 19.07.2022 and BFD specification dated 31.05.2022. KML (Google Earth file) of these lines "**Aerial Bunch Cable with BFD**" is attached herewith.
 - The **lines located within the Priority Area or between two Priority Areas having extensive bustard movements**. Though these lines are at a lower height, they are located in areas with extensive movements of GIB and Lesser Florican. The chances that these birds may fly at a low-level in these areas are high, making them vulnerable to collision. Hence, the risk posed by these lines is very high; therefore, they must be undergrounded immediately. Further such low-voltage lines are technically feasible to be laid underground. Therefore, such lines can not be ratified for overhead laying and

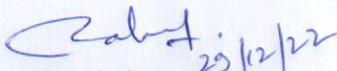
must be undergrounded immediately. KML (Google Earth file) of these lines "**Underground Lines**" is attached herewith.

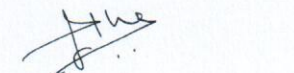
- The **lines outside Potential areas** are beyond the purview of the Committee. KML (Google Earth file) of these lines "**Beyond Purview**" is attached herewith.

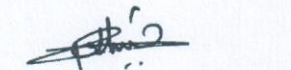
Dr Gadhavi explained each line falling into these categories and showed the same to the members on GoogleEarth. All members agreed to the classification and took a unanimous decision to approve it as per the mitigation suggested in **Table 1**.

2. Members observed that PGVCL has submitted applications for 10,855 sections of 11 & 0.440 kV existing lines for ratification outside the Potential GIB Area, that are beyond the Committee's purview. The Committee has already informed PGVCL in its earlier communication that lines outside the Potential GIB Area are beyond the purview of this Committee, and they may please be installed/erected as per applicable rules without referring them to the Committee to avoid delay in work. Members agreed that same may be communicated to the applicant.
3. The Committee discussed and agreed that applicant's request to issue common directions for laying new 0.440kV and 11kV lines within GIB Areas can not be considered by the Committee as per the directions given by the Hon'ble SC vide its order dated 19.04.2021, that states [the decision] "...would require technical evaluation on case-to-case basis and an omnibus conclusion cannot be reached laying down a uniform method, and directions cannot be issued unmindful of the fact situation. Though that be the position the consensus shall be that all low voltage powerlines to be laid in the priority and potential habitats of GIB shall in all cases be laid underground in future. In respect of low voltage overhead powerlines existing presently in the priority and potential habitats of GIB, the same shall be converted into underground powerlines." [Para 14, Pg 15].

For the same reason, the Committee's decision on the 144 lines in response to PGVCL's application dated 23.02.2022 is not transferable to the current applications for different lines.


29/12/22
Dr Rahul Rawat
Scientist C
MNRE
Delhi


Dr Sutirtha Dutta
Scientist E
Wildlife Institute of India
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Dr Devesh Gadhavi
Deputy Director
The Corbett Foundation
Tera, Kutch, Gujarat.

Annexure: Table - 1: PGVCL applications received between 25.07.2022 to 14.11.2022

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
1	PGVCL T R Makwana Deputy Engineer,PGVCL Mandvi town S/dn	25-07-22	11 kV	1	SSNL BADA	New	1.19	In Potential Area: ~2 km from Priority area near Bada village.	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	SSNL Bhishra		1.23	In Potential Area: ~3.26 km from Priority area. It is near Bhishra village.	Section of 538 meters ratified overhead without diverter. Sections of 689 meters ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	SSNL Layja		0.44	In Potential Area: ~4.39 km from Priority area. It is near Layja Mota village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				Total	3		Total length of three lines	2.86	
2	PGVCL	Email 3-08-22 application linked to 29-07-22	11 kV	10416	Existing network of powerlines within Priority and Potential Area	Existing	499	These 10416 sections of lines (~499 km) are located outside the potential area and beyond the Committee's purview.	Outside potential area and beyond the purview of the Committee. KML file of these lines is attached with the email
				6169	Existing network of powerlines within Priority and Potential Area		241	All the 6169 sections (~241 km) fall within 100 m buffer of the village settlement boundary, as suggested by the Committee in the status report dated 19.07.2022	Ratified for overhead laying without BFD KML file of these lines is attached to the email
				43008	Existing network of powerlines within Priority and Potential Area		1995	These 43008 sections of lines (~1995 km) are outside the priority area and buffer of 100 m around the village settlement area. They are located within the potential area but	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters KML file of these lines is attached with the email

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
								slightly away or at a safer distance from the boundaries of priority or prioritized areas.	
				12624	Existing network of powerlines within Priority and Potential Area		599	These 12324 sections of lines (~599 km) are either located within a priority area or between two priority areas, having extensive movements of GIB and Floricans.	Not ratified for overhead laying. These lines need to be undergrounded . KML file of these lines is attached with the email
			Total	72217	Total length of 72217 lines		3334		
3	PGVCL	29-07-22	0.440 kV	439	Existing network of powerlines within Priority and Potential Area	Existing	18	These 439 sections of lines (~18 km) are located outside the potential area and beyond the Committee's purview.	Outside potential area and beyond the purview of the Committee . KML file of these lines is attached to the email
			218	6.74			All the 218 sections (~6.74 km) fall within 100 m buffer of the village settlement boundary, as suggested by the Committee in the status report dated 19.07.2022	Ratified for overhead laying without BFD KML file of these lines is attached to the email	
			2341	92.4			These 2341 sections of lines (~92.4 km) are outside the priority area and buffer of 100 m around the village settlement area. They are located within the potential area but slightly away or at a safer distance from the boundaries of priority or prioritized areas.	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters KML file of these lines is attached with the email	
			107	4.14			These 107 sections of line s (~4.14 km) are either located within a priority area or between two priority areas, having extensive movements of GIB and Floricans.	Not ratified for overhead laying. These lines need to be undergrounded . KML file of these lines is attached with the email	

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
			Total	3105	Total length of 3105 lines		121.3	-	-
4	PGVCL	17-08-22	11 kV	1	Government HSC School - Hajapar	New	0.0517	This 0.05 km long line is located in the potential area and is about 4.20 km from the nearest boundary of the priority area. It is located next to the village road.	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverter
5	PGVCL	20-08-22	11 kV	1	Gadhvi Govindbhai Vishrambhai	New	0.193	It is 1.89 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Bada village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Gadhvi Karsan Ratan	New	0.0932	It is 5.4 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Bhishra village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Kamaibai Gopal Gadhavi	New	0.349	It is 8.6 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Shivra village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Kamaibai Gopal Gadhavi	New	0.0048	It is 8.5 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Shivra village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverter
				1	Malshreebai Manshi Charan	New	0.215	It is 1.9 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Bada village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Naran Petha Patel	New	0.679	It is 0.6 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Rajda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Patel Mansukh Sivji	New	0.374	It is 2 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Ratadiya Mota village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Patramal Naran Gadhvi	New	0.194	It is 5.5 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Bhishra village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Rajesh Keshav Gadhavi	New	0.137	It is 9.98 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Kathda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
				1	Shah Bhupendar Kalyanji	New	0.0201	It is 4.31 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Layja village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Virabai Punashi Gadhavi	New	0.175	It is 8.21 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Kathda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				Total	11	Total length of 11 lines	2.4341	-	-
6	PGVCL	30-08-22	11 kV	1	Jadeja Chatursinh Naranji	New	0.313	A section of this line (106 m) is within the priority area, while the remaining 206 meters is very close to the priority area.	Not ratified for overhead laying. These lines need to be undergrounded . KML file of these lines is attached with the email
				1	Jadeja Ashvinsih Chatursinh	New	0.493	It is 2.87 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Ratadiya Mota village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Ker Nuramamad Ismail	New	0.342	It is 10.23 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Shirva village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Khalifa Rafik Fakirmamd	New	0.022	It is 1.71 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Raajda village, nearby village road	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Rajgor Jagdishkumar Premji	New	0.036	It is 1.98 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Raajda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Rabari Paba Hadhu	New	0.112	It is 1.98 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Raajda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Rabari Ravabhai Pala	New	0.144	It is 2.89 km away from the nearest priority area but within the	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
								potential area. Located close to Raajda village	
				1	Sonbai Hari Gadhavi	New	0.006	It is 8.54 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Kathda village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Vasant Aravind Patel	New	0.218	It is 1.90 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Ratadiya Mota village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
			Total	9	Total length of nine lines		1.686	-	-
7	PGVCL	14-09-22	11 kV	1	Jadeja Himmatsinh Vanrajsinh	New	0.0397	It is 6.79 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area and prioritized area. Located close to Gudthar village on Naliya-Tera Highway Road	Not ratified for overhead laying. These lines need to be undergrounded . KML file of these lines is attached with the email
			1	Jadeja Jivanji Gelubha, Jadeja Mulubha Jagatji	New	0.0584	It is 1.97 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Hothi Vandh village		
			1	Mankuvarba Murvaji Jadeja	New	0.0777	It is 0.28 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to residential area and Kasturba Gandhi school		
				1	Ranjanba Vanrajsinh Jadeja	New	0.0586	It is 4.22 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Naliya town.	
				1	Hitesh Ravji Bhanushali, Narshi Khimji Bhanushali	New	0.0622	It is 2.58 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Dadamapar village on Naliya-Jakhau Highway Road	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Kishorkumar Nensi Bhanushali	New	0.0404	It is 3.63 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Naliya own on Naliya-Kalatalav road.	

Sr No	Applicant	Date of email	kV	Nos of Section / Line**	Line Name	Line type	Line length in km	Line Location	Decision
			Total	6	Total length of six lines		0.337	-	-
8	PGVCL	18-10-22	11 kV	1	Ms Good Earth - Port JGY	New	6.33	It is 2.35 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located close to Jakhau village on Jakhau to Asiravandh road.	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	Ms Good Earth - Port 2	New	0.65	It is 4.22 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located close to Naliya town.	
			Total	2	Total length of two lines		6.98	-	
9	PGVCL	21-10-22	11kV	1	Midpir Dada Mandir	New	0.514	It is 2.09 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located near Siruvandh-Mandvi road towards Modpir Dada Temple	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
10	PGVCL	14-11-22	11 kV	1	Aayer Rakhuben Hamir	New	0.214	It is 0.48 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located near Sarguaara village	Ratified with spiral bunch cable and diverters
				1	M/S Select Mineral	New	0.427	It is 7 km away from the nearest priority area but within potential area. Located near Khirsara (Vinzan) village	
				1	Tatha Pir	New	0.407	It is 2 km away from the nearest priority area but within the potential area. Located near SiruVandh village near Kothara-Mandvi Highway	
			Total	3	Total length of three lines		Total	1.048	
Total sections of lines				75358	Total length of all sections		3471.2 km		

Minutes of Meeting held on 19.12.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted Committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in Great Indian Bustard Priority and Potential Areas

A meeting of the Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 19.4.2021 in the I.A. No. 85618 of 2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 was held through Video Conference on 19.12.2022. All members of the Committee were present in the meeting.

The following applications/ matters were discussed during the meetings:

Sr. No.	Application Date	Applicant Name	Transmission line	Voltage and Length	Committee's Decision
1	28-06-22	M/s. Adani Renewables	AREH17PL Solar plant 600 MW to Fatehgarh III PS, Rajasthan	220 kV D/c – 50 km	<p>Earlier, the Committee had discussed the application in its meeting dated 06.10.2022 and accordingly, vide letter dated 06.12.2022 the applicant was requested to a) explore the feasibility of horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors, and b) provide clarification on multiple lines shown in kml file.</p> <p>The applicant vide letter dated 12.12.2022 clarified the query of the Committee and submitted that horizontal stringing/alignment of all conductors will be carried out.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the response of applicant and decided to ratify overhead laying of proposed line subject to a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors, and b) installation of bird diverters as per the installation guideline suggested by the Committee.</p>
2	28-06-22	M/s. Adani Renewables	a) AGE4L solar plant (900 MW) to Fatehgarh III	a) 400 kV S/c – 40 km	<p>Earlier, the Committee had discussed the application in its meeting dated 06.10.2022 and accordingly, vide letter dated 06.12.2022 the applicant was requested to explore the feasibility of a) horizontal stringing/ alignment of all conductors, b) using the same tower to string conductors of two powerlines, or routing the two powerlines through the same Right of Way, i.e., within 20-50</p>

			PS 400 kV S/c line b) AGE4L solar plant (600 MW) to Fatehgarh III PS 220 kV D/c line	b) 220 kV D/c – 45 km	<p>m of each other and, c) clarification on multiple lines shown in kml file was requested.</p> <p>The applicant vide letter dated 12.12.2022 clarified the query of the Committee and submitted that they will carry out the horizontal stringing/alignment of all conductors and will re-route the two powerlines keeping one corridor of 80 meter for both the lines, maintaining the spacing of around 50 meters from each other.</p> <p>The Committee accepted the response of applicant and decided to ratify overhead laying of proposed line subject to a) the above committed mitigation measures (horizontal stringing and re-routing in same corridor) and b) installation of bird diverters.</p>
3	22-09-22	Renew Power	Renew Power Solar plant 975 MW to RVPNL Jaisalmer II PS, Rajasthan	400 kV - 17.3 km	<p>The Committee observed that the length of proposed 400 kV line is 17.3 km which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation and the proposed route is more than 10 km outside the prioritized area.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to installation of bird diverters as per the installation guideline suggested by the Committee.</p>
4	22-09-22	Renew Power	Renew Power Solar plant 550 MW to Bhadla III PS, Rajasthan	400 kV – 27.5 km	<p>The Committee observed that the length of proposed 400 kV line is 27.5 km which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation and the proposed route is around 20 km outside the prioritized area.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line subject to installation of bird diverters as per the installation guideline suggested by the Committee. Further, the applicant to be requested to provide</p>

					information regarding type (S/c or D/c or Multi circuit) of the proposed line.
5	3-11-22	Adani Renewables	AREH4L Solar plant 500 MW to Bhadla II PS, Rajasthan	400 kV S/c - 33 km	<p>The Committee observed that the length of proposed 400 kV line is around 33 km which is not feasible to underground as per CEA's recommendation and the proposed route is around 20 km outside the prioritized area. The applicant has provided three optional routes for the proposed line (depicted in annexure 2 of the application and in kml file). Dr Dutta and Dr. Gadhavi observed that a segment of the option 1 route is passing through Oran / wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line through option 2 or option 3 route subject to installation of bird diverters as per the installation guideline suggested by the Committee. Further, the Committee also decided to ratify the overhead laying of proposed line through option 1 subject to a) either re-route a segment of line to avoid Oran / good wildlife habitat or horizontal stringing/ alignment of the segment passing through the above Oran / wildlife habitat and b) installation of bird diverters as per the installation guideline suggested by the Committee.</p>
6	04-11-22	REC Power Development Consultancy - Beawar Transmission Ltd	Fatehgarh 3 – Beawar 765kV D/c, Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under	765 kV - 194 km out of total 308 km in GIB potential area	The committee observed that the applicant has not submitted kml (GoogleEarth) file of the proposed route. Accordingly, it was decided to request applicant to submit the kml file for further examination.

			Phase-1 Part F, Rajasthan		
7	09-11-22	REC Power Development Consultancy - Ramgarh Transmission Limited	Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under Phase-III Part C1, Rajasthan - Establishment of 765/400 kV pooling station at Ramgarh & Ramgarh PS - Bhadla-3 PS 765kV D/c transmission line	765 kV - 172.557 km out of total 189.402 km in GIB potential area	The committee observed that the proposed transmission line is 765 kV which is not feasible to underground, however a section of the line is passing very close to the prioritize GIB area (i.e. around 5 km from the prioritize area). Further, from the Google earth, it seems that the above section is also close to the international border on the opposite side. Considering the above, the committee decided to ask the applicant about feasibility of horizontal alignment/ stringing of powerline in the above section or re-routing the section so that it can be made as far as possible from the prioritize area (preferably 10 km).

Rawat 5/1/2023

Dr Rahul Rawat
Scientist C
MNRE
Delhi

Sutirtha
5/1/2023

Dr Sutirtha Dutta
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Gadhavi
05.01.2023

Dr Devesh Gadhavi
Deputy Director
The Corbett Foundation
Tera, Kutch, Gujarat.

Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted Committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in Great Indian Bustard Priority and Potential Areas

The meeting of the Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 19.4.2021 in the I. A. No. 85618 of 2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838 of 2019 was held through Video Conference on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023. All members of the Committee were present in the meeting.

The following applications/ matters were discussed during the meetings:

S. N.	Date of Application	Applicant	Transmission Line details	Decision
1	02.11.2022	PFC Consulting Limited	<p>Transmission system for evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III-Part B1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 765 kV line of 347 km in length, out of which 138 km passes through the GIB Potential area ● 400 kV line of 244 km length 	<p>Since the proposed line is of 765 kV line and more than 10 km away from the Prioritized GIB Area, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p> <p>With respect to 400 kV line of 244 km length from Bhadla 3 PS to Fatehgarh 2 PS, the Committee observed that although it is technically not feasible to be laid underground, the proposed line passes through Prioritized GIB Area and that too through Degray Oran. Dr. Dutta and Dr Gadhavi informed the Committee that two GIB mortalities had been reported recently from this area, and the proposed line is very risky to the bird. The section from Bhadla 3 PS to AP41 (Point on GoogleEarth) can be considered to be laid overhead with BFD installation; however, with respect to the segment beyond this point, which is passing through the Prioritized GIB Area, the Committee decided that the applicant may be asked to explore alternatives, such as connecting the line to any substation outside the Prioritized GIB Area or connecting it through smaller kV lines by undergrounding it.</p>
2	04.11.2022	Beawar Transmission Ltd (REC P&DCL)	Transmission System for evacuation of Power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW)	The Committee noted that a parallel powerline to this proposed line, i.e. 'Fatehgarh III Beawar Transmission Ltd – Transmission system for

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			<p>under phase-III part -F</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 765 kV line of 308.3 km length, out of which 193.4 km passes through the GIB Potential area 	<p>evacuation of power from REZ in Rajasthan (20 GW) under phase III- Part G' had been ratified recently. The proposed transmission line is 765 kV and more than 10 km away from the Prioritized GIB Area. Considering the above, the Committee (in principle) decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line subject to (i) re-routing the first 35 km from Fatehgarh III substation to align it along the earlier ratified line, keeping it in the same corridor and within a distance of 150 m from the earlier ratified line (section of the route attached herewith as Annexure I), (ii) re-routing the remaining section of proposed line to align it along the earlier ratified line to the extent possible, preferably within 150 m distance, and (iii) installation of BFD. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p> <p>However, the Committee also agreed that in the previous meeting, it was decided to send a few queries to CTU as mentioned at the end of this minutes. The Committee, though agreeing in principle about overhead laying of this particular line, may communicate to the applicant once a response from the CTU is received.</p>
3	09.11.2022	Ramgarh II Transmission Ltd (REC P&DCL)	<p>Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from REZ in Rajasthan (20GW) under phase-III part -C1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 765 kV line of 189.402 km length, out of which 172.557 km is 4passing through the GIB Potential area of 	<p>The application was discussed earlier during the meeting dated 19.12.2022. The Committee vide email dated 09.01.2013 had sent queries to the applicant, to which the applicant responded on 10.01.2023. The applicant has submitted that horizontal stringing is not feasible because RoW and carbon footprint will increase. The Committee found that the above justifications are generic and are not satisfactory.</p> <p>Further, the applicant submitted that the proposed route alignment is only approx. 5 km from the International Pakistan border, and it is</p>

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				<p>not prudent to route the proposed transmission line closer to the International border. From Google Earth, the Committee noted that the International Border is more than 10 km away from the proposed route, and some re-routing may be feasible to keep it away from the Prioritized GIB Area.</p> <p>Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation subject to either horizontal stringing or re-routing the sections (attached herewith as Annexure II) away from the Prioritized GIB Area, i.e. as per or beyond the suggestive route (attached herewith as Annexure III). Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
4	08.08.2022	AMP Energy Green Pvt. Ltd	220 kV line of 10 km length	<p>The Committee observed that the proposed powerline is 220 kV and is only 10 km in length, which may be technically feasible to be laid underground as per CEA's report. However, since the proposed line is more than 40 km away from the Prioritized GIB Area and poses less risk to the species, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
5	30.08.2022	Renew Power Private Limited	2 No. of 220 kV lines of length 35.75 km and 17.98 km having S/c, D/c and M/c sections	<p>The application was discussed earlier during the meeting dated 23.11.2022. The Committee had sent queries on 05.01.2023, to which the applicant responded on 10.01.2023. The applicant, inter alia, submitted that the horizontal configuration had been adopted mostly for single-circuit transmission lines at 400 kV voltage, whereas double-circuit & multi-circuit configuration transmission</p>

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				lines are not erected in a horizontal configuration. The Committee observed that the entire proposed line runs parallel to the Prioritised GIB Area at a distance of around 10 km and poses a moderate risk to the species. Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed lines with BFD installation and horizontal stringing of only the S/C lines, where the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.
6	19.09.2022	Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Limited	220kV - Optional route of 41 km / 30 km / 43 km	The Committee noted that all optional routes of this proposed line pass through the Prioritized GIB Area and is extremely risky to the GIB, and mortality has been recorded in this area in the recent past. The Committee decided to defer the application for detailed deliberation on this powerline in the next meeting, as other alternatives need to be explored.
7	16.12.2022	Malur Renewables Pvt. Ltd. (Rays Power Infra)	400kV line from 1800 MW solar PV project to Bhadla-III GSS - 14 km	The Committee noted that the line is 400 kV and 14 km in length; hence undergrounding is technically not feasible as per the CEA report. Further, the line is >20 km of the Prioritized GIB Area and is less risky to GIB. Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify (in principle) the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022. However, the Google Earth (kmz) file shows three routes, and it is not clear which of the three routes is proposed for ratification. Hence, it was decided that clarification on this issue be obtained from the applicant to communicate the ratification decision appropriately.
8	19.12.2022	Sembcorp Green Infra	220 kV line from 400 MW solar project	The Committee noted that the line is 220 kV D/c and passes around

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		Ltd.	to Jaisalmer-II RVPN Grid Substation – 11.5 km	10 km away from Prioritised GIB Area, posing less risk to GIB. Considering the above, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.
9	29.12.2022	NTPC Renewables Ltd	400 kV line from 500 MW solar project to Bhadla GSS of RVPN - 1.2 km	Committee noted that kml files are not available in the application and decided to request the applicant to submit the same for further consideration.
10	29.12.2022	Acme Aklera Power Technology Pvt. Ltd.	250MW solar power project to Jaisalmer-II RVPN Grid Substation - 16.65 km	Committee noted that kml files are not available in the application and decided to request the applicant to submit the same for further consideration.
11	12-05-2022	Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Limited	220 kV lines of around 28.5 km, 29.4 km, 4 km, 1.6 & 2.3 km and 132 kV line of around 4.4 km for 925 MW Solar Projects of Nokh Solar Park.	The application was discussed earlier during meetings dated 13.06.2022 & 14.07.2022. The queries were sent to the applicant on 28.06.2022, to which the applicant responded on 12.07.2022; however, the same was not satisfactory. Now, the Committee has received fresh clarification on queries from the applicant, which are mostly repetitive and unsatisfactory. However, since the proposed lines are about 20 km away from the Prioritised GIB Area and are less risky to the species, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.
12	31-10-2022	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (RRVPL)	220 kV GSS, Sheo (Dist Barmer), Rajasthan, along with its connecting lines (5 Nos. of lines of 220 kV and 132 kV) ● LILO of 220kV S/C Akal-Giral line at	Since the proposed lines are more than 30 km away from Prioritised GIB Area and are less risky to GIB, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation with a recommendation to keep it close to existing routes passing through the area, to the extent possible, so as to reduce the number of

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			<p>proposed 220kV GSS Sheo – 8 km D/C configuration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LILO of 220kV S/C Akal-Barmer line at proposed 220 kV GSS Sheo – 8 km D/C configuration ● LILO of 132kV S/C Jhijhaniyali- Sheo (132kV GSS) line at proposed 220kV GSS Sheo – 3.5 km D/C configuration ● LILO of 132kV S/C Undoo-Sheo (132kV GSS) line at proposed 220kV GSS Sheo – 3.5 km D/C configuration ● 132kV D/C 220kV GSS Sheo (proposed)-132kV GSS Undoo line – 48 km D/C configuration 	<p>barriers to bird movements. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
13	16-11-2022	RRVPNL	<p>Two lines of 132 kV near Gajner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 132kV S/C Kolayat (132 kV) -Shisha line of around 22 Km ● 132kV S/C Gajner (220 kV) -Shisha line of around 22 Km 	<p>Since the proposed lines are more than 90 km away from Prioritised GIB Area and are less risky to GIB, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation with a recommendation to keep it close to existing routes passing through the area, to the extent possible, so as to reduce the number of barriers to bird movements. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
14	20-12-2022	RRVPNL	<p>132 kV S/C Kolayat-Haddan line of ~25 km length</p>	<p>Since the proposed line is more than 80 km away from Prioritised GIB Area and is less risky to GIB, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation with a</p>

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				<p>recommendation to keep it close to existing routes passing through the area, to the extent possible, so as to reduce the number of barriers to bird movements. The Committee also noted three lines in the kml file shared by the applicant, which appears to be part of the single line, and therefore approval for only a single line is being granted. The same is also to be communicated to the applicant appropriately. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
15	30-12-2022	RRVPNL	<p>LILO of 220 kV Phalodi-Tinwari at 220 kV GSS Lohawat (Proposed) of- around 5.7 km length 132 kV D/c line from 220 kV GSS Lohawat (Proposed) to 132 kV GSS Lohawat (Existing) of around 1.6 km length</p>	<p>Since the proposed lines are more than 40 km away from Prioritised GIB Area and are less risky to GIB, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation with a recommendation to keep it close to existing routes passing through the area, to the extent possible, so as to reduce the number of barriers to bird movements. Moreover, the quality of the BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>
16	30-12-2022	RRVPNL	<p>LILO of 132 kV S/C Dechu (132 kV GSS)- Balesar line at 132 kV GSS Chamu (Existing) of around 2.2 km length</p>	<p>Since the proposed line is more than 40 km away from Prioritised GIB Area and is less risky to GIB, the Committee decided to ratify the overhead laying of the proposed line with BFD installation with a recommendation to keep it close to existing routes passing through the area, to the extent possible, so as to reduce the number of barriers to bird movements. The quality of BFD must be as per the specifications developed jointly by the Committee and installed as per the guideline suggested by the Committee vide report dated 19.07.2022.</p>


Minutes of Meeting held on 11.01.2023 and 13.01.2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted Committee for assessing the feasibility of laying transmission lines underground in Great Indian Bustard Priority and Potential Areas

Queries to be sent to CTU:

During the meeting, the members also discussed that many of the proposed lines are either passing through or in proximity of the Prioritised GIB Area (kmz files enclosed) in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Moreover, there must be many existing lines in this area. Any new line, if technically not feasible to be undergrounded, may add more risk to the species, and hence they may be either re-routed outside the area or aligned adjacent to the existing line, to reduce new barriers. Hence, before making any decision, it is important for the members to understand the extent of the network existing in the said area and the number of new lines proposed in the same area. Considering this point, it was decided to send the following queries to CTU.

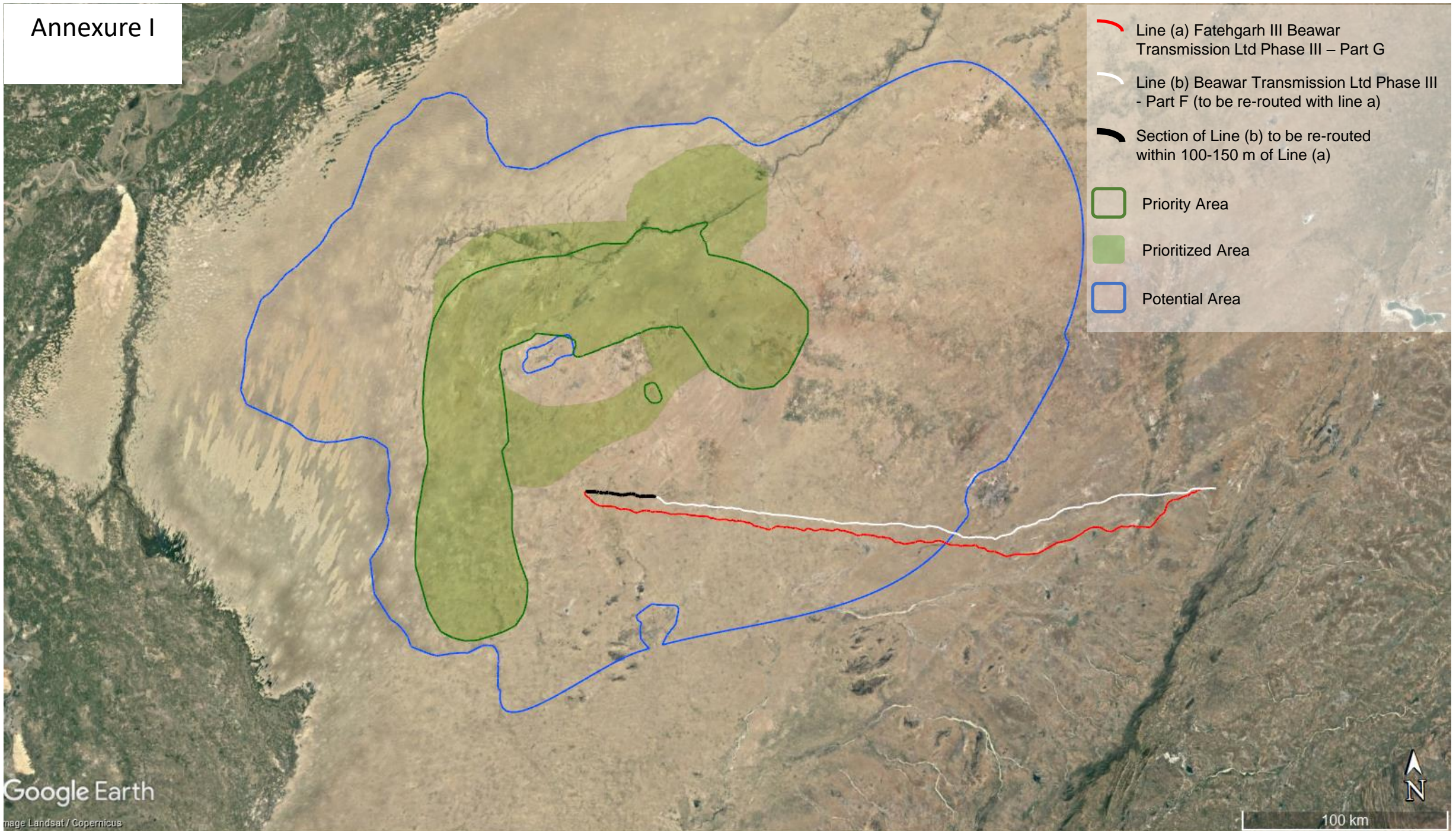
- Minimum Safe Distance to be kept between two adjacent powerlines of various capacities (66 - 765 kV) when proposed for parallel alignment within the same RoW / corridor, to reduce the barriers for birds
- Request to share KML files of all existing powerlines routes of 33kV and above in the Priority and Potential GIB areas
- Is there any future proposed powerline to be connected with Fatehgarh - 2 SS and/or any other SS within the Prioritised GIB area (kml enclosed) of Rajasthan and Gujarat?


Dr. Rahul Rawat
Scientist 'C' MNRE

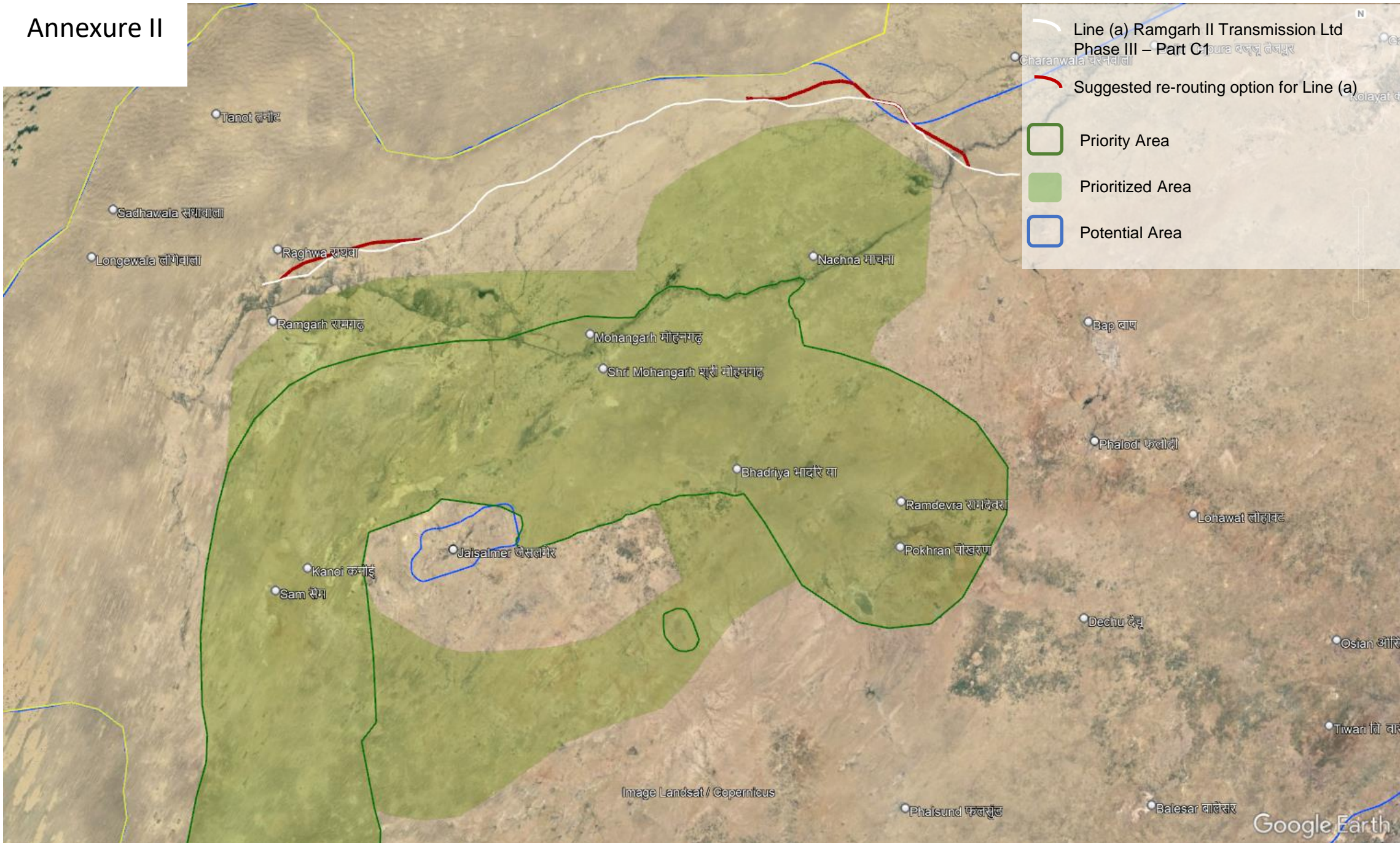

Dr. Sutirtha Dutta
Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India


Dr. Devesh Gadhavi
Deputy Director, The Corbett Foundation

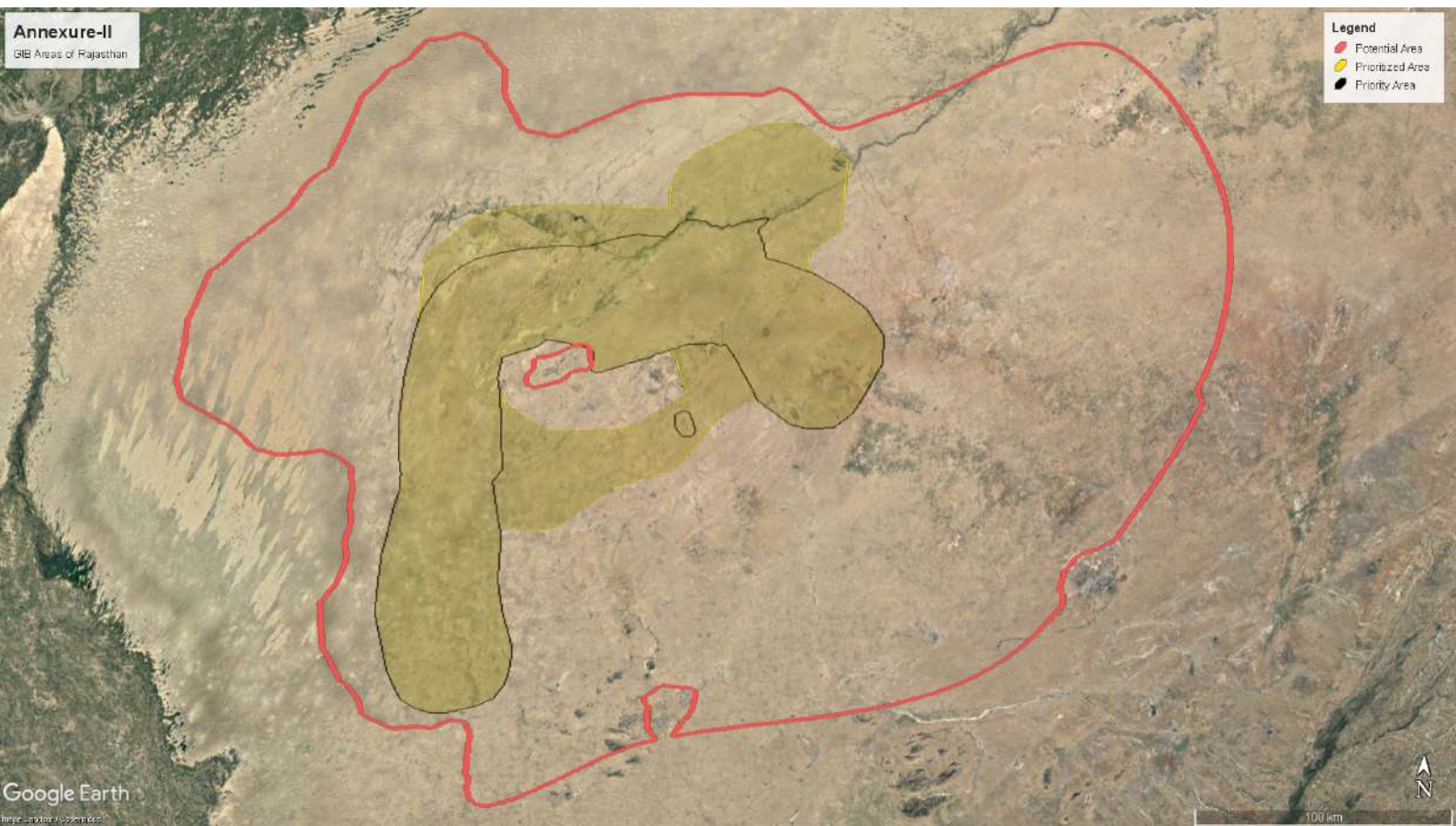
Annexure I



Annexure II



Annexure of Report # II



Annexure of Report # III

Government of Rajasthan
Department of Animal Husbandary, Rajasthan
POST MORTEM REPORT

Serial No. Date 2

Dr. Hetundan Betha, Vety. Hosp. Polyclinic Jaisalmer

Dr. Jogindra Singh Vety. Hosp. Polyclinic Jaisalmer

Dr. Shrawan Singh Vety. Hosp. Project rd h28-cbc-5m (Jaisalmer)

Dt. & Hr. of Exam. 11.40 AM Dt & Hr. of Death. Appx. 36 hrs prior to examination.

Camp. DCFWL (Campus. Resue Centre) Jaisalmer

Certified that on this 21 day of April 2022 I have
(Date) (Month & Year)

Examined a Carcass of Great Indian Bustard. at the request
(Kind of Bird)

of Range forest officer (RFO) Jaisalmer said to be property of
(Name & Address) forest Dept. Govt. of Rajasthan.

having the following description :

IDENTIFICATION

A. Ardeotis nigricaps. Male Appx. 2 yrs. Witch brown.
(Species) (Breed) (Sex) (Age) (Colour) (Height)

B. Marking

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

A. poor rustled plumage
(condition of Cadaver) (Body coat) (Body Orifices) (Scars)

① 11 cm X 7 cm Irregular shape niggot wound on left femoral region

② 0.4 cm long horizontal skin wound
(Injuries, Superficial tumors etc. with location and dimension)

③ Compound wound & fractured of left radius ulna bones.

C. Both the eyes closed. D. fall-out
(Condition of pupil & eye) (Rigor-Mortis)

④ charring of skin areas of wing no. ① ②

INTERNAL EXAMINATION ③ Both the hook joints skin (engaged).

A. Respiratory system. intact intact
(Larynx) (Trachea)

P.T.O.

intubation started (Bronchi) purified (Lungs) intubated (Pleura)
B. Cardio vascular system..... intubated

C. Spleen..... intubated

D. Liver..... intubated (Gall Bladder) intubated (Bile Duct)

E. Gastro Intestinal tract..... intubation of GIT. tube except gizzard. gizzard is filled with feed material.

F. Urinary Tract..... intubated (Kidneys) intubated (Ureters) intubated (Urethra/Cloaca)

G. Genital System..... intubated.

H. Head..... not open.

I. Brain..... not open.

J. Spinal Cord..... not open.

K. Bones and Joints..... compound fracture of left radius & ulna bones.

L. Musculature..... Musculature nearly worn. 00 @ left wrist joint.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/ CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS

..... Samples have been collected for investigation purpose.

OPINION AS TO THE CAUSE OF DEATH

..... In our opinion above said bird may died due to electrocution.

[Signature]
SI 81907 PZ 2025.
Vet Officer W.D. G.F.B.-CSC
Sew, Jaipur

[Signature]
Dr. Heta Day
V.O.
Poly clinic
Jaipur

[Signature]
(Dr. Jogender's dy.
V.O. poly clinic
Jaipur)

**Government of Rajasthan
Department of Animal Husbandary, Rajasthan
POST MORTEM REPORT**

Serial No. DD-Poly-JSCM/2022-23-430 - Date 18-10-2022
 Dr. Shravan Singh Rathore Vety. Hosp. Vet. Officer GFB-CBC-WTF Sams Jaisalmer
 Dr. Tushna Kar Karia Vety. Hosp. Vet. CAMP RA - GFB - W D I, Sams
 Dr. Degendra Singh Sargan Vety. Hosp. Vet. Officer Bida, Sams Jaisalmer
 Dt. & Hr. of Exam. 1 PM - 18-10-2022 Dt & Hr. of Death. Approx. 2.4 hrs prior to P19 Examination
 Camp. DCP WL office Campus (Rescue Centre) Jaisalmer (Raj)
 Certified that on this 18th day of October 2022 We have
 (Date) (Month & Year)

Examined a Carcass of Godawan (GFB) at the written request
 (Kind of Bird/Animal)
 of DCP Jaisalmer said to be
 property of Forest Department (J.D.P. Division), Govt. of Rajasthan, having
 the following description :

IDENTIFICATION

A. Ardeotis nigriceps female Adult Brown & white
 (Species) (Breed) (Sex) (Age) (Colour) (Height)

B. Marking —

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

A. good ruffled plumage, NAD Scars on both the
 (condition of Cadaver) (Body coat) (Body Orifices) (Scars) legs anteriorly approx.
Skin (scales) of both the legs looks pink in (5mm x 4mm)
 (Injuries, Superficial tumors etc. with location and dimension) colour. size
 C. pupil dilated eye open D. absent
 (Condition of pupil & eye) (Rigor-Mortis)

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

A. Respiratory system filled with mucus
 (Larynx) (Trachea) NAD
NAD NAD NAD
 (Bronchi) (Lungs) (Pleura)

डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ एनिमल ह्यूडरि
 राजस्थान सरकार
 जयपुर

P.T.O.

B. Cardio vascular system. Heart filled with clotted blood.

C. Spleen. Congested

D. Liver. Pale at the edges. NAD (Gall Bladder) NAD (Bile Duct)

E. Gastro Intestinal tract. All the parts of GIT was congested. Semi digested food present in ligament & intestine.

F. Urinary Tract. Congested (Kidneys) Congested (Ureters) Urethra/Cloaca NAD

G. Genital System. Ovary - NAD
oviduct - NAD

H. Head. Bruises on head.

I. Brain. Congested

J. Spinal Cord. Dislocation between 4th & 5th cervical vertebrae.

K. Bones and Joints. Detachment between thoracic & lumbar column
Junction.

L. Musculature

① Pectoral muscle of both the side congested.

② Musculature nearby dislocation & detachment of the vertebrae.

BACTERIOLOGICAL/ CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS : Different Specimens

collected from Liver, Kidney, muscle, heart, Brain, lung, Spleen, Pancreas, Proventriculum, Gizzard, Intestine with its contents for

OPINION

In our opinion above mentioned bird

may have died due to traumatic shock, caused by multiple injuries resulting due to collision with power line.

Dr. D

Dr. Defendra

Singh Soren

Dr. Shivanam Singh
Rathore.

Vet. officer GFB

CBC-Sam, Jaisalmer

(Res.)

पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी
राजकीय पशु चिकित्सालय, बीदा
जैसलमेर

Dr. Tushna Karkaria

Veterinarian

CAMPA-GIB

Wildlife Institute
of India

Factual report on mortality of a female Great Indian Bustard due to power line collision in Degrai Oran area of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on 17/10/2022

- **Incident:**

A Great Indian Bustard died in Degrai Oran area of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on 17/10/2022. Bird was found under powerline by local villagers around 9 am and was alive at the time of discovery. The bird was severely injured, unable to move, gasping for breath, and eventually died after sometime. The locals alerted the Forest Department authorities and WII's Bustard Recovery Program team. WII team reached the site at 3pm.



- **Dead bird condition and site observations:**

The bird was found upright with legs stretched backwards right below the powerline. Feathers were found at a short distance from the bird. These feathers may belong to a different individual, and there is possibility of another GIB using this area. The powerline (single circuit line has three levels of conductors with one earth wire along one arm of pylon, and total length of 17km with pylons placed at ~300m from each other. The powerline has been marked with

Bird Flight Diverters. However, out of the diverters installed by the power agency, about 90% of unit on conductors have fallen off and only the clamps are remaining, whereas, units on the earth wire were mostly intact. This powerline is located in the Degrai Oran in Rasla, an area with very extensive network of powerlines and recognized as an Important GIB area. Another powerline runs close by at about 200 m from this line. Earlier, another female GIB mortality due to powerline collision was recorded from this area in September 2020.



- **Post-mortem actions and findings:**

Weight of the bird (post-refrigerating) was 3.4 kg (on 18/10/2022 at 7am). Bird carcass was collected from the site at 18:30 on 17/10/22 and kept inside a freezer at 21:05. On 18/10/22 the bird was transported to Jaisalmer for post-mortem examination (PME). Prior to the PME, the carcass was radiographed, and body measurements were taken. Following this, at 12:30, the PME was conducted following due protocol by a vetero-legal team.

Preliminary findings: Upon external examination, several injuries were found on the head, neck, chest, back and legs with minor injuries under both wings. Blood was found inside the

oral cavity and trachea. Eyes were shrunken and pupils dilated. External palpation and radiography indicated that 4th and 5th cervical vertebrae were dislocated. Pectoral muscles were dark reddish black in color with abrasions. Vertebra near to right hip joint was broken. Heart was fully congested and clotted blood was found in all the heart chambers. All blood vessels of the gastrointestinal tract were also congested. Congestion was also found around kidney and pancreas. All the required organ samples were collected for further analysis at IVRI Bareilly. PME report (enclosed herewith) revealed that the cause of mortality was *traumatic shock due to multiple injuries resulting from collision with powerline*.



1. Injury mark on the head



2. Trauma to brain



3. Severe injury marks on neck



4. Injury marks on both legs



5. Injury marks on chest



6. Back wound with broken bone.



7. Radiograph of cervical vertebrae, indicating fracture

Annexure of Report # IV

