

SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

910, 9th Floor, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi- 110001

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SPDA/PG/2020/234

November 19, 2020

To,
Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi
Secretary

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Government of India.

Subject: Request your necessary intervention regarding the NGT order for the land adjacent to the Fatehgarh-II ISTS substation impacting around 5 GW of proposed Solar Projects.

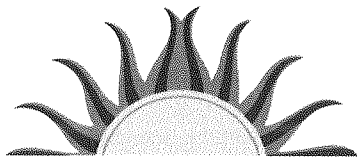
Dear Sir,

Greetings from Solar Power Developers Association.

This is in reference to the discussions held in the MNRE's monthly meeting with SPDs held on 4th November 2020. As was informed, the Oran Development Institute & Anr. had filed a petition in the National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi alleging that the Fatehgarh-II ISTS substation and its associated transmission lines which is being developed by the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) are being set up on the deemed forest land which is in violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Biological Diversity Act 2002. It is also in violation of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Re: T. N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India & Ors. The NGT issued an order directing the respondents i.e. The State of Rajasthan & Ors. in this regard on 14th October 2020 (copy attached for ready reference).

In the said order, the major direction given by NGT are reproduced here under:

1. The issued notice directed the respondents to file a reply in 4 weeks.
2. Called a report on the matter from a Joint Committee consisting of
 - Divisional Forest Officer and
 - Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
3. Directed the Committee to visit the place and submit a factual and action is taken report within six weeks. The State Pollution Control Board (PCB) will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support; and
4. Directed that the guidelines issued from the MoEF&CC regarding Environmental Clearance and the provisions as contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, should be strictly followed.



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We wish to submit that the said matter in the NGT will impact all the SPDs who have planned their projects around the conflicted region and have considered power evacuation from Fatehgarh-II substation. A total of around 5 GW of solar power capacity is expected to be impacted.

Considering gravity of situation, we request your kind intervention and issue necessary advice to PGCIL and the concerned authorities so that any development in the NGT case may not jeopardize the solar capacity planned around Fathehgarh -II substation.

We look forward to your kind consideration of the above request.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

Praveen Golash

Joint Secretary- SPDA