

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 955 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

**PRESIDENT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE THATHRI
VERSUS**

...Applicant

UNION TERRITORY OF J&K AND OTHERS

...Respondents

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Narender Pal Singh
27/59/175

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Place: New Delhi
Date: 20.08.2025

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 955 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

PRESIDENT MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE THATHRI ...Applicant

VERSUS

UNION TERRITORY OF J&K AND OTHERS ...Respondents

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF RATLE HYDRO
POWER PROJECT DRABSHALLA, DISTRICT KISHTWAR,
JAMMU & KASHMIR (RESPONDENT NO. 04) IN
COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER DATED 21.07.2025 PASSED
BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL.**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Shashi Paul Singh, aged about 46 years, currently working as Group Senior Manager (Env.) and posted at Ratle Hydro Power Project Drabshalla, District Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I, in my official capacity in the Ratle Hydro Power Project Drabshalla, District Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, i.e. Respondent No. 04 in the above-mentioned matter, conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and have been authorized therefore competent to swear this affidavit.

2. That the present additional response is being filed by Respondent No. 4, Ratle Hydro Power Project Drabshalla, District Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal vide its Order dated 21.07.2025, the respondent no.4 sought time to file additional report. The present additional response is in addition to the reply already filed on 18.02.2025.

ADDITIONAL REPORT BY RATLE HYDRO POWER PROJECT, DRABSHALLA, DISTRICT KISHTWAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR (RESPONDENT NO. 04)

1. That 850MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project located in District Kishtwar of UT of J&K is being implemented by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL) which was incorporated as a joint venture on 01.06.2021 between NHPC Limited and JKSPDC. The construction of Ratle HE Project has been awarded by RHPCL to M/s Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited ("MEIL") under an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction ("EPC") Turnkey Contract mode on 18.01.2022. The EIA studies of the Project were conducted in 2012 and based on the findings of the studies, the EIA and EMP Reports were prepared and subsequently, the Environmental Clearance (EC) was granted to the Ratle HE Project by MoEF&CC vide letter No. J-12011/39/2010-IA-1 dated 12.12.2012. The Environment Clearance of Project has been transferred by MoEF&CC in the name of RHPCL letter No. J-12011/39/2010-IA-1 dated 27.09.2021.

2. That in compliance to the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance (EC), three designated Muck disposal sites have been handed over to the Contactor which are categorically mentioned in the Contract Agreement executed with M/s Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (M/s MEIL), Hyderabad, Telangana. These designated sites ensure the proper and systematic disposal of muck generated from the construction activities of the Ratle Hydroelectric Project. The details of these three designated sites are as follows:

Site 1: Right bank of river Chenab d/s of proposed Dam with approx. length 1350 m;

Site 2: Left bank of river Chenab d/s of proposed Dam with approx.length 1400 m and

Site 3: Right bank of Kuligad nalla with approx. length 450 m.

Details of designated Muck disposal sites

Description	Area (Ha)	Capacity (Lakh CuM)	Khasra Nos. of land
Muck Disposal site-1 (right bank of river)	14.81	12.8	mentioned site is part of forest land diverted for use vide GOJK orderNo. 234-FST of 2012 dated 27.04.2012 and subsequently, forest clearance transferred in favour of RHPCL vide

			MoEF&CC communication No. 15-01/2021- Jammu dated 08.03.2022
Muck Disposal site-2 (left bank of river)	11.95	7.6	mentioned site falls under Khasra No. 2879/265/185 Min. and 293/232 Min. in village Dugga and said land acquired in 2012 by JKPDC, one of the Promoters of RHPCL
Muck Disposal site-3 (r/b of Kuligad Nalla)	3.82	3.4	Khasra No. 171 Min and 172 Min. in village Khori (land acquired in 2012 by JKPDC, one of the Promoters of RHPCL)
Total	30.58	23.8	

3. That in accordance with the conditions mentioned in the Environmental Clearance (EC), a total of 24.4 lakh cubic meters of muck is projected to be generated as a result of excavation activities. Of this, approximately 50% (i.e., 12.2 lakh cubic meters) shall be utilized for construction purposes. The remaining 12.2 lakh cubic meters will be systematically disposed of at the above three designated muck disposal sites, with appropriate measures undertaken for the consolidation and stabilization of the dumped material.

4. That out of total muck generated, approximately 5.00 lakh cubic meters of muck has been utilized by Respondent No. 05, M/s MEIL for construction purposes such as coffer dam, aggregate/sand processing, retaining structures, crate works, construction of roads and Power House ramp etc. Further, approx. 1.86 Lakh cum of muck had been dumped earlier at Muck disposal site-I (right bank) whereas approx. 0.50 Lakh cum of muck had been dumped at Muck disposal site-II (left bank). It would be relevant to mention that the portion of muck which was kept temporarily in the Dam body for the construction of coffer Dam, has been utilized for the said purpose and the unused quantity has been relocated and stacked in the Project acquired land.
5. **Cessation of muck dumping on the right bank:** That in order to avoid any potential spillage of muck into the Chenab River, the dumping of muck on the right bank of the river is completely ceased since July 2024. The District Administration, J&K Pollution Control Committee and the MoEF&CC have already been duly informed regarding the cessation of dumping activities on the right bank.
6. **Construction of crate protection walls/ retaining structures on right bank :** For adequate protection of dumping site at right bank of the river (Muck Disposal Zone-1), a 6-meter-high retaining/protection wall of approx. 400 m length, has been constructed by the EPC Contractor (M/s MEIL), by using the wire crates in layers including 1 mtr high concrete base, along the entire utilized muck disposal area on the right bank of river.

7. **Retrieval and relocation of muck from right bank (Zone -1):**

The portion of muck inadvertently spilled on the right bank of river Chenab (Muck Disposal Zone-1) has been cleared by using the earth movers/ machinery equipments. It has been submitted by M/s MEIL that more than 80% of muck has been relocated and is temporarily stacked/ stored at the alternative location within Project acquired land at Joshana and Kandini. The relocation of muck has been carried out in a phased and environmentally responsible manner, with regular monitoring. The relocated muck has been stored/ stacked at these temporary sites, in compliance with environmental regulations and in coordination with the local Authorities. As submitted by the EPC Contractor i.e. M/s MEIL, the relocated muck shall be further utilized in the construction activities associated with the Project, thereby adhering to principles of sustainable waste management and minimizing the environmental impact. Further, very small portion of muck (approx. 15%) which is safely stacked beyond the Crate walls will be recycled for further use in the Project construction works, in line with the principles of environmental safety and sustainability. In this regard, vide letter dated 01-08-2025, necessary permission has been sought from District Administration for issuance of NOC in favour of M/s MEIL for issuance of short term permit from Geology and Mining Department, J&K for utilization and processing of above mentioned balance muck in the Crusher Plants of M/s MEIL for further use in the Project works.

8. **Providing of alternative site at considerable safe distance:-** That the temporary alternative site at Joshana and Kandini (within Project acquired land) has been provided by Ratle Power Project to the EPC Contractor for temporary storage/ stacking of muck. The muck is now being stored/ stacked at this temporary site (Joshana) which is located far away from the river i.e. approx. 8 kms, ensuring compliance with environmental safeguards.
9. That the proposal has been submitted to the J&K Pollution Control Committee (under intimation to MoEF&CC) vide communication dated 29.01.2025, for grant of permission for utilization of 14.6 Ha land (within Project acquired land), for temporary storage/ stacking of the muck by the EPC Contractor- M/s MEIL. Copy of the same is attached as Annexure- A1.
10. **Regular site Inspections:** That it is being strictly ensured that the natural flow of river course is not at all disturbed and no portion of river is encroached due to any construction activities of the Project. Further, regular site inspections are being carried out to ensure that the muck disposal sites remain free from any environmental concerns/ risk.
11. **a) Rehabilitation of construction sites including Muck Disposal sites:** That after the completion of Project works, the muck disposal sites shall be suitably rehabilitated by way of plantation and other engineering & biological measures. The Muck dumping site shall be handed over to the J&K Forest Department after their restoration

including plantations etc. for which the proposal has already been submitted by Ratle Project.

12. **b) Landscaping and restoration including Green Area Development at the work sites:-** That Ratle Hydroelectric Project has requested the J&K Forest Department vide letter dated 03-12-2024, for an early implementation of the safeguard measures related to restoration of the construction sites including the Green belt Development and the associated engineering & biological measures at the work sites. The biological measures and the plantation activities including Green belt development at the construction sites of the Project shall be implemented through the J&K Forest Department. Also, the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan and the Biodiversity Conservation & Management Plan of Ratle HE Project are under the stage of approval by the J&K Forest Department.

13. That the periodic environmental compliance reports are being timely submitted to the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&K PCC) and MoEF&CC in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and guidelines by answering respondent. These reports document the measures undertaken to ensure compliance with environmental norms, including the proper disposal of muck and implementation of other environmental safeguards measures. The visit of MoEF&CC Officials is being conducted regularly to ensure the compliance of recommended safeguards.

14. That the EPC Contractor-M/s MEIL, is being regularly instructed by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation (RHPCL), to ensure strict adherence to the applicable environmental laws and norms during the execution of the project works. Specific instructions have been issued to M/s MEIL for ensuring that muck and debris generated from the construction activities are deposited exclusively at the designated muck disposal sites that have been duly handed over for this purpose, without any spillage into the river Chenab or any other water body.
15. That vide communication dated 28.03.2025 and 29.03.2025, the details of the remedial measures undertaken (including photographs and video file) at Project site by the EPC Contractor -M/s MEIL to mitigate any adverse environmental impact on account of disposal of muck, have been submitted to Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee for the purpose of verification of the safeguard measures undertaken at site. Copy is attached as Annexure-A2 (colly).
16. The latest compliance cum status report regarding the remedial measures taken at site by the EPC Contractor-M/s MEIL, has been submitted to J&K Pollution Control Committee vide communication No. RATLE/CEO/2025/E-154 dated 18.06.2025 and RATLE/CEO/2025/L-176 dated 07.08.2025 respectively (Copy is attached as Annexure-A3 & A4). Any sort of shortcoming, if observed, shall be duly fulfilled in letter and spirit.

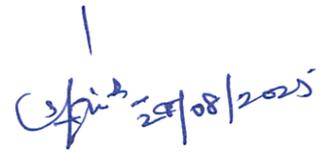
17. That the Ratle Hydro Power Project (Answering Respondent No. 04) remains fully committed to ensure that the muck generated from the construction activities is managed by the EPC Contractor in adherence to the applicable environmental guidelines and the Project activities do not cause any harm to the local community, properties and/or the environment.

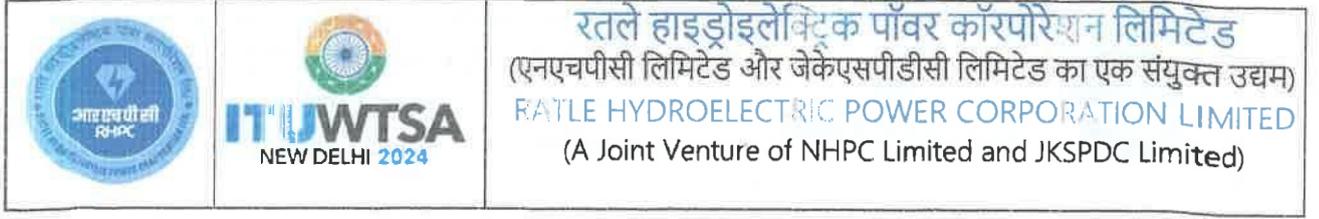
18. That the above additional response may kindly be taken on record.


Deponent

Verification:

Verified at New Delhi on this 20th day of August the contents of the above submissions are true and correct on the basis of material and records maintained and available in office. No part of it is false.


Deponent



सन्दर्भ सं: / Ref. No. **RATLE/CEO/2025/E-105**

दिनांक / Date: **29-01-2025**

Member Secretary,
Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee,
Parivesh Bhawan, Forest Complex,
Transport Nagar, Narwal,
Jammu, UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Subject:-Permission for utilization of 14.6 Ha of Project acquired land for temporary stacking/ storage of muck

Respected Sir,

In reference to subject cited above, the following is hereby submitted for kind consideration please:-

1. 850MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project in District Kishtwar of UT of Jammu & Kashmir is being implemented by Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL) incorporated on 01.06.2021 (a joint venture of NHPC Limited and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited).
2. Prior to formation of RHPCL, the Project was being executed by M/s GVK – a private Developer on IPP cum BOOT mode, however, the Project was abandoned in 2014 by the Developer. As such, the Ratle HE Project in abandoned stage has been taken over by RHPCL in 2021 i.e. after a period of 8 years.
3. The construction of Ratle HE Project has been awarded to M/s Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited ("MEIL"), Hyderabad under an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction ("EPC") Turnkey Contract mode on 18.01.2022.
4. The EIA studies for Ratle HE Project were conducted in 2012 and accordingly, the Environmental Clearance (EC) was granted by MoEF&CC vide letter No. J-12011/39/2010-IA.I dated 12.12.2012. Subsequent to formation of RHPCL in June 2021, the EC was transferred in favour of RHPCL by MoEF&CC vide letter No. J-12011/39/2010-IA.I dated 27.09.2021 (**Annexure-I**).
5. Entire land required for construction of Ratle HE Project measuring 567.22 Ha (private & State land: 289.48 Ha; forest land: 138.93 Ha) stands already acquired/ diverted in the name of JKSPDC, which is one of the promoters of RHPCL.



6. In compliance to the Environment Clearance (EC) conditions, three (03) designated muck disposal sites (falling under District Kishtwar) stand already handed over to M/s MEIL (EPC Contractor) for proper disposal of muck arising from the construction activities of Ratle HE Project, as detailed below;

Site 1: right bank of river Chenab d/s of proposed Dam with approx. length 1350 m;

Site 2: left bank of river Chenab d/s of proposed Dam with approx. length 1400 m; and

Site 3: right bank of Kuligad nalla with approx. length 450 m.

Details of designated Muck disposal sites

Description	Area (Ha)	Capacity (Lakh CuM)	Khasra Nos. of land
Muck Disposal site-1 (right bank of river)	14.81	12.8	Mentioned site is part of forest land diverted for use for Ratle HE Project, for the said purpose
Muck Disposal site-2 (left bank of river)	11.95	7.6	Mentioned site falls in village Dugga and acquired in 2012 by JKPDC, one of the Promoters of RHPCL
Muck Disposal site-3 (right bank of Kuligad Nalla)	3.82	3.4	Mentioned site falls in village Khori and acquired in 2012 by JKPDC, one of the Promoters of RHPCL

The location of designated Muck disposal site -1, site-2 and site-3 has been mentioned in **Annexure-II**.

7. As per the conditions mentioned in the EC letter, a total of 24.4 lakh cubic meters of muck is projected to be generated as a result of excavation activities. Of this, approximately 50% (i.e., 12.2 lakh cubic meters) will be utilized for construction purposes. The remaining 12.2 lakh cubic meters will be systematically disposed of at the above three designated muck disposal sites, with appropriate measures undertaken for the consolidation and stabilization of the dumped material.
8. As per the details submitted by EPC Contractor M/s MEIL, substantial quantum of muck (approx. 4.55 lakh CuM) has been utilized for construction purposes such as retaining structures, crate works, and aggregate/sand processing, construction of roads, Power House ramp etc.



9. As submitted by M/s MEIL, the remaining quantity of muck (approx. 2.36 lakh cubic meters) has been disposed of/stacked at the designated muck disposal sites, by providing crate works, retaining structures, protection walls, etc.
10. However, to avoid any spillage of muck into the Chenab River, the dumping of muck on site-1 has been completely stopped since July 2024 and the same has been intimated to District Administration/GOJK and MoEF&CC.
11. On the request of EPC contractor (M/s MEIL), Ratle Project has provided an alternative site at Joshana village for the temporary stacking of muck which is far away from the river. The said alternative site having area of approx. 10 Ha falls within the land acquired for the Project in 2011-12. The same has been intimated to MoEF&CC and J&K Pollution Control Committee in October 2024.
12. On further request of MEIL to provide more space for storage/ stacking of muck, Ratle Project has identified two more alternative locations which fall well within the project acquired land as detailed below:
13. It has been repeatedly submitted by EPC contractor (MEIL) that the slopes on the designated sites 1 & 3 are not practically suitable to dump the muck as per the plan as there are chances of spillage, as such alternative/additional dumping sites will be required for temporary stacking/storage of the muck.
14. It is pertinent to mention here that one of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee constituted in the matter "President Municipal Committee Thathri Vs Union Territory of J&K" is that "The Project Proponent must obtain the approval for the new muck disposal sites to ensure its utilization in accordance with the recommended measures".

Sl. No.	Location	Area (Ha)	Khasra No.	Status
1.	Village Joshana (approx. 8 kms from river)	10 Ha	317/308/209 Min. and 319/208/2 Min.	Project Acquired land (Annexure-III)
2.	Village Dugga (approx. 400 mtr from river)	4 Ha	289/265/185 Min. and 293/232 Min.	Project Acquired land (Annexure-IV)
3.	Village Salana Kandini (approx. 300 mtr from river)	0.6 Ha	19, 20	Project Acquired land (Annexure-V)



15. Moreover, MEIL vide their letter No. RHEP/MEIL/D/25/01/406 dated 22-01-2025, has requested for the permission from the concerned Authorities for use of above mentioned 3 alternative sites within the Project acquired land for temporary stacking/ storage of muck. MEIL has assured that the muck dumping process will be carried out in an organized and environmentally responsible manner in compliance with all necessary regulations.
16. It is to mention here that 850MW Ratle HE Project being of immense National Importance, the progress of same is being continuously monitored by various Offices of Govt. of India including PMO.

In view of above, it is requested to kindly grant permission for temporary stacking/storage of the muck at the above mentioned three alternative sites which fall well within the Project acquired land. The complete revenue details including the Land Awards, google maps, shajra (revenue map) etc. pertaining to the said acquired land parcels, are enclosed herewith for your kind consideration.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


A K Nauriyal

Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:-

1. Regional Officer, MoEF&CC, Sub-Regional Office, Jammu- for kind information.
2. Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar- for kind information.

		<p>रतले हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड और जेकेएसपीडीसी लिमिटेड का एक संयुक्त उद्यम) RATLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (A Joint Venture of NHPC Limited and JKSPDC Limited)</p>
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Ref.: RATLE/CEO/2025/L-129

Date: 28-03-2025

**The Member Secretary
Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee
Transport Nagar
Jammu**

Subject: OA No. 955/2024 titled "President, Municipal Committee, Thathri" Vs " Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir"

Ref.: -JKPCC letter No. JKPCC/Sc./OA-955/2024/2334-35 dated 27-03-2025

Sir,

In reference to the subject cited matter, it is mention that 850MW Ratle HE Project, Drabshalla, Kishtwar is being executed in EPC -Turnkey Mode and the EPC Contract has been awarded to M/s Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (M/s MEIL). The details of the remedial measures taken for remedying any adverse environmental impact w.r.t. disposal of muck by the EPC Contractor- M/s MEIL are as follows:-

- 1. Retrieval and relocation of muck from right bank (Muck Disposal site-1):**
The portion of muck inadvertently spilled on the right bank of river (Muck Disposal Zone-1) has been completely retrieved and relocated to the alternative sites (falling within the Project acquired land) provided by the Project to the EPC Contractor at Joshana village etc., for temporary storage/ stacking of muck, in full compliance with environmental regulations and in coordination with the relevant Authorities. It has been submitted by M/s MEIL (Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited) that the retrieved muck shall be utilized for further construction activities associated with the Project, thereby adhering to principles of sustainable waste management and minimizing environmental impact.
- 2. The alternative sites provided to the EPC Contractor are situated at a considerably safe distance from the river (approx. 6-8 kms), ensuring compliance with environmental safeguards. The muck is now being temporarily stored far from the river and all construction activities are being undertaken in compliance with environmental regulations.**
- 3. Providing of crate protection walls/ retaining walls on right bank :** As submitted by the EPC Contractor (M/s MEIL), for providing the adequate protection, avoiding any spillage of muck and to mitigate any adverse environmental impact, a 6-meter-high retaining wall of approx. 400 m length, well above the recorded HFL, has been constructed by using the wire crates in layers including 1 mtr high concrete base, along the entire utilized muck disposal area



on right bank of river (**Muck Disposal Zone-1**). It is to mention here that a stretch of approx. 100 meter on the upstream of Muck Disposal site-1 on right bank (u/s of Crate walls), has been kept as it is, same being the construction site for four nos. Tail Race Tunnel outlets of the Project, where construction activities are scheduled to commence shortly.

4. **Cessation of muck dumping on the right bank:** To avoid any potential spillage of muck into the Chenab River, the dumping of muck on the right bank of the river has been completely ceased since July 2024. The District Administration, J&K Pollution Control Committee and the MoEF&CC have been duly informed regarding the cessation of dumping activities at the right bank.
5. **Regular site Inspections:** Regular site inspections are being carried out to ensure that the muck disposal sites remain free from any environmental concerns/ risk.
6. Vide letter dated 29.01.2025, the proposal has been submitted to the J&K Pollution Control Committee for grant of permission for utilization of 14.6 Ha acquired land of the Project, for temporary storage/ stacking of the muck by the EPC Contractor- M/s MEIL.
7. It has been strictly ensured that the natural flow of river course is not at all disturbed and no portion of river is encroached by any construction activities.
8. **Rehabilitation of Muck Disposal sites:** After completion of Project works, the muck disposal sites shall be suitably rehabilitated by way of plantation and other engineering & biological measures. The Muck dumping site shall be handed over to the J&K Forest Department after their restoration including plantations etc.
9. J&K Forest Department has been requested by Ratle HE Project for implementation of the activities/works related to the landscaping and restoration of the work sites including the Green belt Development and the associated engineering & biological measures at the work sites. In this regard, a Committee comprising of Divisional Forest Officers from Kishtwar, Doda and Marwah Forest Divisions along with Wildlife Warden, Chenab Division, has been constituted for finalization of the biological measures/ plantation activities including Green belt development at the construction sites of the Project. The Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan and the Biodiversity Conservation & Management Plan of Ratle HE Project are already under consideration by the J&K Forest Department for their approval.
10. Approval for alternative sites for temporary storage/ stacking of muck has requested for the permission from the concerned Authorities for use of above



mentioned 3 alternative sites within the Project acquired land for stacking/ storage of muck. MEIL has assured that the muck dumping process will be carried out in an organized and environmentally responsible manner in compliance with all necessary regulations

11. The periodic environmental compliance reports are being timely submitted to the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&K PCC) in accordance with the applicable statutory requirements and guidelines by answering respondent. These reports document the measures undertaken to ensure compliance with environmental norms, including the proper disposal of muck and other safeguards implementation.
12. M/s MEIL, is being regularly instructed by Ratle Hydro Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), to ensure strict adherence to the applicable environmental laws and norms during the execution of the project works. Specific instructions have been issued to M/s MEIL for ensuring that muck and debris generated from the construction activities are deposited exclusively at the designated muck disposal sites that have been duly handed over for this purpose, without any spillage into the river Chenab or any other water body.
13. The Ratle Project remains committed to ensure that all construction activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and the relevant statutory provisions.
14. The Project Proponent remains committed to comply with all environmental and safety norms, ensuring that the project activities do not cause any harm to the local community, properties and environment.

Thanking you,

Encls:- Relevant photographs and video showing the corrective measures / remedial measures taken

Yours faithfully,



A. K. Nauriyal
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:-

1. Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar- for kind information.

1679



रतले हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
(एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड और जेकेएसपीडीसी लिमिटेड का एक संयुक्त उद्यम)
RATLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of NHPC Limited and JKSPDC Limited)

सन्दर्भ सं / Ref. No. **RATLE/CEO/2025/E-154**

दिनांक/ Date: 18-06-2025

Member Secretary,
Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee,
Parivesh Bhawan, Forest Complex,
Transport Nagar, Narwal,
Jammu, UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Subject:-Regarding remedial measures taken by M/s MEIL w.r.t. disposal of muck and rectification of shortcomings in line with directions of J&KPCC

Ref:-1)Your Office letter No. JKJPCC/Sc./OA-955/2024/194-95 dated 28-04-2025
2)RHPCL letter No. RATLE/CEO/2025/L-129 dated 28-03-2025

Sir,

Kindly refer to your aforementioned communication on the cited subject vide which some comments w.r.t. the remedial measures taken by the EPC Contractor (M/s MEIL) for disposal of muck, have been forwarded. In this regard, it is submitted that the construction of Ratle HE Project has been awarded to M/s Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited ("MEIL"), Hyderabad under an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction ("EPC") Turnkey Contract mode on 18.01.2022.

As such, M/s MEIL (EPC Contractor), vide communication dated 03.06.2025, has been instructed to take immediate remedial measures with respect to the gaps and deficiencies pointed out by the J&K PCC in their verification report. The compliance report in this regard, received from M/s MEIL, is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-I**, for your consideration.

Moreover, as per the details furnished by M/s MEIL from time to time and in continuation to RHPCL letter mentioned at **Ref-2**) above, the following is hereby submitted for kind consideration at your end.

1. It has been submitted by M/s MEIL that substantial quantum of muck has been utilized for construction purposes such as retaining structures, crate works, and aggregate/sand processing, construction of roads, Power House ramp etc. Further, approx. 2.36 lakh CuM of muck was disposed of/stacked at the designated muck disposal sites (1.86 Lakh CuM at Site-1 and 0.5 Lakh CuM at Site-2:).

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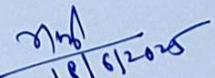
रतले हाइड्रोइलेक्ट्रिक पावर कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
(एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड और जेकेएसपीडीसी लिमिटेड का एक संयुक्त उद्यम)
RATLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of NHPC Limited and JKSPDC Limited)

2. It has been submitted by M/s MEIL that the muck earlier lying in the proximity of river on right bank (Muck Disposal Zone-1) has been retrieved by using the earth movers/ equipments and the same has been relocated and temporarily stacked/ stored within Project acquired land at village Joshana, far away from the river. The remaining small portion of muck safely stacked beyond the Crate walls will be recycled for further use in the Project construction works, in line with the principles of environmental safety and sustainability.
3. It has been submitted by M/s MEIL that the muck currently stored on the right bank is of temporary nature and as part of construction strategy, the said material will be recycled for further use in the Project construction works.
4. Vide communication No. RATLE/CEO/2025/E-105 dated 29.01.2025, the proposal has been submitted by RHPCL to J&K Pollution Control Committee for grant of permission for utilizing the Project acquired land (Joshana, Kandini and Dugga) for temporary stacking/ storage of muck by the EPC Contractor (M/s MEIL). The permission from J&K PCC in this regard is awaited. The details of crate walls/ protection work provided by M/s MEIL at temporary alternative site Joshana, are mentioned in MEIL's compliance report dated 05.06.2025 (**Annexure-I**).

Further updation in the compliance report w.r.t. the remedial measures taken by M/s MEIL (EPC Contractor), shall be timely submitted for kind information and consideration by J&K Pollution Control Committee.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


(M. K. Kashyap)
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to:-

1. Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar.

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Letter No. RHEP/MEIL/2025-26/059

Dated: 05/06/2025

To,

The Chief Executive Officer,

Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd,

Kishtwar, UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sub.: Turnkey Execution of 850 MW Ratle Hydro Project located at Kishtwar District in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir: **Compliance report on muck removal and disposal activities by MEIL.**

Ref:

1. **LOA NO. RATLE/CEO/2022/145, dated: 18.01.2022**
2. **RATLE/CEO/2025/L-149 dated 03/06/2025.**

Dear Sir,

With reference to the ongoing communication regarding muck removal and disposal activities related to the project, we hereby submit the following compliance report for your kind perusal and record:

1. Submission of Muck Removal Details

MEIL has submitted comprehensive details regarding the muck removal process, including the quantum of muck cleared or relocated, through the following official communications:

- Letter No. 348 dated 26/11/2024
- Letter No. 349 dated 27/11/2024
- Letter No. 368 dated 12/12/2024
- Letter No. 401 dated 20/01/2025
- Letter No. 402 dated 20/01/2025
- Letter No. 406 dated 22/01/2025
- Letter No. 407 dated 23/01/2025
- Letter No. 010 dated 23/04/2025

The methodology adopted for muck clearance, relocation, and volume records have been regularly updated to RHPCL in the above-mentioned correspondence. This reflects MEIL's continuous effort towards maintaining transparency and timely reporting of critical environmental and construction activities. The latest details of quantity of muck transported is attached as Annexure-I.

2. Status of Right Bank Dumping Yard – Zone 1

The area under consideration, i.e., the Right Bank Dumping Yard – Zone 1, has been completely cleared of objectionable muck that was earlier lying in proximity to the river. The riverbank has now been restored to its natural, uniform width, ensuring unimpeded flow of water without any risk of obstruction or environmental hazard.

Regarding the muck presently stored behind the wire crates, MEIL would like to clarify that the muck which is now securely retained within the wirecrates has only been temporarily stacked. This material will be recycled and reused as part of the ongoing and upcoming project works. Appropriate measures are in place to avoid any spillage or environmental impact until it is utilized.

3. Temporary Nature of Muck Dumped on Right Bank

The muck currently dumped on the right bank is of a temporary nature. It is part of MEIL's construction strategy to recycle and reuse this material during project execution, thus minimizing wastage and reducing environmental footprint.

4. Regularization of Muck Disposal Sites

With reference to the ongoing review of muck disposal and environmental safety, we wish to submit the following details regarding the additional protective measures implemented by MEIL at various dumping sites:

Dumping Site No. 1 – Near Joshana Village (Upside of GVK Colony)

This site is located at a considerable distance from any river, Nallah, or private property. As such, there is presently no requirement for any additional protective measures. However, should any requirement arise in the future, MEIL is fully committed to taking immediate and appropriate action.

Regarding the downside of GVK Colony, where there was a minor risk of muck spillage, the area has already been adequately safeguarded using wire crates to prevent any overflow or environmental hazard.

Photographic evidence of the protective works is enclosed for your reference as **Annexure-II**.

Dumping Site No. 2 – Kandni (Upstream of Dam Site, Left Bank, NH-244)

This dumping location is also well away from any water body, drainage line, or private land. At present, no additional protective structures are required. However, MEIL remains committed to undertaking suitable protection measures, if and when the need arises, as per site conditions.

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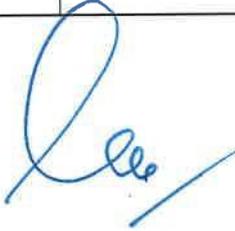
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Annexure I

Details of Transported/Re-located Muck from Ratle HEP to various dumping locations			
Joshana Village, GVK COLONY Downside	Joshana Village, GVK COLONY Upside	KANDINI, Upstream of Dam site left bank on NH 244	HASTI Nallah Along NH 244
QTY (MT)	QTY (MT)	QTY (MT)	QTY (MT)
195030.74	438972.34	51915.42	448072.17



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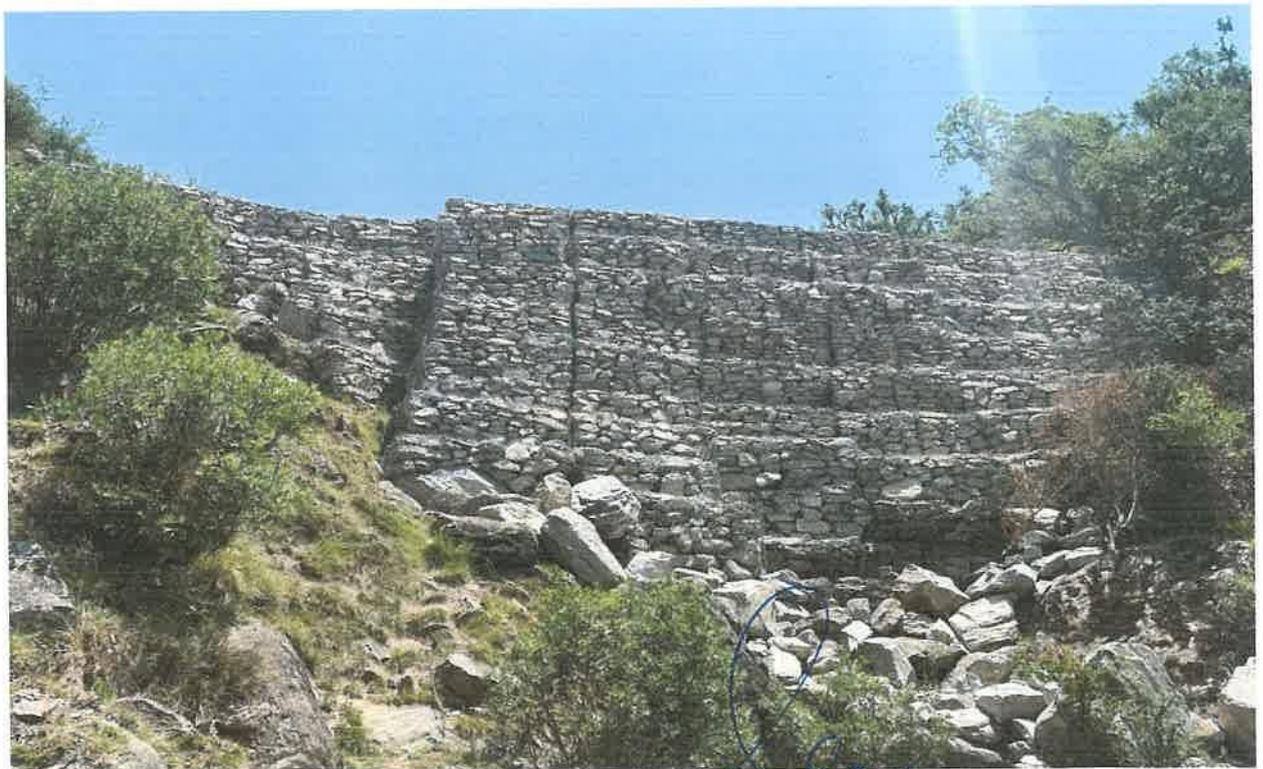
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Annexure II

Photographs of Protection works at GVK colony downside



Wirecrates Installed to avoid spillage of muck



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(एनएचपीसी लिमिटेड और जेकेएसपीडीसी लिमिटेड का एक संयुक्त उद्यम)
RATLE HYDROELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of NHPC Limited and JKSPDC Limited)

सन्दर्भ सं: / Ref. No. **RATLE/GM(Geo)/2025/L-176** दिनांक / Date: 07-08-2025

**Deputy Commissioner
District Kishtwar
UT of Jammu and Kashmir-182 204**

Sub:-OA No. 955 of 2024 titled "President Municipal Committee, Thathri Versus Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors".

Ref:-1) Your Office letter No. DCK/PS/25/F. No. 16/542 dated 28-07-2025

2) Member Secretary, J&K PCC's letter No. JKPCC/Sc./OA-955/2024/699-700 dated 24-07-2025

Sir,

Kindly refer to your aforementioned communication (**Ref-1**) on the cited subject vide which Member Secretary, J&KPCC's letter dated 24-07-2025 (**Ref-2**) has been endorsed citing observations raised in the Inspection report w.r.t. the remedial measures taken by M/s MEIL for handling and disposal of muck.

In this regard, the EPC Contractor of Ratle HE Project i.e. M/s MEIL was instructed vide letter No. RATLE/GM(Geo)/2025/L-172 dated 30-07-2025, to take immediate remedial measures and ensure that the deficiencies and the gaps pointed out in the Inspection report are rectified and remediated in letter and spirit.

The compliance report in this regard received from M/s MEIL vide letter No. RHEP/MEIL/2025-26/116 dated 07-08-2025, is enclosed herewith for your kind information and consideration.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Ajay Verma)

General Manager (Geology)

Copy to:-

1. Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, J&K- with a request for kind consideration of the compliance report.
2. CEO, RHPCL, Kishtwar.

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Letter No. RHEP/MEIL/2025-26/116

Dated: 07/08/2025

To,

The Chief Executive Officer,

Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd,

Kishtwar, UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sub.: TURNKEY EXECUTION OF 850 MW RATLE HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT LOCATED AT KISHTWAR DISTRICT IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR—**Reg. “Submission of Compliance Status – OA No. 955 of 2024 titled *President, Municipal Committee, Thathri Vs Union Territory of J&K*”.**

Ref:

- 1) RATLE/GM(Geo)/2025/L-172 dated 30.07.2025

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the above subject and cited letter regarding the observations made by the three-member committee constituted by the J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in compliance with the Hon’ble NGT directions dated 19.02.2025.

In this connection, we wish to submit the following compliance status for your kind consideration:

- a) Removal and Relocation of Muck from Zone-1 Downstream – Right Bank: The muck earlier lying in the proximity of river on right bank (Muck Disposal Zone-1) has been removed in a systematic manner and the retrieved muck (more than 80%) has been temporarily stacked/ stored within Project acquired land at village Joshana, far away from the river (approx. 8kms from river). The relocation of muck has been carried out in a phased and environmentally responsible manner, with regular monitoring.

As already submitted vide our compliance report dated 12-07-2025, very small portion of muck (approx. 15%) which is safely stacked beyond the Crate walls will be recycled for further use in the Project construction works, in line with the principles of environmental safety and sustainability.

In this regard, M/s MEIL has already applied to District Administration for issuance of NOC for obtaining short term permit from Geology and Mining Department, J&K for utilization and processing of said muck in the Crusher Plants of Project for further use in the Project works.

- b) As already submitted in the compliance report, the relocated muck is now being temporarily stacked/ stored at alternative locations within the Project acquired land, far away from the river. The necessary preventive measures in the form of crate walls, toe walls etc. have been implemented and the same are also being strengthened at all relevant locations, including:

- a. Village Joshana near GVK Colony (Upstream and Downstream).
- b. Hasti Nallah Site.



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These measures include installation of toe walls, crate works etc. Photographic evidence showing the current status of these interventions is enclosed herewith for your perusal.

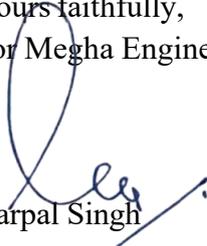
We wish to assure you that no fresh muck dumping is being carried out at Zone-1 downstream, and continuous efforts are underway to comply fully with the environmental safeguards as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT and guidelines of J&K PCC.

We remain committed to taking all necessary steps towards environmental protection and ensuring complete compliance with the regulatory requirements.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

For Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited.



Harpal Singh

Joint Chief Operating Officer

Cc: For Kind Information to:-

- 1) Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar.
- 2) Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Jammu.
- 3) General Manager-I/II/IV, RHPCL, Kishtwar.

Encl:

- 1) Photographs showing current status of muck removal and preventive measures and copy of Letters dated 12-07-2025 and 16-07-2025.

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Photographs Showing Toe Protection work for stacked muck near Joshana Village

(Project Acquired Area)

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Photographs Showing Toe Protection work for stacked muck near Hasti.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a few strokes.

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd.

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Photographs Showing Removal of Muck from Zone-1 (Right Bank Downstream)