

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Northern Regional Office

Bays No.24-25,
Dakshin Marg Sector-31A,
Chandigarh 160030
Dated: 15.09.2017

F.No.: 9-HRB056/2017-CHA

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Haryana,
Haryana Civil Secretariat,
Chandigarh

Sub: Diversion of 1.3386 ha of forest land in favour of Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Panipat for erection of 400 KV D/C (Quad) Kurukshetra-Jind Transmission Line, under forest division and district Karnal, Haryana

Ref: i) Nodal Officer Haryana letter no. Admn-D-III-6974/4200 dated 08.03.2017 and Admn-D-III-6974/1555 dated 22.08.2017.

Sir,

Please refer to the above cited letter and online proposal no. FP/HR/Trans/20699/2016 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose in accordance with section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government "**in-principle**" approval is **hereby conveyed** for diversion of **1.3386 hectares** of forest land for the above mentioned project subject to the following conditions:

- i. Cost of compensatory afforestation may be realized from the user agency;
- ii. Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted for non-forestry purpose may be realized from the user agency, as per Ministry's directions issued vide letters No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 5th February 2009 and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's Order dated 30th October 2002, 28th March, 2008, 24th April, 2008 and 9th May 2008;
- iii. As per the orders of the Government of India vide letter No. 5-2/2010-CAMPA 24.06.2011, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land and all other CA levies shall be deposited through web portal of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change <http://forestsclearance.nic.in> or <http://efclearance.nic.in>.

3. **The following conditions shall also be complied with after the final approval is accorded:**

- i. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged;
- ii. Efforts should be made to fell minimum number of trees and in any case, not more than 527 trees will be removed.
- iii. The trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- iv. The CA will be carried out over 5.27 ha forest land as per the CA scheme and the funds will be provided by the user agency. The plantation will be done within one year from the date of issue of this letter.
- v. The forest land will not be used for any other purpose than that mentioned in the proposal;
- vi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department, or person without approval of the competent authority;
- vii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- viii. No damage will be done to the adjoining forest land;
- ix. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- x. Compensatory afforestation will be done within one year from the date of issue of final approval over the extent of land as approved, out of the funds provided by the user agency;
- xi. The user agency shall pay additional amount of NPV as and when increased on the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- xii. The maximum width of "Right of Way" for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall be not more than **46** meters;

- xiii. Below each conductor, width clearance of **3.00** meters would be permitted for taking the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is complete, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up. Felling/pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officers, whenever necessary, to maintain the electric clearance. One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
 - xiv. The minimum clearance between conductors and trees shall be maintained **5.5** meters for preventing electric hazards; The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance maintained as above
 - xv. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
 - xvi. User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department, shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (*preferably medicinal plants*) in the Right of Way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department;
 - xvii. In case the portion of the transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
 - xviii. The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down and should be taken up as per the scheme approved by the Forest Department;
 - xix. The required soil conservation measures should be taken up by the user agency for which fund should be provided as per the current rate of works;
 - xx. The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
 - xxi. The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, each pillar inscribed with the serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and backward bearings and distance from pillar to pillar *etc.*;
 - xxii. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the flora and the wildlife available in the area;
 - xxiii. The user agency will assist the State Government in conservation and preservation of flora and fauna of the area in accordance with the plan prepared by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.
 - xxiv. Any other condition that this Regional Office may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
 - xxv. The User agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government and to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry regularly; and
 - xxvi. It will be the responsibility of the State Government/User Agency to obtain all other prior approvals/clearances under all other relevant Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions, etc., including environmental clearance, as applicable to this proposal.
4. After receipt of the compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions under para-2 above, the proposal shall be considered for the final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

(C.D. Singh)

Addl. Pr Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The ADGF (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road Aliganj, New Delhi-110 003.
2. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Haryana Forest Department, Van Bhawan, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana.
3. Nodal Officer-cum CF (FC), Government of Haryana, Forest Department, Sector-6, Van Bhawan, Panchkula, Haryana. 134009
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division and District ^{Karnal} Panipat, Haryana.
5. The Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Panipat