



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),

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F.No. 4-TNG042/2019-CHN/1854

Date 02<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Environment & Forests Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 5.382 ha of forest land in Vellore Forest Division for construction of 400 KV D/C Pugalur Thiruvalem Transmission line in favour of Deputy General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Thiruvalem, Vellore District -reg

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. 4537/FR.10/2019-2 dated 20.06.2019 and online application No. FP/TN/TRANS/32353/2018 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

As recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) and after careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's in-principle approval (*Stage-I*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 5.382 ha of forest land in Vellore Forest Division for construction of 400 KV D/C Pugalur Thiruvalem Transmission line in favour of Deputy General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Thiruvalem, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO concerned at the project cost before the Stage II approval;
3. The State Forest Department shall carry out Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and its maintenance over 10.74 ha of degraded forest area identified in Ammoor RF in Arcot Range of Vellore Forest Division at the cost of the User Agency;

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DESPATCHED (By SP)

Date 02/12/19 R.S.P.

4. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the CA scheme shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
5. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required in the CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
6. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **5.382 ha** from User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos. 826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995;
7. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
8. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
9. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to the minimum in the diverted area and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
10. The 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 at its cost;
11. The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;
12. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines issued by the Ministry for laying of transmission lines through forest areas;
13. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;

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14. Sufficient firewood, preferably alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
15. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for the transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
16. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
17. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred / sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
18. The State Government / User Agency shall obtain the necessary permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of trees of spontaneous growth falling in the proposed forest area before the final approval;
19. The User Agency shall comply with all the conditions and mitigative measures to be proposed by the CEC, if any, towards removal of naturally grown trees;
20. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
21. The trees on strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration will be allowed to come up. Future pollarding / pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of the transmission lines;
22. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strips whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local Forest Officer;
23. 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;

*R. S. P.*

24. The approval under FCA,1980 is subject to the clearance under all other Acts, Rules, Guidelines, Regulations and Court Orders applicable to such project;
25. All efforts shall be taken to minimize the felling of trees and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of the trees wherever feasible at the cost of the User Agency;
26. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **5.382 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
27. Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG(Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
28. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as decided by the DDG (Central), Regional Office, Chennai.

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval may be revoked as per the rules.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar)


Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.
3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.

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4. The DIGF, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
5. The Executive Engineer / Civil, Transmission Projects / GCC-II, A-10, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Gundy, Chennai-32
6. Guard file.

  
(Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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