



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE  
उत्तर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, चंडीगढ़ / Northern Regional Office, Chandigarh



I.No.: 9-PBC332/2018-CHA

Dated: .05.2018

To  
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Punjab,  
Mini Secretariat,  
Chandigarh

**Sub:** Diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land (5.6 ha in Ferozepur division and 3.52 ha in Sri Muktsar Sahib forest division) for construction of 765 KV D/C Bikaner-Moga Transmission line to evacuate bulk Solar Power from Rajasthan to Punjab.

**Ref:** i) Addl. PCCF(FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA), Punjab S.A.S Nagar letter no. FCA/1980/52-53/2018/89 dated 25.04.2018 and FCA/1980/52-53/2018/251 dated 21.05.2018.

ii) Minutes of the REC meeting held on 22.05.2018

Sr,

Please refer to the above cited letter and online proposal no. FP/PB/Trans/27080/2017 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 and approval of the REC, **“in-principle” approval is hereby conveyed** for diversion of 9.12 hectares of forest land for the above mentioned project subject to the following conditions:

- i) Cost of compensatory afforestation and Addl CA as per CA/ACA schemes 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>.
- iv) User Agency shall ensure that no other proposal in the division, for which Stage-I has already been granted in the past, is still pending for compliance of conditions of Stage-I approval. An Undertaking to this effect that **"no such proposal for compliance of conditions of Stage-I approval is pending with this division"** be submitted. Compliance of the same will be mandatory for the final clearance of this proposal by this office.

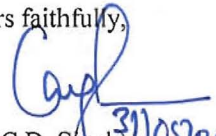
3. The following conditions shall also be complied with after the final approval is accorded:

- 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 431 trees, 38 poles and 782 plants in Shri Muktsar Sahib and 472 trees and 1450 plants in Ferozepur will be removed;
- iii) The CA and Addl CA will be carried out over 27.32 ha forest land as per the CA and Addl. 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.
- iv) The forest land will not be used for any other purpose than that mentioned in the proposal;
- v) 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;

- vi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- vii) No damage will be done to the adjoining forest land;
- viii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- ix) The user agency shall pay additional amount of NPV as and when increased on the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- x) The maximum width of "Right of Way" for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall be not more than 67 meters;
- xi) Below each conductor, width clearance of 7.00 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;
- xii) The minimum clearance between conductors and trees shall be maintained 9.0 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;
- xiii) The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- xiv) 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;
- xv) 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;
- xvi) 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;
- xvii) Any other condition that this Regional Office may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xviii) 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
- xix) 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.

After receipt of the compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions under para-14(A), above, final approval order under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be given. **The use of forest land will not be allowed till final approval is accorded.**

Yours faithfully,

  
(C.D. Singh)  
Addl. PCCF (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, Punjab Forest Department, Forest Complex, Sector-68, SAS Nagar, Punjab.
3. The Addl. PCCF (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Complex, Sector-68, SAS Nagar, Punjab.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division and District Ferozepur, Haryana.
5. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., H.No. 46, Model Town, Phase-II, Bathinda.