



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-APB065/2018-CHN/1448

Date 10th September, 2018

To,

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 64.23 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of the Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad -reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. EFS01-12021/78/Section-II/2018 dated 25.07.2018 and online proposal No. FP/AP/TRANS/31686/2018 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.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and as recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), 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 64.23 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of the Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad, 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 carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and its maintenance over 128.50 ha out of 140 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compt No 1, Dobbudupalli RF, Dhodium Beat, Muddanur Range in Proddatur Forest Division at the cost of the user agency. A minimum of 1000 plants / ha of diverted area shall be planted in the identified CA land. In case,

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the required numbers could not be planted therein, the balance shall be planted in the nearby RF/PF by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency and a map along with DGPS co-ordinates of such forest area shall be furnished along with the compliance report;

4. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the State Forest Department shall ensure that the amount realized from the user agency towards CA should not be left unspent as recommended by the REC;
5. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **64.23 ha** from the 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;
6. 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;
7. The funds received from the user agency towards Compensatory Afforestation and Net Present Value, etc under this project shall be deposited in the Corporation bank account of the Andhra Pradesh State CAMPA. **The user agency shall compulsorily deposit the CA and other levies only by generating challan through the Ministry's website;**
8. 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*) under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department;
9. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 69 mtrs;
10. 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;
11. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government. The user agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
12. The user agency shall provide fire wood, preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;

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13. 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;
14. The enumerated trees on the 69 meter width strip (right of way) would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration shall be allowed to come up. Felling / pollarding / pruning of trees shall be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of transmission lines;
15. In case the portion of transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
16. The State Forest Department shall ensure to plant adequate number of red sanders trees at the project cost to compensate for the felling of the species involved in this project;
17. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strip, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing , shall be carried out to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer;
18. The user agency at the project 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;
19. All efforts shall be taken to minimize felling of trees and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of trees wherever feasible instead of resorting to felling, at the cost of the user agency;
20. The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to Ministry's guidelines F.No 7-25/2012-FC dated 5th May, 2014 and 19.11.2014 and provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects;
21. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **64.23 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;
22. The progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of Chittoor (West), Kadapa, Kurnool and Proddatur (WL) Divisions shall be

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monitored by the respective Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Regional Office;

23. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Addl. PCCF(Central) of the 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;

24. 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 Additional PCCF (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 shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,


(D.Sathiyam)

Conservator 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, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004.
3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004.
4. The Director, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
5. The Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, 765 KV Substation, Orvakal Mandal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh-518010.
6. Guard file.


(D.Sathiyam)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

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