



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),

1st & 2nd floor, HEPC Building, No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,

Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tel. 044-28222041,

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F.No. 4-TNB022/2018-CHN/0865
Date 07th June, 2018

To

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

Subject: Diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Divisions for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, Bengaluru-reg

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.9774/FR.10/2018-1 dated 21.05.2018 and online application No. FP/TN/TRANS/25759/2017 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), 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 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Divisions for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, Bengaluru for a period of 35 years, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The 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) over 18.24 ha of degraded forest area i.e. **12.75 ha** in Kalappambadi RF in Dharmapuri District and **5.52 ha** in Veerichettipalli Beat & RF in Gudiyathem Range of Vellore Forest Division at the cost of the User Agency. Minimum of 1000 plants / ha of diverted area shall be planted in the identified CA land. In case, the required numbers could not be planted therein, the balance shall be

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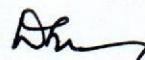
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planted in the nearby RF/PF by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency and map along with DGPS co-ordinates of such forest area shall be furnished along with the compliance report;

4. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without 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 **9.12 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;
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. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
7. The funds received from the User Agency towards Compensatory Afforestation and Net Present Value under this project etc shall be deposited in the Corporation bank account of the Tamil Nadu 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. 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;

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 State Government / User agency shall obtain necessary permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of trees of spontaneous growth falling in both Dharmapuri and Vellore Divisions and submit the same for issuing of final approval;
15. The RoFR certificate for the area falling in Vellore Division (2.76 ha) in Paeradharami RF shall be obtained by the User Agency before final approval in consultation with District Authorities, if required;
16. 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 the transmission lines;
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. 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 User Agency;
19. 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 provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects;
20. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **9.12 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
21. The Progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of Dharmapuri & Vellore Forest Divisions shall be monitored by the respective Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Regional Office;

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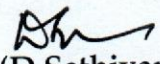


22. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Addl. PCCF(Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;

23. 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.

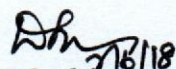
Yours faithfully,


(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, 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
4. The Director, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003.
5. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, SRTS-II, RHQ, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064.
6. Guard file.


(D.Sathiyam)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

