

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & CC
Northern Regional Office

Bays No.24-25,
Dakshin Marg Sector-31A,
Chandigarh-160030
Dated: June 26, 2015

F.No.: 9-HRB003/2015-CHA

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 1.114 ha. of forest land in favour Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Ambala City for laying of 400 KV DC Jalandhar-Kurukshetra Transmission line crossing through various forest strips, under Forest Division and District Ambala, Haryana.

**Ref: (i) Government of Haryana letter No. 5405-V-2-2014/1300 dated 23.01.15
(ii) Nodal Officer and CF (FC) letter No. Admn-D-3-5811/1525 dated 11.06.15**

Sir,

Please refer to the above cited subject and letters 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, **approval is hereby conveyed** for diversion of **1.114 hectares** of forest land for the above mentioned project subject to the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged;
- ii. Minimum number of trees and in any case not more than 262 trees and 2620 plants will be removed;
- iii. **Compensatory afforestation will be carried out over 2.620 hectares of degraded forest land on S.Y.L. KM. 0-9.5, as per proposed scheme, at a cost of Rs. 14,23,708/- provided by the user agency. 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;

.....cont 2/-

- ix. 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;
- x. The user agency shall pay additional amount of NPV as and when increased on the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- xi. The maximum width of "Right of Way" for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall be not more than **46** meters;
- xii. Below each conductor, width clearance of **3.00** metres 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;
- xiii. 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
- xiv. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- xv. 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;
- xvi. 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;
- xvii. 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;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. 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;
- xx. 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.*;
- xxi. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the flora and the wildlife available in the area;
- xxii. 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.
- xxiii. Any other condition that this Regional Office may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxiv. 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

xxv 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.

3. 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. **The use of forest land will not be allowed till final approval is accorded and environmental clearance, if any applicable, is obtained.**

Yours faithfully,

Harsh Mitter
26.6.15
(Harsh Mitter)

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 Ambala, Haryana.
5. The Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India, #139, Sector 1, Urban Estate, Ambala.