



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE



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F.No.4-TNC042/2019-CHN/052

Date 21st January, 2021

To

The Additional Chief 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 4537/FR.10/2019-2 dated 20.06.2019 and online application No.FP/TN/TRANS/32353/2018 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter dated 02.12.2019. The State Government vide letter No.4537/FR.10/2019-12 dated 18.01.2021 have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-II*) 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, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Forest Department to carry out demarcation of the diverted forest area by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters before commencement of the project work;

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3. The State Forest Department shall carryout 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 from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;
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. 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;
6. 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;
7. The State Forest Department shall carryout plantation and maintenance of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the right of way under the transmission line from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;
8. 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;
9. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines issued by the Ministry for laying of transmission lines through forest areas;
10. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
11. 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;
12. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for the transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;

13. 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;
14. The User Agency shall comply with all the conditions and mitigative measures proposed by the CEC and the PCCF Tamil Nadu shall ensure implementation of all conditions recommended by the CEC and the compliance report to that effect shall be submitted to this office;
15. 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;
16. 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;
17. 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;
18. The approval under FCA,1980 is subject to the clearance under all other Acts, Rules, Guidelines, Regulations and Court Orders applicable to such project;
19. 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;
20. 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;
21. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated 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;

22. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions of rules / guidelines framed under FCA,1980.

Yours faithfully,



(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.
2. 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.
3. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, SRTS-II, RHQ, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Near RTO Driving Test Track, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064.
4. Guard file.



(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by
KARTHIKEYAN K
Date: 2021.01.21 11:21:58 IST