



No.5-ORA089/2009-BHU

29th November, 2019

To

The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub:-

Diversion of 111.399 ha of forest land in Sundargarh and Jharsuguda district of Odisha for construction of 400 KV/DC Transmission line from Rourkela to Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No. 10F(Cons)33/2009-7411/F&E dated 16.04.2009, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 111.399 ha of forest land in Sundargarh and Jharsuguda district of Odisha for construction of 400 KV/DC Transmission line from Rourkela to Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited., was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide letter No.8-28/2009-FC dated 14.10.2009, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Govt. of Odisha vide their letter No.10F(Cons)143/18-22578/F&E dated 21.11.2019, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 111.399 ha of forest land in Sundargarh and Jharsuguda district of Odisha for construction of 400 KV/DC Transmission line from Rourkela to Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the user agency.
- iii) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up over 222.798 ha of degraded forest land identified in Satparlia RF under Sundargarh Range of Sundargrh Forest Division as per approved plan/scheme by the Forest Department at the cost of user agency within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- iv) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificates from the concerned District Collector.
- v) The user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.

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- vi) The user agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 and 19.11.2014.
- vii) The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- viii) The user agency shall ensure minimum felling of trees and maximum height of towers in the forest area.
- ix) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- x) In case of the transmission lines to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees will not be cut.
- xi) The State Forest Department shall implement the approved scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of local dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line.
- xii) The State Govt. shall implement the duly approved comprehensive management plan for checking the casualty of wild elephants by CWLW, Odisha at the project cost.
- xiii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- xiv) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- xv) Sufficient firewood, preferably the 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.
- xvi) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the direction of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- xvii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- xviii) Earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xix) The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xx) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- xxi) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- xxii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
- xxiii) The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Eastern Regional Office of this Ministry.

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- xxiv) The user agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliances of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- xxv) Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
- xxvi) Violation of any of these conditions will be amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per Para 1.21 (iii) of Chapter-1 of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully,

(A.K. Jena)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

Copy to:-

1. The Dy. Inspector General of Forests, ROHQ, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi -110 003.
2. The PCCF & Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh/Jharsuguda/Rourkela Forest Division, Sundargarh/Jharsuguda/Rourkela, Odisha.
- ✓ 4. The Senior General Manager (Projects), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Plot No.4, Niladri Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751021, Odisha.
5. Guard file.

Technical Officer (Forestry)