



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHINAAR



F. No: 6-GJC 005/2018-BHO/ 106

Date: 28/04/2021

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forest)
Govt. of Gujarat,
Forest and Environment Department,
Block No14, 8th Floor, New Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Sub: Final (Stage-II) approval of Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for proposed diversion of 20.722 ha Protected/ Section-4 Forest land for construction of 765 KV D/C Bhuj-Banaskantha & 400 KV D/C Banaskantha-Sankhari Transmission line in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in Kachchh, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letter No. FCA-1017/3-10/17/S.F-169/F dated 24/01/2018, wherein prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for diversion of 20.722 ha Protected/ Section-4 Forest land for construction of 765 KV D/C Bhuj-Banaskantha & 400 KV D/C Banaskantha-Sankhari Transmission line in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in Kachchh, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government for diversion of the said forest land was accorded vide this office letter of even number dated 20/03/2018 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Govt. of Gujarat vide their letter No. FCA-1017/3-10/17/S.F-169/F dated 16/07/2018 & APCCF, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar letter No. FCA/29-C/A/852-53/2020-21 dated 12/02/2021 have furnished compliance report in respect of the relevant conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval for grant of final approval.

In this connection, on the basis of the compliance report under reference and confirmation of receipt of compensatory levies from National Authority of CAMPA vide online e.portal dated 17/04/2018, the **final approval** of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is hereby accorded for diversion of 20.722 ha Protected/ Section-4 Forest land for construction of 765 KV D/C Bhuj-Banaskantha & 400 KV D/C Banaskantha-Sankhari Transmission line in favour of Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in Kachchh, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat, subject to the following conditions and stipulations:-

- (1) Legal status of the forest land diverted shall remain unchanged.
- (2) **Compensatory afforestation:** Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 42.00 ha degraded forest land (Survey No. 1673/P, Village-Adhoi, Taluka-Bhachau, District-Kachchh) at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local native species shall be planted and monoculture of any species should be avoided.

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- (3) The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI in this regard.
- (4) User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department, and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- (5) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars etc. The pillars should be spaced at about 50 meter and each pillar should be clearly visible from pillars on both sides.
- (6) The KML file of diverted area and CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to plantation work.
- (7) Width of RoW for the Transmission Line shall be limited to 67 m.
- (8) The User Agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintaining necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals especially the elephants.
- (9) To minimize the felling for construction of Transmission Line, User Agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) The normal width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle in case of 400 KV D/C line will be 7 m only. However in areas falling under Elephant Reserve in order to prevent electrocution of elephants in view Ministry's guideline dated 19.11.2014, at least 6 m additional clearance shall be provided over and above minimum clearance (as stipulated under Central Electricity Authority Measures relating to safety & Electricity Supply Regulations, 2010) above the ground from the lowest conductor of the Transmission Line. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - b) One outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the Transmission Line.
 - c) In the remaining width the Right of Way felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local Forest Officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. Trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 7 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.
 - d) The Scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the Right of Way under the Transmission Line, as prepared by the State Forest Department (for which funds have to be provided by the User Agency) shall be implemented from the funds provided by the User Agency.
 - e) In case a portion of the Transmission Line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut.

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- (10) At Maximum Sag Point, Ground clearance shall be maintained 8.84 m. as recommended by the State Government.
- (11) The layout plan of the proposed diversion of the forest land shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- (12)
 - a) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
 - b) No labour camp shall be established inside the forest land.
 - c) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- (13)
 - a) The diverted forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
 - b) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project life.
 - c) The diverted forest land shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- (14) All the conditions stipulated in Stage-I/ In-principle approval shall be strictly complied.
- (15) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order(s) and National Green Tribunal Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time in force, as applicable to the project.
- (16) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
- (17) 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 and wildlife.

2. As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This has been issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

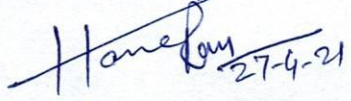
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Yours faithfully,

(Hare Ram Kumar)
27-4-21
Technical Officer (Forestry)

Copy to:-

1. The Director, RO (HQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indra Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)/ The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Arayan Bhavan, Block No. A/3, Sector-10A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Kachchh East Division Bhuj, District-Kachchh, Gujarat.
4. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division Kachchh, District-Kachchh, Gujarat.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Patan Forest Division, District-Patan, Gujarat.
6. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division Banaskantha, Palanpur, District-Banaskantha, Gujarat.
7. The Chief Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, 765/4000/200 KV Sub-station & transmission line, Construction Office, A-5, Akshatam-2, Akesan Road, Palanpur, District-Banaskantha-38500, Gujarat.
8. Guard File.

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(Hare Ram Kumar)
Technical Officer (Forestry)