

F. No. 8-95/2013-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Raod, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003.  
Dated: 07<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Chhattisgarh,  
Raipur.

Sub: Diversion of 193.161 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV S/C Champa-Kurukshetra transmission in favour of M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Government's letter no. No. F-5-15/2013/10-2 dated 27.11.2013 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the PCCF, State Government of Jharkhand's letter no. *Bhu-Prabandh/Vidyut/479-116/1660* dated 25.07.2014 forwarding additional information sought by the Ministry. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under section-3 of the said Act 'in-principle' approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 28.08.2014 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter no. *Bhu-Prabhand/Vidhut/479-116/2962* dated 17.12.2014 and vide letter No. *Bhu-Prabhand/Vidhut/479-116/2123* dated 24.07.2015, 'final' approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 193.161 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV S/C Champa-Kurukshetra transmission in favour of M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land, twice in extent to the forest land being diverted, shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds already provided by the User Agency.
- (iii) The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (iv) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (v) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (vi) 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;

- (vii) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- (viii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (ix) The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
- (x) Width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 69 m;
- (xi) The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- (xii) Felling of trees shall be limited to 5454 no of trees falling under the three meter corridors below the conductors. However, wherever required lopping of the trees can be permitted by the State Government. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xiii) As recommended by the Regional office of the Ministry in its site inspection report and accepted by the user agency, position and height of towers in the area bearing natural patch of the Shorea robusta should be adjusted in such a way that no trees are felled and only pruning is done if required.
- (xiv) To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
  - (a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 10 mts. would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. 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 10.6 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 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 lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- (xv) The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;

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- (xvi) Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xvii) 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
- (xviii) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project and also the all conditions stipulated in Stage-I approval in accordance with the undertakings provided by them.

Yours faithfully,



(B.K. Singh)

Director (Forest Conservation)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
3. The Nodal Officer(FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
4. User Agency (General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, First Floor, UDM Hospital, Near Homeguard Training Camp, Kududund, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh)
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.



(B.K. Singh)

Director (Forest Conservation)