



मत्यमेव जयते

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



Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada

Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road

Vijayawada – 520010

Andhra Pradesh

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F.No.4-APB065/2018-CHN/29

Date 6th April, 2021

To,

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 64.23 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of the Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad -reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.EFS01-12021/78/Section-II/2018 dated 25.07.2018 and online proposal No.FP/AP/TRANS/31686/2018 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 10.09.2018. The State Government vide letter No. 3212/Section.II/2018 dated 03.03.2021 have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am to convey the Central Government's approval (**Stage-II**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 64.23 ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of the Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad, subject to the following conditions:-

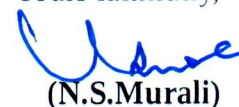
1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The demarcation of the proposed area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 metres by the User Agency in consultation with the DCF concerned, at the project cost

3. The State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and its maintenance over 128.50 ha out of 140 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compt No 1, Dobbudupalli RF, Dhodium Beat, Muddanur Range in Proddatur Forest Division from the amount already realized from the User Agency.
4. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the State Forest Department shall ensure that the amount realized from the user agency towards CA should not be left unspent as recommended by the REC;
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 State Forest Department shall carryout creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (**preferably medicinal plants**) under the transmission line from the amount which is already realized from the User Agency;
7. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 69 mtrs;
8. 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;
9. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
10. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
11. The user agency shall provide fire wood, preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;
12. 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;
13. The enumerated trees on the 69 meter width strip (right of way) would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration shall be allowed to come up. Felling / pollarding / pruning of trees shall be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of transmission lines;
14. In case the portion of transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;



15. The State Forest Department shall ensure to plant adequate number of red sanders trees at the project cost to compensate for the felling of the species involved in this project;
16. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strip, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing , shall be carried out to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer;
17. The user agency at the project 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;
18. All efforts shall be taken to minimize felling of trees and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of trees wherever feasible instead of resorting to felling, at the cost of the user agency;
19. 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 & 19/11/2014.
20. The User Agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
21. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **64.23 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
22. The progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of Chittoor (West), Kadapa, Kurnool and Proddatur (WL) Divisions shall be monitored by the respective Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada;
23. 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.
24. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
25. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by the Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;

Yours faithfully,


(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004
3. The Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, 765 KV Substation, Orvakal Mandal, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh-518010.
4. Guard file.



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)