



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),

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Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tel. 044-28222041,

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F.No. 4-TNB022/2018-CHN/0133

Date 30th January, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Divisions for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, Bengaluru-reg

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.9774/FR.10/2018-1 dated 21.05.2018 and online application No. FP/TN/TRANS/25759/2017 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 07.06.2018. The State Government vide letter No. 9774/FR.10/2018-6 dated 22.08.2019 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 final approval (*Stage-II*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Divisions for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, Bengaluru for a period of 35 years, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters from the amount realized from the User Agency;
3. The State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 18.24 ha of degraded forest area i.e. **12.75 ha** in Kalappambadi RF in Dharmapuri District and **5.52 ha** in Veerichettipalli Beat & RF in Gudiyathem Range of Vellore Forest Division from the amount realized from the User

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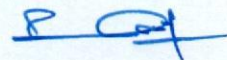
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DESPATCHED (BY SP)
Date: 30/01/2020 RSL

Agency. Minimum of 1000 plants / ha of diverted area shall be planted in the identified CA land. In case, the required numbers could not be planted therein, the balance shall be planted in the nearby RF/PF by the State Forest Department from the amount realized from the User Agency. The corrected shape files of degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation purpose and that of Forest area proposed for diversion shall be submitted to this office by the State Government for updating the same in web portal;

4. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without 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. The State Government shall furnish the reply to, this office communication dated 05/09/19 & 11/12/19, immediately without fail;
5. The State Government / User Agency shall comply with the conditions recommended by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The PCCF, Tamil Nadu shall submit compliance report on the same to this office;
6. 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;
7. The State Forest Department shall execute the work of creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) under the transmission line, from the amount realized from the User Agency;
8. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 69 mtrs;
9. 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;
10. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
11. The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;

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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 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;
14. 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 the transmission lines;
15. 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;
16. 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 User Agency;
17. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Court orders and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects;
18. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **9.12 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
19. The Progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of Dharmapuri & Vellore Forest Divisions shall be monitored by the respective Circle Heads and a copy of such monitoring reports shall be forwarded to the Regional Office;
20. Any other condition the Central Government or Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), 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;



21. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the Ministry's guideline.

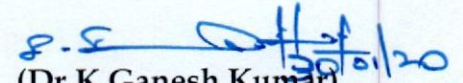
Yours faithfully,


(Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar)

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 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, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064.
4. Guard file.


(Dr.K.Ganesh Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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