



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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FAX/POST

22nd July, 2015

F.No. 3-SK C 018/2014-SH-1306-07

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-
-Cum Principal Secretary
Deptt. of Forests, Environment & Wildlife
Govt. of Sikkim, Deorai,
Gangtok, Sikkim.

~~HE (SECRET)~~
CFF (FCA)
23/7

Sub: Diversion of 16.468 ha. of forest land for laying of L.H.O 400 KV Circuit Teesta II HEP Kishanganj transmission line at Rangpo - Samardung in South District of Sikkim by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

Sir,
This has got reference to the State Government's letter No. 1517 FCA/FLWMD/1336-39 Dated 19.02.2014 on the subject mentioned above, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of the FCA, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the State Advisory Group, in-principle approval was granted vide this office letter of even number dated 05.11.2014 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 the Central Government to grant final approval.

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In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 1517-FCA/FFWMD/804 dated 29.01.2015 & even no. dated 25.03.2015 & 25.06.2015 and confirmation of Ad-hoc CAMPA dt. 03.07.2015, Final Approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion 16.468 ha. of forest land for laying of L.H.O 400 KV Circuit Teesta II HEP Kishanganj transmission line at Rangpo - Samardung in South District of Sikkim by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., subject to the following conditions:

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- (1) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (2) The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over the degraded forest and double in extent to the area of forest land diverted (i.e. 63.00 ha), as per the fund deposited by the User Agency & scheme furnished by the State Govt. The Compensatory Afforestation plantation shall consist of mixed indigenous species which shall include 20% of Medicinal Plants, Herbs, Shrubs.
- (3) The charges for felling, logging and transportation of project affected trees should be collected from the User Agency at the rates approved by the State Govt and deposited with the DFO concerned for utilization immediately following the diversion of forest land.
- (4) The expenditure like stone pillars, demarcation charges, cost of damage of trees felling should be deposited with the DFO concerned.
- (5) Where routing of transmission lines through the forest areas cannot be avoided, these should be aligned in such a way that it involves the least amount of tree cutting.
- (6) As far as possible, the route alignment through forest areas should not have any line deviations.

- (7) (i) The allowed maximum width of Right of Way shall be 23 mtr on either side of the tower.
- (ii) In forest areas, only vertical delta configuration of 400 kV S/C and delta configuration of 765 kV S/C shall be permitted.
- (iii) A width clearance of 3 (three) meters shall be permitted below each conductor or conductor bundle, for taking tension stringing equipments.
- (iv) The trees on such strips 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 to maintain the electric clearance. One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line.
- (v) During construction of transmission line, pollarding pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strips, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer.
- (vi) The pruning of trees for taking construction / stringing equipments through existing approach / access routes in forest areas shall also be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer. Construction of new approach / access route will however, require prior approval under the Act.
- (vii) In the remaining width of right of way trees will be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining minimum clearance of 5.5 meters between conductors and trees.
- (viii) The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.
- (ix) In order to avoid any hazard, felling / cutting / pruning / of those trees which because of their height / location may fall on conductors shall also be permitted, as may be decided by local forest officer.
- (x) In case of transmission lines to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut except those minimum required to be cut for stringing of conductors.
- (xi) In case of transmission lines passing through National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Corridors, insulated conductors shall only be used to prevent electrocution of animals.
- (xii) Where the forest growth consists of tall trees, widths of right of way greater than 23 mtr on either side of the tower may be permitted in consultation with CEA.
- (8) The User Agency shall ensure erection of high towers and felling of minimum number of trees.
- (9) The tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- (10) The tree felling shall be restricted to only 3 meters on either side of the Tr. Line and rest of the trees will be allowed to remain intact except some peripheral pruning.
- (11) The User Agency shall provide retaining walls to avoid huge earth cuttings for fixing the legs of the towers wherever necessary.
- (12) User Agency shall take necessary steps to keep the height of the transmission line such that no wild animal come in accidental contact with live wire.
- (13) The plantation of dwarf species in right of way under the transmission lines wherever feasible should be carried out under project cost in consultation with State Forest Department
- (14) Regular patrolling of the transmission lines shall be carried out by the user agency to check sag and swing, and contact of the live wire with the trees
- (15) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land
- (16) Sufficient alternative fuel (other than fire wood) shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at their own cost.

- (17) The user agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to the forest and wildlife in the area.
- (18) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (19) The User Agency shall render necessary co-operation and logistic support as and when required by the Regional Office for monitoring of the project, etc.
- (20) The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- (21) The User Agency will have to obtain the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 clearance for removal of stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land, if necessary.
- (22) All other clearances / NOCs under different rules / regulations / local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No. 11-0/98-FC(Pt) dated 05.02.2013 shall be complied with.
- (23) In case of non-compliance of any of the above conditions the Nodal Officer, Sikkim Forest Deptt. shall suspend the non-forest use of land and submit a report to this office.
- (24) In case of any violation of the stipulated conditions immediate action is to be taken by the Forest Department as per Ministry's letter No. 5-5/86/FC dated 07.12.1999 and this office letter No. 2-1-51/2004/RONE/Vol II/3181-02 dated 28.12.2006.
- (25) This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval is not complied to the satisfaction of the North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong
- (26) Any other conditions as may be found appropriate in future for the betterment of environment & wildlife, may be imposed by North Eastern Regional Office.

This is issued with approval of Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C)


Yours faithfully,


(R. L. Sanga)

Conservator of Forests (C)

Copy to:

The Chief Conservator of Forests -cum- Nodal Officer, O/o The PCCF, Department of Forest, Env. & WL. Management, Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok.


Conservator of Forests (C)