



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office
ए/3, चंद्रशेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur
भुवनेश्वर - 751 023, ओडिशा / Bhubaneswar - 751 023, Odisha



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No.5-ORB402/2019-BHU

12th May, 2021
17/5

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Sub:- Diversion of 0.943 ha of forest land for construction of diversion portion of HVDC Earth Electrode Transmission line from LOC No.37 to 40 for proper crossing of Talcher-Bimlagarh Railway line, East Coast Railway by Power Grid, Kaniha in Angul District.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)122/19-25359/F&E dated 24.12.2019 , wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion 0.943 ha of forest land for construction of diversion portion of HVDC Earth Electrode Transmission line from LOC No.37 to 40 for proper crossing of Talcher-Bimlagarh Railway line, East Coast Railway by Power Grid, Kaniha in Angul District, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 16.01.2020, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.5776/9F (Tran)-388/2019 dated 15.03.2021 and uploading of the Stage-I compliance report in *Parivesh* web portal on 12.04.2021, *Stage-II/final* approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.943 ha of forest land for construction of diversion portion of HVDC Earth Electrode Transmission line from LOC No.37 to 40 for proper crossing of Talcher-Bimlagarh Railway line, East Coast Railway by Power Grid, Kaniha in Angul District, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.**
- The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006.

- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the user agency.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall carry out plantation of 540 trees towards compensatory afforestation within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account. The State Govt. shall inform the site of plantation. The species to be planted shall be indigenous to the area and naturally growing species shall be planted using intensive planting technique to ensure survival of the plantation. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals. These reports shall be communicated to IRO periodically (six monthly).
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall carry out plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal species) in right of way under the transmission line, within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.
- iv. 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.
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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 and 19.11.2014.
- vii. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that the period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease granted in favour of user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- ix. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- x. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.

- xi. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xii. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xvi. The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xvii. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xviii. It may please note that violation of any of these conditions will be amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per Para 1.21 of Chapter-1 of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti
(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
2. M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Plot No.4, Unit-41, Niladri Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751 021.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)