



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FOREST
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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No. 3-SK C 010/2015-SHI 1581-82

17th August, 2015

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 11.8862 ha of forest land construction of Railway line from Sevoke to Rangpo in East District of Sikkim by North Frontier Railway.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government's letter No. 771/FCAFEWMD dt. 09.01.2015 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 Regional Empowered Committee (REC), In-principle approval was granted by this office vide letter of even number dated 27.03.2015 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.

In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 1463/FCA/FEWMD295-300 dated 04.08.2015 and confirmation from Ad-hoc CAMPA dated 14.08.2015, I am to inform that **final approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion **11.8862 ha** of forest land construction of Railway line from Sevoke to Rangpo in East District of Sikkim by North Frontier Railway, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (2) Compensatory afforestation (CA) shall be carried out over double the area diverted in degraded forest land (i.e. in 23.7724 ha) identified at Song R.F of Singtam Range 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 demarcation of forest land proposed for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward and backward bearings and distance from pillar to pillar superscribed on the pillars.
- (4) 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.
- (5) The expenditure like stone pillars, demarcation charges, cost of damage of trees felling should, be deposited with the DFO concerned.

- (6) The User Agency is to construct a composite check gate in consultation with the State Forest Department to prevent any expected disturbance to wildlife and likelihood of illegal activities.
- (7) In order to prevent the entry of animals into the tunnels the user agency and State Forest Department should work out modality to provide necessary structures for the same.
- (8) The user agency will have to provide waste disposal collection centre in consultation with the State Forest Department so as to ensure cleanliness of the surrounding complex.
- (9) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake afforestation measures of indigenous species along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.
- (10) The tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. The actual felling when and how carried out need to be informed.
- (11) No damage to flora and fauna of the area shall be caused.
- (12) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (13) No labour camp shall be set up or any habitation shall be allowed to come up over non-diverted forest land in the vicinity.
- (14) The user agency shall provide fuel wood, preferably alternate fuel, to the labourers working at the site to avoid damage/felling of trees or buy the fuel wood from the extracted timber from the Forest Department to be used by labourers.
- (15) The muck dumping area shall be stabilized and plantation of suitable indigenous species shall be carried out over stabilized dumps on the cost of the user agency under the supervision of State Forest Department.
- (16) The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- (17) The User Agency will have to obtain the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 clearance for removal, if any, of stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land.
- (18) The proposal will be implemented under the overall supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer, East Territorial Division.
- (19) 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.
- (20) The layout of the plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (21) The User Agency shall submit an annual self-compliance report to this office and the State Govt.
- (22) The monitoring should be conducted by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer / Conservator of Forests during construction phase to ensure the compliance of the stipulated conditions. The monitoring report should be sent to this office quarterly.
- (23) In future, any other conditions, as may be found appropriate for the betterment of environment & wildlife, may be imposed by North Eastern Regional Office.
- (24) This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval is not complied to the satisfaction of the North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong.

This is issued with the 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.

 19/8/15

Conservator of Forests (C)

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