

**F.No.11-9/98-FC**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment & Forests**  
**(FC Division)**

Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
**New Delhi-110 003**

Dated : 21<sup>st</sup> November 2005

To

1. **The Principal Secretary (Forests),**
2. **The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,**  
(All States)/UTs.

**Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - guidelines related to general approval for underground laying of optical fibre cables, underground laying of telephone lines and underground laying of drinking water supply pipelines.**

Sir,

Detailed guidelines were issued on 16.10.2000, granting general approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for underground laying of optical fiber cables, underground laying of telephone lines and underground laying of drinking water supply pipelines. The general approval granted was subject to various parameters/conditions which involves, in addition to others, no tree felling, area being outside the National Park or Sanctuaries, and that lines are laid out along the roads and within the existing right of way and the maximum size of trench is 2 mtrs. deep and 1 mtr. wide. The validity period of these guidelines was extended vide letters of even no. dated 31.10.2001, 23.12.2002 and 19.09.2003. The validity period of the guidelines has since expired on 15.10.2005. The issue of further extension of these guidelines was examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


Considering the facts that these guidelines are related to development of basic infrastructure and are for public utility in nature, and on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, the Central Government extends the validity period of general approval for a further period of 2 years, i.e., upto

15.10.2007 subject to the parameters and conditions already stipulated in this office letter of even no. dated 16.10.2000.

All the State/UT Governments are also requested to submit the details of all proposals approved earlier by them under these guidelines.

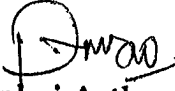
All the State/UT Governments are requested to ensure compliance of the above instructions.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Pankaj Asthana)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Nodal Officers-All States/UTs.
2. All Regional Offices of this Ministry.
3. Director (FC)/AIGs (FC).
4. File No. 2-1/2003-FC.
5. Guard File.

  
(Pankaj Asthana)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests