



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE



Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada

Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road

Vijayawada – 520010, Andhra Pradesh

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F.No. 4-APB124/2021-VIJ/61

Date 10th February, 2022

To,

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-
522503

Subject: Diversion of 3.26 ha of forest land (2.76 ha of forest Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest Land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s ONGC Kakinada-Reg

Sir,

Please refer to the Forest Department letter No. 982/Section.II/2021 dated 24.06.2021 and 13.09.2021 and online proposal No. FP/AP/Pipeline/42672/2019 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 17.09.2021. The State Government vide letter No. 982/Section.II/2021(1420618) and 17.01.2022 have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal and the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am to convey the Central Government's approval (**Stage-II**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion **of 3.26 ha** of forest land (2.76 ha of forest Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest Land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s ONGC Kakinada, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

- (ii) No tree feeling shall be carried out in the diverted forest area;**
- (iii) The State Forest department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of **7.84 ha** identified in Compt No 449, Murari RF, Kakinada Range, from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;
- (iv) Identified degraded forest area for CA purpose and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval Central Government;
- (v) Additional amount of the 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 User Agency;
- (vi) The muck generated in the earth cutting if any, will be disposed off at designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be disposed off in the forest areas;
- (vii) The User Agency shall display signage / Caution boards at appropriate places for safety and awareness;**
- (viii) The User Agency shall monitor the pipeline at regular interval to ensure safety and to avoid any accident. The User Agency shall submit such monitoring reports to the DFO concerned;**
- (ix) The User Agency / State Forest Department shall implement recommendation made in the Ecology and Bio-diversity Study Report & Wildlife Conservation Plan (especially for Fishing Cats and Otters) which is duly approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Andhra Pradesh, at project cost.**
- (x) The State Government / User Agency shall comply with all conditions stipulated in the CRZ clearance;**
- (xi) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;



- (xiii) Minimal disturbance should be ensured by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the UA to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby flora & fauna;
- (xiv) The total forest area to be utilized for the project shall not exceed **3.26** ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xv) User agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xvi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer, IRO, Vijayawada 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;
- (xvii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as provisions of rules /guidelines made under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully,



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004
3. M/s ONGC, Corporate HSE, 8th Floor Core IV, SCOPE Minar, Delhi 110092 sharma_js@ongc.co.in
4. Guard file.



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)