

Letter No.195/FR.10/2025-1, dated: 03.02.2025

From
Dr. P. Senthilkumar, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government.

To
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office,
Additional Office Block for GPOA, 1st Floor,
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006. (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020) for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area (5.5181 ha in two segments) in Thoppur Reserved Forests and 0.065 ha (in two segments) in Gummanur Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKBMPPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T.NAGAR, Chennai – In-principle approval – Requested - Regarding.

- Ref:
1. Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu No.4, 5th Floor Kuppu Arcade, Venkat Narayana Road, T.Nagar, Chennai 17 - Proposal No.FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020, dated 09.08.2021 and resubmission of revised proposal on 19.10.2022, 24.11.2022 and 23.01.2023 and 13.03.2023
 2. Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division on 04.05.2023
 3. Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle on 10.11.2023
 4. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Letter No. TS3/ 29849/ 2021, Dated 27.01.2025

=====

The Deputy General Manger, GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T.NAGAR, Chennai has uploaded a proposal (FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020) in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur Reserved Forest (0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur Reserved Forest and 5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur Reserved Forest) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying

underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District for a period of 30 years under section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

2. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division in the reference second cited has recommended the above said proposal and forwarded Site Inspection report of the Project area. Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division, the Nodal officer has recommended the above said proposal for a period of 30 years in the Part -III, Form - A in Parivesh 2.0 portal and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) has forwarded the same to Government to obtain approval from the Regional office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chennai.

3. The Government have examined the proposal in detail and decided to recommend the diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur Reserved Forest (0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur Reserved Forest and 5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur Reserved Forest) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T.NAGAR, Chennai for a period of 30 years under section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and forward it to Regional office, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Chennai for obtaining their concurrence subject to the following conditions:-

- i. The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at the appropriate distance as decided by the District Forest Officer at the cost of user agency.
- iii. The user agency has to mutate and transfer of non-forest land of 5.5831 ha identified in SF No.692/29 and 692/30 of Kammampatty village in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District to the Forest Department.
- iv. The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme for the selected degraded forest area in Kadathur Reserved Forest and non-forest Compensatory Afforestation land enrichment of plantation as per the Compensatory afforestation scheme including maintenance for a period of 10 years.
- v. The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forest diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.
- vi. The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future. The user agency has to furnish undertaking to this effect.
- vii. Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme, Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- viii. The user agency has to obtain orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of spontaneous trees in the project proposal area before Stage-II final approval.
- ix. After obtaining orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of spontaneous trees, the user agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees to be felled in the project to the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division.

- x. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval.
- xi. The user agency shall explore the possibility of 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.
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- xiii. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour campos outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers and staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora and fauna.
- xiv. 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 competent authority.
- xv. The User Agency needs to undertake that in case of diversion of forest land is denied, project shall be executed along alternate alignment and work on non-forest land shall not be cited as a reason for grant of approval for diversion of forest land.
- xvi. The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- xvii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 5.5831 ha area in Gummanur Reserved Forest (0.065 ha) and Thoppur Reserved Forest (5.5181 ha) and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any other purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.
- xviii. The user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines for the time being in force, as applicable to the Project.
- xix. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions, the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change guidelines.
- xx. Period of lease is thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

4. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the In-principle of the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

VA Gummy
3/2/25

for Principal Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Chennai-32.

The Deputy General Manger,
GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu,
T.NAGAR, Chennai – 17.



PART-V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal (FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020) for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur Reserved Forest (0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur Reserved Forest and 5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur Reserved Forest) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T.NAGAR, Chennai under section 2 (1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government

Recommended

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part – C or Part – D above should be specifically commented upon)

P. Gajalakshmi
03/02/2025

Signature
Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Date : 03.02.2025

Place : Chennai-9.

[*P. GAJALAKSHMI*
D.S. to Govt]

**Deputy Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change
and Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**



195
27 JAN 2025அஞ்சல்
By online / email

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Srinivas R. Reddy, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Forest Head Quarters Building,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy,
Chennai - 32.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forests
Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/29849/2021 Dated: 27.01.2025.

Sir.

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area (5.5181 ha (in two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065 ha (in two segments) in Gummanur RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying under ground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with OFC duct for the KKBMPPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T. Nagar, Chennai 17 - Forwarding of - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu No. 4, 5th Floor Kuppu Arcade, Venkat Narayana Road, T. Nagar, Chennai 17 - Proposal No. FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020, dated 09.08.2021 and resubmission of proposal on 25.08.2021, 24.09.2021 and resubmission of revised proposal by the user agency on 19.10.2022, 24.11.2022 and 23.01.2023 and 13.03.2023
- 2 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No. TS3/29849/2021 dated 14.03.2023.
- 3 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division on 04.05.2023
- 4 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle on 10.11.2023
- 5 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ref. No. TS3/29849/2021, dated 18.01.2024 and 09.01.2025
- 6 Resubmission of proposal in parivesh portal on 20.12.2024 and 23.01.2025

1) I wish to state that, GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu Chennai - 17 has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest land in Thoppur RF and Gummanur RF

of Dharmapuri Division for laying pipeline under KKBMP L Tamil Nadu Section in Dharmapuri District.

1) In the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests reference 2nd cited above, proposal furnished by the user agency had been forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division through online for taking further follow up action as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines.

a) In the references 3rd and 4th cited above, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle have forwarded the proposal along with their recommendations of the proposal.

b) Shortcomings noticed in the proposal informed for rectification vide Principal Chief Conservator of Forests reference 5th cited.

c) The proposal has been resubmitted in parivesh portal on 23.01.2025.

2) Brief details of the proposal are furnished below.

i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) Name of the project reported as KKBMP L Tamil Nadu Section-Dharmapuri District.

iii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has reported that diversion of forest land is required for the project description of 'This KKBMP L Project of 145.965 Kms, 24-inch dia. pipeline covers 3 districts of Tamil Nadu State (i.e. (Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Salem). Pipeline is normally laid at a depth of 1.2 m below GL to transport R-LNG to cater to the demand of both Domestic & Industry'.

iv) GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu having office address at New No 4, Old No 60, 5th Floor, Kuppu Arcade, Venkatnarayana Road, T Nagar, Chennai has applied forest clearance proposal and on behalf of user agency, Deputy General Manager, GAIL India Limited, Chennai has applied the proposal.

a) The GM (Const), Gail India Limited Chennai has authorized the Dy. General Manager to furnish forest clearance proposal on behalf of the user agency company.

v) Diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest has been requested in Dharmapuri Division even though the extent mentioned in parivesh portal as 5.94 ha. Name of the village reported as Thoppur for 5.5181 ha and Jakkasamudram (Gummanur RF) for 0.065 ha forest area.

vi) Component wise break up of forest area reported as follows.

a) Gummanur RF for 0.065 ha

b) Thoppur RF (RoW-2m) for 0.0131 ha

c) Thoppur RF (RoW-10m) for 5.505 ha

Total - 5.5831 ha

vii) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth in four segment area of 5.5831 ha, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map has been furnished.

viii) The user agency has furnished the justification report for locating the project in forest area.

ix) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

x) Cost benefit analysis of the proposal has been uploaded in the proposal.

xi) The user agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

xii) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion in the additional detail section.

xiii) For the diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest land, compensatory land has been identified in SF No. 692/1 with sub division Nos. 692/29 and 692/30 of Kammampatty village in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District.

a) Kml file has been uploaded for two segment area covering 5.5831 ha. The District Collector, Dharmapuri letter addressed to the user agency that, the compensatory land identified in Kammampatty village will be transferred after

obtaining approval from the Commissioner of Land Administration and on payment by the user agency.

b) In this parcel of land of SF No. 692 of Kammampatty village, process for handing over of portions of land as compensatory land under various forest clearance proposals are under process.

xiv) The user agency has furnished following certificates/ undertakings/ details/ documents under additional Information details section.

a) Certified that, there is no work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out in the project area.

b) Certified that forest land involved in the project is unavoidable and barest minimum.

c) Certified that, there is no non forest land is available for the project and all alternatives have been examined and not feasible for the project area.

d) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

e) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of forest land demanded subsequently.

f) To bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost of protection of plantation as per the scheme prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu in lieu of RF land diverted for the project

g) Undertaking to bear the cost towards damages to the trees in the project area.

h) Undertaking to lay the lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the subsequent years.

i) Certified that no alternate alignment is possible for the project due to hilly terrain in Thoppur RF and n Gummanur RF, the alignment is located along the roads to lay the pipeline within the RoW of roads and no such alternate alignment is available in forest areas involved.

j) Certificate issued by the District Collector, about non-availability of non-forest land for the project

k) Certificate issued by the District Collector, about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

l) Area wise forest land involved in the project.

i) Gummanur RF 68.35m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0137 ha

ii) Gummanur RF 256.66m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0513 ha

iii) Thoppur RF 65.50m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0131 ha

iv) Thoppur RF 5505.0m length and 10.00m width and area of 5.5050 ha

Total area of 5.5831 ha for 5895.51m length

m) Document on NOC issued by the NHAI for usage of road portion for proposed laying of 24" dia Steel Gas Pipeline along with 40mm dia OFC duct along the road.

n) Certified that there is no displacement of Scheduled Tribal people and therefore no rehabilitation plan is required.

o) Detailed note on the project

p) GPS co-ordinates of the proposed forest diversion area.

q) Segment wise GPS reading of the project proposal area.

r) Copy of letter of the District Collector, Dharmapuri addressed to the user agency that, the compensatory land identified in Kammampatty village will be transferred after obtaining approval from the Commissioner of Land Administration and on payment by the user agency.

s) Copy of letter of the District Collector, Dharmapuri on identification and allotment of land for the project involved for the GAIL India Limited project.

t) EIA report for the project proposal.

u) Document of compensatory land with some photos of boundary demarcation and handing over of land to Forest Department.

v) EDS replies furnished for the query details called for by the District Forest Officer.

3) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has forwarded the proposal along with Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal through online.

Details furnished in the Part-II of Form A by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division is furnished below.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

a) As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division, name of the forest land reported as Gummanur RF and Thoppur RF.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class of forest area is three.

iii) Species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the project reported as 609 numbers.

a) Status of trees to be felled in the project area reported as spontaneous grown trees.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer has reported that, the area already eroded. No soil to be eroded.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that Monkeys, Wild boar, Monitor lizard and reptiles are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

a) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion.

b) There is no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

viii) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has reported that, identified non forest area in Kammampatty village is having good growth and stock of

7

the plantation and approximately 100 numbers shall be planted over an extent of 1.14 ha and approximately 500 numbers shall be planted in 4.44.31 ha as enrichment of plantation in the compensatory land.

91

a) Apart from the above planting activities, for the proposed diversion of 5.5831 ha area, compensatory afforestation has been proposed in 10.0 ha of degraded forest area in Kadathur RF of Morappur Range. This degraded forest area portion was recovered from encroachment.

b) Compensatory afforestation scheme proposed for the project proposal as follows.

- i) Compensatory afforestation in 10.00 ha area in Kadathur RF – Rs. 89,52,013/-
 - ii) Protection of plantation by erection of chain link fencing – Rs. 1,01,87,716/-
 - iii) Digging borewell at Kadathur RF CA plantation area – Rs. 2,69,500/-
 - iv) Providing drip irrigation system for the CA plantation area – Rs. 13,04,023/-
 - v) Compensatory afforestation of enrichment of non-forest area – Rs. 21,45,318/-
- Total – Rs. 2,28,58,570/-

c) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has reported that, details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme, KML file of the identified land for raising Compensatory Afforestation in Kadathur degraded forest area in Morappur Range, necessary Geo reference map showing the GPS points and Survey of India map, CA Estimates along with all CA Scheme documents have been uploaded under section 13 in PART II of Form — A. But it is not showing in the Print / View report Summary Page. Thus, All the required documents have been uploaded under Additional information details section and requested to consider and accepted for further process of proposal.

ix) In the additional details information section, the District Forest Officer has uploaded following documents.

- a) Recommendation of the proposal,
- b) Site inspection report of the project proposal area,
- c) Compensatory land site suitability certificate
- d) Compensatory Afforestation scheme of the project proposal
- e) Geo reference map of compensatory afforestation area in Kadathur RF.

f) Survey of India topo sheet of compensatory afforestation area in Kadathur RF.

g) Survey of India topo sheet of identified non forest compensatory land in Kammampatty village.

h) Geo reference map of identified non forest compensatory land in Kammampatty village.

i) Status of trees to be felled in the project area.

j) EDS replies on the project proposal.

x) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has reported the following.

a) The proposed site was inspected on 27-07-2024. The proposal was submitted by the User Agency for requesting prior permission under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, for diversion of 5.5831 Ha of forest area. 5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division in Dharmapuri District for laying underground Ø24" R-LNG pipeline for the demand of both domestic and industry purposes.

b) The proposal is for linear project and it is proposed along the stretches of four laning of Thorapalli Agraharam - Jittandahalli section of new NH-844 from km.33/510 to km.60/100 (RHS) (package-II) and 60/100 to km.94/460 (RHS) on Jittandahalli to Dharmapuri section of NH-844 (Package-III) National Highways Authority of India, Krishnagiri proposed road, which is passing through the Gummanur Reserved Forest of Palacode Range. The User Agency has also obtained the NOC from National Highways Authority of India, Krishnagiri.

c) The proposed length width and area of forest area involved are

i) Gummanur RF 68.35m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0137 ha

ii) Gummanur RF 256.66m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0513 ha

iii) Thoppur RF 65.50m length and 2.00m width and area of 0.0131 ha

iv) Thoppur RF 5505.0m length and 10.00m width and area of 5.5050 ha

Total area of 5.5831 ha for 5895.51m length

d) The User agency, i.e., The Deputy General Manager, Gail India Limited - KKBMP, Chennai, has not yet commenced any work in the field, therefore the

question of violation of provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not arise and there is no encroachment in this area.

e) The forest land required for the project is not the part of any National Park / Wildlife sanctuary / Eco Sensitive Zone / Default Eco Sensitive zone / Biosphere.

f) The underground laying Ø24" R-LNG pipeline is proposed to be laid at about trench of size 1.5m width and 1.2m depth only and the requested Right of way (ROW) is 2mtr in Gummanur RF of Palacode Range and again 2mtr ROW required for Segment III and 10mtr Right of way (ROW) required for Segment IV in Thoppur Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Range for the movement of construction equipment and to perform the activities like pipe stringing, Welding and field joint coating.

g) In the alignment of the proposed Ø24" R-LNG pipeline, there are existing 6 numbers of trees which are spontaneous growth in nature and requires felling in Gummanur Reserved Forest of Palacode Range and also 603 numbers of trees which are spontaneous growth in nature and requires felling in Thoppur Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Range.

xi) In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has reported that, considering the importance and demand of both domestic and industry purposes and field observations, this proposal recommend for diversion of forest land.

4) The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has inspected the area on 07.11.2023.

a) In the site inspection report, observation furnished as follows

Thoppur Reserve Forests (Segment-I) — 5.5181 Ha

(i) The proposed alignment beyond station No 95 is highly undulated hilly terrain and inside the RF area and not along the Thoppur — Dharmapuri NH 7 Road. As per the Government of India Guidelines, the laying of pipeline has to be aligned along the right of way of road.

(ii) The maps furnished by M/s. Gail India Ltd were compared. It is found that the map uploaded as KML file and PDF document are different as there is difference in the GPS readings. Hence the user agency shall be asked to prepare the map from field data using total station or DGPS for the entire stretch and the machine data shall be

Trees
felling

M

10
shared with the department. During the interaction with fields staff they have informed that the GPS reading was taken at the starting stations with Total Station, however the entire stretch was not surveyed using Total Station.

- (iii) The alignment of the proposed pipeline intersects,
- a. A percolation pond at station No.82-83
 - b. Rocky patches at station No. 95-106
 - c. Station no. 115-119 is aligned along the natural depression
i.e. a stream. There are several gully plugging structures.
 - d. Rocky patches at station No. 120-123
 - e. Undulating terrain and crosses perpendicular to a stream at station No.212 to 2020.

(iv) It was informed that, the work will be implemented through the open pit method. Hence the Rocky patches require blasting of stones up to the required depth, which can damage the forests. Such activity cannot be restricted to the present working area of 10m sought in the proposal and there is possibility of encroaching into the non-diverted areas.

Gummanur Reserved Forests (Segment-II) — 0.0651 Ha

(v) The proposed forest area in Gummanur Reserved Forest by M/S Gail India Ltd has already been proposed by the NHAI for laying road and in Principle approval under Stage I has since been accorded by the Government of India in favour NHAI authority over an extent of 0.389 Ha. Therefore, the area required by M/S GAIL India Ltd in Gummanur RF (Segment — 3 — 0.0137 Ha) is become re-diversion of forest area.

CA Proposed

The Compensatory Afforestation area of 11.8888 Ha twice the extent of the diverted forest land (5.5831 Ha) has been identified in the degraded forest land in Masakkal Reserved Forests of Pennagaram Range of Dharmapuri Forest Division and the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri furnished the certificate regarding suitability of the degraded forest land. The District Forest Officer has also reported that it is approachable and manageable on protection point of view.

Felling of Tress involved.

Due to implementation of this project, there are 609 Nos of trees (Thoppur RF — 603 Nos and Gummanur RF — 06 Nos) of various species that have to be felled in the proposed area. As they are spontaneous in nature, the permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is required in this case. †

Observations on the discussion held with user agency on 09.11.2023 at Salem.

A meeting with the user agency was held at Salem Conservator's Office before finalising the report.

i) Since an alignment along the ROW / NH 7 of Dharmapuri — Salem Road in the stretch of Thoppur RF is possible as per the user agency, the user agency may be instructed to realign the pipeline closer to ROW / NH 7 of Dharmapuri — Salem Road in the stretch of Thoppur RF i.e. parallel to it for avoiding the diversion of forest land which has rocks, slopes, streams & undulated area. This will prevent fragmentation of the forest.

ii) If the alignment can't be moved closer to NH, then a study on the impact of pipeline on the ecosystem and alignment change for avoiding streams, rocky portion etc by reputed institutes such as IIT/ Anna University Chennai may be obtained.

iii) The proposed alignment is 10 m wide. Leaving the width of trench 1.00 mts for laying of pipeline, the leftover width is 4.50 mts on either side. This width will not be sufficient for working area for the movement of Hitachi /JCB etc., Also, in the sloppy terrain it may not be possible to utilise these equipment's without causing disturbance to forests and damages to forests. On discussion, it was explained by the user agency that the movement of vehicles have been proposed by grading the undulated portions and will be marked in the field with in the left over 9.00 Mtr width and during the time of discussion, the user agency has stated that no additional forest area will be sought for.

iv) It was informed that the work will be implemented through the open pit method. Hence the Rocky patches require blasting of stones up to the required depth, which can damage the forests. Such activity cannot be restricted to the present working area of 10m sought in the proposal and there is possibility of encroaching into the non-diverted areas.

12

v) The maps furnished by M/s. Gail India Ltd were compared. It is found that the map uploaded as KML file and PDF document are different as there is difference in the GPS readings. Hence the user agency shall be asked to prepare the map from field data using total station or DGPS for the entire stretch and the machine data shall be shared with the department. The user agency too agreed that the precision of the DGPS or total station will be more than a normal GPS.

vi) To avoid damages to the forest and wildlife in future, it was discussed about the pipes and its make. It was explained that the pipes made up of Carbon steel pipe with required thickness has been proposed to be laid in the forest area.

Under the circumstances explained above, the Conservator of Forests has recommended and forwarded the proposal received from the DFO subject to the modifications and conditions imposed in Part III of the proposal.

b) The Conservator of Forest in his recommendation of the project has reported that, proposal recommended and forwarded the proposal subject to adherence to following modification and conditions.

i) The alignment of the proposed pipeline intersects a percolation pond at station No.82-83 Rocky patches at station No. 95-106 Station no.115-119 is aligned along the natural depression i.e. a stream. There are several gully plugging structures. Rocky patches at station No. 120-123 Undulating terrain and crosses perpendicular to a stream at station No.212 to 2020

ii) The user agency may be instructed to explore the possibility of laying of pipeline closer to ROW / NH 7 of Dharmapuri — Salem Road in the stretch of Thoppur RF i.e. parallel to it for avoiding the diversion of forest land which has rocks, slopes, streams & undulated area

iii) If the alignment can't be moved closer to NH necessary study on the impact of pipeline on the ecosystem and alignment change for avoiding streams, rocky portion etc by IIT/ Anna University Chennai may be obtained as the present alignment fragments the forest.

iv) The possibility of horizontal drilling instead of the open pit method can also be explored as its less damaging.

v) The maps furnished by M/s. Gail India Ltd were compared. It is found that the map uploaded as KML file and PDF document are different as there is difference in the GPS readings. Hence the user agency shall be asked to prepare the map from field data using total station or DGPS for the entire stretch and the machine data shall be shared with the department.

vi) It was informed that the work will be implemented through the open pit method. Hence the Rocky patches require blasting of stones up to the required depth, which can damage the forests. Such activity cannot be restricted to the present working area of 10m sought in the proposal and there is possibility of encroaching into the non-diverted areas.

vii) This project requires felling of 609 Nos spontaneous trees (Thoppur RF — 603 Nos and Gummanur RF — 6 Nos) which is inevitable, and the user agency must obtain prior permission of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

5) For the observations raised in the proposal, the user agency has reported that, (i) realigning of the pipeline along the NH-44, was explored during the Detailed Engineering Survey itself and found laying of pipeline along the existing the NH-44 stretches is technically not feasible and NH authority also declined the permission, hence GAIL is left with no alternate option and constrained to finalize the pipeline alignment in the small stretches in forestland.

a) The road in the hilly area with undulated terrain.

b) Laying of pipeline with sharp bends of variable depth is not feasible on technical and safety ground as per the International standards ASTM/OISD-141 & 117 etc.,

ii) The pipeline alignment has already undergone various changes based on the directive of Govt. of Tamil Nadu to align the pipeline along various road corridor and Govt. Lands to minimize the acquisition of private/ agriculture lands to circumvent the prolonged agitation of the farmers.

6) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 100 years. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has recommended the period of diversion for 20 year period and the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has not specified any diversion period.

A

B

25

Diversion of forest area is recommended for a period of 30 years as recommended for GAIL India project in Salem District, i.e., Project another proposal located in Salem District.

7) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle, forest clearance proposal may be forwarded to the Government for consideration and to obtain orders from the Government of India for diversion of 5.5831 Ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur RF (5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur RF) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying under ground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with OFC duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of the Deputy General Manager, GAIL India Limited TN, Chennai and the following conditions may be recommended for imposition in the project.

i) The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at the appropriate distance as decided by the District Forest Officer at the cost of user agency.

iii) The user agency has to mutate and transfer of non-forest land of 5.5831 ha identified in SF No. 692/29 and 692/30 of Kammampatty village in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District to the Forest Department.] 7

iv) The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme for the selected degraded forest area in Kadathur RF and non-forest CA land enrichment of plantation as per the Compensatory afforestation scheme including maintenance for a period of 10 years.

v) The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forest diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.

vi) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed

by Forest Department in future. The user agency has to furnish undertaking to this effect.

vii) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme, Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

viii) The user agency has to obtain orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of spontaneous trees in the project proposal area before Stage-II final approval.

ix) After obtaining orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of spontaneous trees, the user agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees to be felled in the project to the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division.

x) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval.

xi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.

xii) Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers and staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora and fauna.

xiii) No tree felling shall be carried out by the user agency.

xiv) 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 competent authority.

xv) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

xvi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 5.5831 ha area in Gummanur RF (0.065 ha) and Thoppur RF (5.5181 ha) and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any other purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.

18
xvii) The user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the All Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines for the time being in force, as applicable to the Project.

xviii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions, the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions of the MoEF&CC guidelines.

xix) Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) (FAC) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

9) I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and forwarded to the Government of India for obtaining concurrence for diversion of 5.5831 Ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur RF (5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur RF) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying under ground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with OFC duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of the Deputy General Manager, GAIL India Limited TN, Chennai for a period of 30 years.

Yours faithfully

S. Alayar 27/11/25
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

27/11/25

Proposal No. FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020.

Proposal for diversion of 5.5831 Ha of forest area in Gummanur and Thoppur RF (5.5181 Ha (Two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065Ha (Two segments) in Gummanur RF) of Dharmapuri Forest Division for laying under ground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with OFC duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of the Deputy General Manager, GAIL India Limited TN, Chennai.

PART - IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with remarks
	(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)

Recommended

Signature : 

Name, Designation :

Thiru S. Ramasubramanian, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), (FAC)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force) Chennai -32

Date : -01-2025

Place : Chennai-32

