भारत सरकार/Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, कोलकाता/ Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata
IB-198, Sector – III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700106
Phone-033-2335-0902, E-mail: iro.kolkata-mefcc@gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

No.WB/TRANS-86/2021/FC/180 Date: 3rd March 2023

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Department of Forests,
Government of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, Block-LA, 10-A, Sector – III,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700106.

Sub: Final (Stage-II) approval of Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for proposed diversion of 2.131 ha of forest land in favour of DVC for construction of 220 KV DC Transmission Line from Purulia Substation to Burdwan Substation under Burdwan Forest Division in West Bengal - reg

Sir,

This refers to letter No.1354-For/O/L/10T-12/2021 dated 13.12.2021, wherein prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for diversion of 2.131 ha of forest land in favour of DVC for construction of 220 KV DC Transmission Line from Purulia Substation to Burdwan Substation under Burdwan Forest Division in West Bengal, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government for diversion of the said forest land was accorded vide Ministry's letter of even number dated 4.02.2022 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government of West Bengal vides their letter No. 197-For/O/L/10T-12/2021 dated 8.02.2023 has furnished compliance report in respect of the relevant conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval for grant of final approval.

In this connection, on the basis of the compliance report under reference, the **final approval** of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is hereby accorded for diversion of 2.131 ha of forest land in favour of DVC for construction of 220 KV DC Transmission Line from Purulia Substation to Burdwan Substation under Burdwan Forest Division in West Bengal, subject to the following conditions and stipulations:-

(1) Legal status of the forest land diverted shall remain unchanged.

(2) **Compensatory afforestation:** Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 4.262 ha. degraded forest land (Location-Barachatra PF 1.202 ha + Ramchandrapur PF 3.059 ha, Range – Guskara

under Burdwan Forest Division) at the cost of the User Agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species must be avoided.

(3) **The KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal before issue of final approval by the State Government of West Bengal.**

(4) The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI in this regard.

(5) The Scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the Right of Way under the Transmission Line, as prepared by the State Forest Department (for which funds have to be provided by the User Agency) shall be implemented from the funds provided by the User Agency.

(6) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officers.

(7) **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.**

(8) **The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for lying transmission through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012 FC dated 5/05/2014.**

(9) The layout plan of the proposed diversion of the forest land shall not be changed without prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

(10)a) All the natural streams and water bodies in surrounding area shall be protected.

b)No labour camp shall be established inside the forest land.

c) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.

(11)a) The diverted forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.

b) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project life.

c) The diverted forest land shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

(12)The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order(s) and National Green Tribunal Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time in force, as applicable to the project.

(13)Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.

(14)Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife.

2. As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours sincerely,

3/3/23

(Dr. Soma Das)
Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The IGF (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi–110 003.
2. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, 700098.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Burdwan Forest Division, West Bengal.
4. The Superintending Engineer (E), Transmission System Construction Division – I, DVC, Durgapur - 713207.
5. Guard file

3/3/23

Inspector General of Forests (C)