

I/520648/2023

**Government of Punjab
Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation
(Forest Branch)**

Date : 02/03/2023

To

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.

Subject: DIVERSION OF 1.85 (INSTEAD OF 1.96) HA OF FOREST LAND FOR LAYING WATER SURFACE , DRINKING WATER SUPPLY SCHEME (40 VILLAGES) IN TAKE POINT AT PAROWAL, (TOTAL LENGTH OF FOREST EFFECT LINER 19600 METER), TEHSIL & DISTRICT GURDASPUR (FP/PB/WATER/43199/2019).

Government of India has accorded general approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide letter No. F.No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019 under para 4.2 according in the cases of laying of Underground Telephone Lines, Optical Fiber Cable/Underground Laying of Drinking Water Supply Pipeline, CNG/PNG and slurry pipeline.

1. After careful consideration of the proposal submitted vide your letter under reference general approval of Govt. of India under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for " Stage-I Approval " diversion of 1.85 (INSTEAD OF 1.96) ha. of forest land for digging of trenches measuring 18500 mtrs total length, 1 mtrs width and 1 mtrs depth of natural gas pipeline along & across the road / rail/ canal declared as PF in Punjab State towards PNGRB authorization for development of CGD Network is hereby conveyed subject to the following conditions :-

- i. 50% Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted for non-forestry purpose may be realized from the user agency, as per MoEF & CC Guidelines dated 28.03.2019.
- ii. As per the orders of the Government of India vide letter No. 5-2/2010 CAMPA 24.06.2011, The Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land and all other Charges shall be deposited through web portal of Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate Change www.parivesh.nic.in

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- iii. The User agency shall provide certificate regarding Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 from the concerned Deputy Commissioner to Divisional Forest Officer.

2. The following conditions shall also be complied with after according final approval:-

1. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
2. The forest land to be diverted as per Stage-I approval will not be use for any other purpose.
3. 280 plants will be felled in this case.
4. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 28-3-08 in I.A No. 826 in 566 in W.P.(C) 202 of 1995, the user agency is exempted for paying of the charges under NPV provided: (a) no felling of trees is involved and (b) the areas fall outside National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. User Agency has given Justification about Bank Guarantee of Rs. 1,76,92,000/- to DFO, Gurdaspur.
6. It is mandatory for the User Agency not to exceed the permissible trench limit of 1 meter in width and 1 meter in depth.
7. The Optical Fiber Cable will be laid along the road within the existing right of way and close to the outermost edge of the forest land. The dug out land shall be restored by the User Agency and the same shall be made good immediately after the approved operation.
8. This approval is subject to the clearance of the proposal under relevant local Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions etc. as applicable.
9. The User Agency shall seek prior permission from the DFO, Gurdaspur for carrying out any maintenance operation.
10. The User Agency shall abide by any other condition (s) that may be imposed by this Department in the interest of afforestation and protection of environment.
11. The State Forest Department may revoke/suspend this approval, if any of the above conditions is not satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.

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12. An undertaking is signed by the User Agency for abiding by all the aforesaid conditions.
13. If any other NOC is necessary for the work under any Act/Rules/Guidelines etc. from other Departments, the user agency should obtain the same on its own before the commencement of laying of Cable.
14. This approval is granted subject to the condition that there is no court case pending in any court pertaining to the land or trees in the present FCA case. Any legal liability arising out of such case; if any, will be the sole responsibility of the land owning Department.
15. DFO, Gurdaspur shall ensure fulfillment of the above conditions and CF, Bist Circle, Jalandhar will supervise it.

Dr. Indu Malhotra
SECRETARY
02/03/2023

Copy to:-

1. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.
2. Conservator of Forests, Bist Circle, Jalandhar and DFO Gurdaspur
3. SH. HARBHINDER SINGH, EE, VILLAGE PAROWAL TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GURDASPUR.