

I/5963/2021



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, GANDHINAGAR



F. No: 6-GJB 047/2020-BHO/

Date: 30/09/2021

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)
Govt. of Gujarat,
Forest and Environment Department,
Block No14, 8th Floor, New Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Sub: Final (Stage-II) approval of Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for proposed diversion of 25.1315 ha Reserved, Protected Forest land and Wildlife Sanctuary area for construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadiya Banaskantha Transmission line in favour of Associate General Manager, Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Ltd. in Kutch, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat-reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letter No. FCA-1020/7-21/20/SF-193/F dated 12/11/2020, wherein prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for diversion of 25.1315 ha Reserved, Protected Forest land and Wildlife Sanctuary area for construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadiya Banaskantha Transmission line in favour of Associate General Manager, Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Ltd. in Kutch, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat 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 this office letter of even number dated 30/12/2020 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Govt. of Gujarat vide their letter No. FCA-1020/7-21/20/SF-193/F dated 19/08/2021 have 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 and confirmation of receipt of compensatory levies from National Authority of CAMPA vide online e.portal dated 31/03/2021, the **final approval** of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is hereby accorded for diversion of 25.1315 ha Reserved, Protected Forest land and Wildlife Sanctuary area for construction of 765 KV D/C Lakadiya Banaskantha Transmission line in favour of Associate General Manager, Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Ltd. in Kutch, Patan & Banaskantha Districts of Gujarat 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 **51.00 ha** degraded forest land at Survey No. 136/ Pt, Village-Zumkha, Taluka-Bhuj, District-Kutch at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local native species shall be planted and monoculture of any species should be avoided.
3. The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been

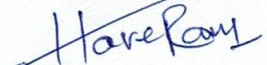
completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI in this regard.

4. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees up to 5089 to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department, and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
5. In case a portion of the Transmission Line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut.
6. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars etc. The pillars should be spaced at about 50 meter and each pillar should be clearly visible from pillars on both sides.
7. The KML file of diverted area and CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to plantation work.
8. The User Agency shall comply with the guideline for laying transmission lines through forest as per Chapter 10 of FCA, 1980 Handbook, 2019.
9. The layout plan of the proposed diversion of the forest land shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
10. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
11. No labour camp shall be established inside the forest land.
12. 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.
13. The diverted forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
14. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project life.
15. The diverted forest land shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
16. All the conditions stipulated in Stage-I/ In-principle approval shall be strictly complied.
17. 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.
18. 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 and Para 1.21 of FCA Handbook, 2019.
19. 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 Regional Office of 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.

This has been issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

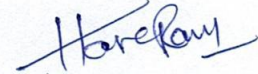


(Hare Ram Kumar)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

Copy to:-

1. The DIG(F) RO(HQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Arayan Bhavan, Sector-10A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Kutch (West) Division, Bhuj, Gujarat.
4. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Kutch Extension Division, Bhuj, Gujarat.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Patan Forest Division, District-Patan, Gujarat.
6. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division Banaskantha-Palanpur, Gujarat.
7. The Associate General Manager, Lakadia Banaskantha Transco Ltd, House No. 22, Odhav Vandana-4, Airport Road, Bhuj, Gujarat.
8. Guard File.



(Hare Ram Kumar)

Technical Officer (Forestry)