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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Sri N. Prateep Kumar, I.F.S.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Nagarampalem,
Guntur -522004

To
The Secretary to Government,
Environment, Forests, Science
and Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat,
Velagapudi.

Rc.no.EFS02-15027/4/2019/FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, Dated: 25/05/2021.

Sir,

Sub: APFD - F(C)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada - Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref: 1. Online proposal no. FP/AP/Pipeline/42672/2019.
- 2. PCCF & HoFF,, A.P., Guntur Rc. no. EFS02-15027/4/2019-FCA SEC - PCCF/FCA-1, dated:27.12.2019.
3. CCF, Rajamahendravaram Rc. no. 1713/2019-D1, dated: 21.05.2021.

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It is submitted that, the Chief General manager, ONGC, Delhi in the reference 1st cited has uploaded the proposal in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 3.26 ha of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram in the reference 3rd cited has submitted the proposal for diversion of 3.26 ha of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant in East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada and processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 3.26 ha. (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa

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RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) is required for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada.

- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.156200 lakh.
- The user agency has certified the demand for forest land in Matlatippa RF area to an extent of 2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land, hence a total of 3.26 ha for laying of 20" dia Gas export pipeline from Offshore Platform to Mallavaram Onshore Terminal is the minimum requirement for the laying of the pipeline. The approach to land from Offshore is only through the Forest Area and no alternative is available for bringing the pipeline from Offshore Platform to Mallavaram Onshore Terminal.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, CA, tree extraction charges.
- Area proposed for diversion is below 20 ha. (i.e. 3.26 ha.). Hence, cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved due to execution of this project.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 100 for Permanent / Regular Employment and 200 for Temporary Employment.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.
- The user agency has stated that, the project or a part thereof is located in the protected area or their Eco-sensitive zone.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada Division has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest area to an extent of 3.26 ha. (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) is required 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
- Legal Status of the forest is Matlatippa RF was notified under Section 15 vide G.O. No. 405, dated: 01.06.1979 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967 and in deemed forest area of 0.59 ha.
- The proposed pipeline is passing through the water body in Matlatippa RF and in deemed forest area having mangroves.
- There is fauna like fishing cast, smooth coated otters in the surrounding areas of the proposed forest area for diversion.
- Regarding Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class wise enumeration of trees, the Divisional Forest Officer , Kakinada has reported that proposed pipeline is passing through the river body over an extent of 2.67 ha in Matlatippa RF and along two bits of mangrove forest area of 0.59 ha (Bit-1: 0.44 ha & Bit-2: 0.15 ha) of revenue land within 10 Km from the boundary of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and **there is no involvement of tree felling found place both in the forest area of 2.67 ha and mangrove forest area of 0.59 ha.**
- Regarding note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion, the Divisional Forest Officer has stated that it was taken care in the project cost.
- The proposed pipeline is passing through the water body in Matlatippa RF of Kakinada Range and in deemed forest area having mangroves.

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- Regarding rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna found in the proposed area are Fishing Cats and Otters which were reported and sighted in the forest surrounding the proposed area for diversion.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The user agency has not violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 19.10.2020. Observations of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada are as follows.

1. Total length of proposed ONGC pipeline is 30.82 km,
2. The nearest distance of proposed pipeline to the boundary of the Coringa Wildlife sanctuary is 2.35 Km.
3. Length of proposed pipeline passes through default Eco-sensitive Zone i.e. 10 Km radius of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is 10.08 Km an area of 18.96 ha.
4. Length of the 1.17 Km of Pipeline passing through the water body in compartment no.666 of Matlatippa RF of Kakinada Division over an area of 2.67 ha.
5. Out of which 0.03 Km in Revenue lands mangroves are present on both sides of the Nala (0.05 km.). Hence the length of 0.08 Km. (0.03 km. Mangroves + 0.05 km Nala) also attracts the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The deemed forest area having mangroves arrived to 0.59 ha (two bits 0.44 ha + 0.15 ha.) in deemed forest area having mangroves of Mallavaram village.

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has stated that proposal “**may be accepted**”.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has also recommended **one additional condition** for the User Agency to buy and provide two vehicles and two boats to APFD which costs Rs.100 lakh as follows for the purpose of **Monitoring, Evaluation and supervision of FCA project.**

(i) Two Speed boats @ Rs.30 lakh each boat	= Rs.60.00 lakh
(ii) Mahindra Safari Vehicle @ Rs.25.00 lakh each	= Rs. 25.00 lakh
(iii) Mahindra Thar Vehicle @ Rs.15.00 lakh each	= Rs. 15.00 lakh

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Total = Rs.100.00 lakh

In part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has agreed with the information furnished by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

Further, as per para 2.5 (i) (f) of Chapter-2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, MoEF &CC, New Delhi in F. No. 5-2/2017, FC, dated: 28.03.2019 degraded forest land for **Compensatory Afforestation** has been identified to an extent of 7.84 ha which is double the extent of RF proposed for diversion (3.26 ha) in Compartment no.449 of Murari RF of Diwancheruvu Beat of Diwancheruvu Section of Kakinada Division. As per 2.8 (ii) of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, MoEF &CC, New Delhi in F.No. 5-2/2017, FC, dated: 28.03.2019 a scheme for raising **Compensatory Afforestation has been prepared with a financial outlay of Rs.50.438 lakh for 10 years.**

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps of degraded forest area are furnished.

The District Collector, East Godhavari District has issued certificate under RoFR Act, 2006 in Rc. no. 2342/2019-D1, dated: Nil as stipulated by the MoEF, Gol, New Delhi in the Lr.No.11-9/1998-FC (pt), Dt.05.07.2013, in the prescribed format Annexure-I (Form-I) for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006. The certificate is enclosed with the proposal.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF, New Delhi, this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/Pipeline/ 42672/ 2019** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram & the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada have recommended the proposal for diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at Mallavaram village, East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures for an area of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying 20" pipeline (about 31 Km) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC

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onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada duly recommended in Part-IV in triplicate is submitted herewith .

It is further requested to incorporate the additional condition as recommended by the DFO, Kakinada to the User Agency to provide infrastructure support for the purpose of Monitoring, Evaluation and supervision of FCA project in addition to stipulation of other conditions as per norms under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Government are requested to take necessary action for onward submission of proposals to Government of India, MoEF &CC, IRO, Vijayawada to accord forest clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments therein.

Encl:- (3) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
N Prateep Kumar
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada for information.

Copy to the CGM (C), M/s ONGC, Eastern Offshore Asset, 2nd floor, Subhadra Arcade, Bhanugudi Junction, Kakinada for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) and Chief Wildlife Warden , A.P, Guntur for information and necessary action.

PART-IV

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations of the State Forest Department for acceptance or 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.
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Date:25/05/2021

Signature:

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Place: Guntur

Name:N Prateep Kumar

Office Seal:

Signed by N Prateep Kumar
Date: 25-05-2021 16:12:41
Reason: Approved