

Diversion of 0.1000 ha. Reserved Forest/Unclass Forest land for laying proposed 4", 6" dia Steel Gas Pipeline along SH-27 from Kedgaon to Supe in Taluka Ahmednagar & Parner in Dist-Ahmednagar in the State of Maharashtra

Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force) Maharashtra State with regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons

Chief Manager – CGD Head, Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, , G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex (East), Mumbai has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.1000 ha. Reserved Forest/Unclass Forest land for laying proposed 4", 6" dia Steel Natural Gas Pipeline along SH-27 from Kedgaon to Supe in Taluka Ahmednagar & Parner in Dist-Ahmednagar in the State of Maharashtra. Total non forest area involved in the project is 2.6645 ha. Details of Forest land involved in the project is as under :-

Item of work / purpose	Village	Taluka	Forest land required				Status of Forest Land
			Sur / Gut No.	Length & Width	Area in Sq. Mtr.	Area (Ha.)	
laying of proposed 4", 6" Steel Gas Pipeline from Kedgaon to Supe along SH-27/, in Ahmednagar and Parner taluka of - Ahmednagar district.	Supe	Parner	503	250.00 x 2.00	500.00	0.050	Reserved Forest
	Waghunde Khurd		8	250.00 x 2.00	500.00	0.050	Unclass Forest
Total					1000.00	0.10	

2. The User Agency has highlighted that Bharat Gas Resources Limited (BGRL) Aurangabad plan to execute the developmental project for establishing the city gas distribution Network underground to supply piped Natural Gas (PNG) to CNG, domestic, commercial and Industrial customers. The pipeline will be laid by excavation of a narrow strip of trench 1.2 m depth and 1.00 m width and by horizontal directional drilling (HDD)/ Open cutting for pausing the casing pipe wherever required. The pipeline route proposed is most economical and it is necessary to lay along/across various NH & SH Roads from RGTIL Terminal at Limpangaon to Ahmednagar, Kopargaon and to Aurangabad in Ahmednagar and Aurangabad District . It is not possible any alternative route except to use of minimum forest land for the proposed route of pipeline . Executive Engineer, PWD Ahmednagar, Project Implementation Unit (PIU) NHA Ahmednagar, Irrigation Division Ahmednagar have been requested to allow to lay pipelines . Permission is likely to be received shortly. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board vide letter dated 28/09/2018 issued authorization letter to Bharat Gas Resources Limited for development of city Gas Distribution Network in Geographical area of Ahmednagar and Aurangabad Districts.

3. Chief Conservator of forests (T), Nashik vide their letter No Desk-02/Land/04/2020-21/161/20-21, dated 16/06/2020 has submitted the proposal along with requisite documents for recommending the proposal :-

4. Deputy Conservator of Forests Ahmednagar has certified that :-

- 4.1 No suitable non forest land is available for the proposed project and demand for the required forest land is lowest minimum demand. P/30
- 4.2 The route is selected though only Government Road & its ROW lands Preferably along existing Road network. It is not avoidable to pass through Reserve Forest, Protected Forest or Unclass forest, and there is no other alternative. P/42
- 4.3 Provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines, under it , have not been violated by user agency . P/32
- 4.4 1.000 ha. Degraded forest area of Gut. No 276, at Village-Malkup, Tal- Parner, Dist- Ahmednagar proposed for Compensatory Afforestation suitable for Afforestation and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances. P/33-34
- 4.5 The proposed project area is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural , historical religious, archeological or recreational importance. P/37

4.6 Wildlife Certificate

The proposed area is not included in the area of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature reserve. P/38

The proposed area is beyond 10 km from the protected area (Sanctuary and National Park) P/41

4.7 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ahmednagar has submitted Site Inspection Report dated 07/03/2020. P/44, 45

4.8 The non forest land covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927, and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "Forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996 .

4.9 There is no cutting/ felling of trees involved in the proposed project P/40, 47

4.10 The proposed area belongs Eco Value CI-III , having density 0.01. P/39, 68

5. User Agency has submitted the following undertaking/documents :-

5.1 To bear the cost of clearance/removal of the vegetation growth from the proposed forest land. P/72

5.2 Agreed to bear the cost of Compensatory afforestation. P/71, 73

5.3 To bear the cost of Net Present Value. P/75

5.4 Compliance of FRA-2006 has not been submitted by User Agency, however, it submitted the undertaking stating that the FRA-2006 certificate will be submitted on receipt from Collector. P/92

5.5 User Agency has submitted the Copy of Authorization letter dated 28/09/2018 issued by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to Bharat Gas Resources Limited for development of city Gas Distribution Network in Geographical area of Ahmednagar and Aurangabad Districts P/61

5.7 User Agency has Certified that , they will seek Environmental Clearance proposal if necessary and will start the work only clearance granted by Environmental Wing of Ministry of Environment and forest under Environment Protection Act and P/77

Environmental Impact Assessment Act, 1994.

- 5.8 The User Agency has submitted that they have applied for necessary permission for laying of pipeline from Executive Engineer, PWD Ahmednagar, Project Implementation Unit (PIU) NHA Ahmednagar, Irrigation Division Ahmednagar, and permission is likely to be received shortly.

6. In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section - 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:-

- 6.1 The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged
- 6.2 Compensatory afforestation will be raised at the cost of the user agency on 1.000 ha. Degraded forest area of Gut. No 276, at Village-Malkup, Tal- Parner, Dist-Ahmednagar As per GOI guidelines dated 08/11/2017 at least 1000 plants per ha. to be planted on degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- 6.3 The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project Authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- 6.4 The user agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 0.1000 Ha. of forest land as per the latest guideline of Government of India.
- 6.5 The user agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of forestland as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- 6.6 The User Agency should obtain the permission of Competent Authority of concerned Public Works Department/NHA for laying of natural gas pipeline along the RoW of State Highway and National Highways i.e. SH-27 and MSH-05
- 6.7 The user agency should submit the complete compliance of FRA-2006 at the earliest or along with compliance of Stage-I approval.
- 6.8 The pipeline shall be laid down 1.5 mtr below the ground and after lying down of pipe line the ground will be leveled.
- 6.9 The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- 6.10 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- 6.11 No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- 6.12 Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- 6.13 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 Officer.

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- 6.14 No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
 - 6.15 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
 - 6.16 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt of India.
 - 6.17 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 Guidelines F No. 11-42/2017-FC dated 29/01/2018.
 - 6.18 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.
 - 6.19 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & Wildlife.


(Dr. N. Rambabu)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur


25/8/2020

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PART -IV

Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.:- Chief Manager – CGD Head, Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, , Bandra-Kurla Complex (East), Mumbai has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.10 ha. Reserved Forest/Unclass Forest land for laying proposed 4", 6" dia Steel Natural Gas Pipeline along SH-27 from Kedgaon to Supe in Taluka Ahmednagar & Parner in Dist- Ahmednagar in the State of Maharashtra under section (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The details of the forest land proposed for diversion is as under :-

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Total					1000.00	0.10	

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) MS Nagpur is attached on page no. 7A.

Date : 01/09/2020
Place : Nagpur


(Sanjeev Gaur)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer



Certified by ISO
9001:2015

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer,
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001

Tel no. (0712) 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675

E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in Website: www.mahaforest.gov.in

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No. : Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12791/()/568 /2020-21
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated: 01/10/2020

To ,

The Deputy Director General Forests (Central) ,
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Regional Office (WCZ), Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,
Nagpur 440001

Ref:- Chief Conservator of forests (T), Nashik letter No Desk-02/Land/04/2020-21/161/20-21, dated 16/06/2020.

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- 6.19 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & Wildlife.

7. It is therefore requested that the Central Government may kindly be moved to approve diversion of 0.10 ha. Reserved Forest/Unclass Forest land in favour of Chief Manager – CGD Head, Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, , Bandra-Kurla Complex (East), Mumbai for laying proposed 4", 6" dia Steel Natural Gas Pipeline along SH-27 from Kedgaon to Supe in Taluka Ahmednagar & Parner in Dist-Ahmednagar in the State of Maharashtra under section (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

Encls : As above

(Sanjeev Gaur)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy submitted to The Principal Secretary (Forest), Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai -32 for information alongwith a copy of proposal.

Copy forwarded to Chief Conservator of forests, (T) Nashik for information.

Copy forwarded to Deputy Conservator of Forests Ahmednagar for information.

Copy forwarded to Chief Manager – CGD Head, Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, , G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex (East), Mumbai.

(Sanjeev Gaur)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
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