

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From:
Sri P. Mallikharjuna Rao, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)(FAC), Andhra
Pradesh, "Aranya Bhavan", K. M.
Munshi Road, Guntur - 522 004.

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

Rc.No. 7550/2017/FCA-1, Dated: 02.05.2018.

Sir,

Sub: - APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.69 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within in the existing Right of Way (RoW) passing through forest land under Uadayagiri & Venkatagiri Range of Nellore Division for providing LTE Voice & Data Services in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India - Proposal submitted - Reg.

- Ref: -
1. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Proposal No. FP/AP/Others/26682/2017, Dt. 17.06.2017.
 2. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Lr.No. RJIL/OFC/ROW/NLD/AP/APFD/2017-18/55, Dt.01.07.2017.
 3. PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur Ref.No. 7550/2017/FCA-1, Dt.11.07.2017.
 4. CF, Guntur Rc.No. 2782/2017/TO, Dt.02.04.2018.

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It is to submit that vide reference 1st cited M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd., Visakhapatnam has submitted the proposal through online for Diversion of 0.69 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within in the existing Right of Way (RoW) passing through forest land in Nellore Division.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and Conservator of Forests, Guntur vide this office reference 3rd cited for processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur vide reference 4th cited has submitted the proposal duly processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines and amendment thereon for diversion of 0.69 Ha. of forest land as per the field inspection.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- This proposal is for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the Road within in the existing Right of Way passing through forests in Nellore Division for providing LTE Voice & Data Services in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.
- The main aim for setting up this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of Telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defence and Society. This telecom Infrastructure shall lead to growth in economy and hence more employment and better living conditions of the geography/state/Country.

- This new scheme of laying optical Fiber Cable is most modern and state of art Technology in the field of Digital Telecommunication. Moreover the same cable will provide most of new value added services as well as it will cater for the needs of Integrated Services Digital Network.
- The cost of the project is Rs.75.00 Lakhs approximately.
- The User Agency has justified that the Optical Fiber Cable is generally laid along the admitted RoW of State / National Highway roads. Such road side area is declared as the Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act.
- The area requested for the laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also considering the safety of the cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defence & Strategic establishments, and from the different industrial organizations apart from the general public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conversation so made it is not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties.
- The Cable alignment will be suitably diverted to avoid any cutting of trees and laid within the road land boundary by excavating a narrow trench of 40cms width. The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition. It is also intimated that no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 15,000 man days approx.
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required is an extent of 0.69 Ha. is 14,799 mts. length x 0.5 mts. Width approx.
- The forest land required for diversion is located in Compt. Nos. 256 & 257 of Venkatagiri Range and Compt. Nos. 493 & 496 of Udayagiri Range, SPSR Nellore Division.
- The User agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, NPV, Additional NPV, tree Extraction charges and escalation charges, if any, as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.
- In regarding the certificate under RoFR Act-2006, the user agency has submitted that as per the GOI Lr.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dt.5.2.2013, proposals like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipe lines / Optical fiber and transmission lines etc., where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved the Grama Sabha resolution may not be required until unless recognized rights of PTG/PAC are being affected. The user agency has given an undertaking that the consent of Grama Sabha will be submitted.
- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the area proposed for diversion.

The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Division, Nellore has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- This proposal is for Diversion of 0.69 Ha. of forest land for laying of Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through forest land in Korisakonda & Udayagiridurgam RFs of Udayagiri Range and Venkatagiri Hill RF of Venkatagiri Range of SPSR Nellore Division in favor of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam.
- The compartment wise details of forest land proposed for diversion of forest land in Korisakonda & Udayagiridurgam RFs of Udayagiri Range and Venkatagiri Hill RF of Venkatagiri Range of SPSR Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within the existing right of way, is as follows.

Range	RF	Compt. No.	Area in Ha.
Venkatagiri	Venkatagiri Hill	256 & 257	0.430
Udayagiri	Korisakonda	493	0.165

	Udayagiridurgam	496	0.095
		Total:	0.690

- The density of the vegetation is less than 0 and “Southern Tropical Dry deciduous open forest. The main species existing are Pterocarpus Sanatalinus, Chloroxylon Swietenia, Anogeissus Latifolia, Sapindus emarginatus, Hardwickia binata etc. adjacent to proposed diversion area.
- There are no trees falling along the width of path proposed.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the no forest area will be effected to erosion.
- It is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project to that extent and user agency has also submitted certificate.
- There are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area.
- The proposed area does not form part of any protected archeological importance / Heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument.
- As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF (FC Division) F.no.11-9/98-FC, dt:10-12-2012 mentioned in the compendium in Chapter-3 (3.2),(viii) (b) for diversion of Forest land for creation of public utility infrastructure Govt. departments involving not more than 5 ha of Forest land in each case by the State Government for the LWE effected districts No Compensatory Afforestation shall be insisted up on the proposals involving for Diversion of forest land up to 1 Ha. The CA land is exempted.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore Division on 18.01.2018 has inspected the proposed land alongwith Forest Range Officer, Udayagiri and Section staff of Duttalur of Udayagiri Range and Forest Range Officer, Venkatagiri and section staff of Dakkili North.
- During his inspection he has submitted that the user agency has proposed 0.165 Ha in Compartment No. 493 of Korishkonda and 0.095 Ha in Compartment No. 496 of Udayagiri - Durgam RFs for laying of FOC along the road within the existing right of way. The OFC cable line is passing through Korishikonda and Udayagiri - Durgam RFs covering a length of 5657.79 Mts.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has further stated that the User agency has proposed 0.43 Ha. in Compartment Nos. 256 & 257 of Devullapalli Beat of Dakkili North Section of Venkatagiri Hill RF for laying of OFC along the road within the existing right of way”. The OFC cable line is passing through Venkatagiri Hill RF covering a length of 9141.49 Mts.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has stated that the User Agency has dugged out 62 Cmt of earth and laid the cable in Compartment No. 493 of Korishakonda RF in Udayagiri Range. The FRO, Udayagiri has booked the case vide DOR No. 07/2016-17, Dt.23.12.2016 and collected C-fee of Rs.1,01,370/- from the User Agency.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has recommended the proposal in Part-II stating that as it improves the connectivity.

The Conservator of Forests, Guntur has furnished the information in Part-III as follows:-

The Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam has agreed with the information furnished by the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore in Part-II and also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Both, the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and Conservator of Forests, Guntur have recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique proposal No. FP/AP/Others/26682/2017, Dt. 17.06.2017 is generated.

As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi F.No. 11-09/98-FC, Dt. 16.10.2000 & 07.11.2014, proposal for Diversion of 0.69 Ha. of forest land for laying of Optical fiber cable along the road within in the existing right of way passing through forests in Korisakonda & Udayagiridurgam RFs of Udayagiri Range and Venkatagiri Hill RF of Venkatagiri Range of SPSR Nellore Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd. duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate for consideration of the proposal and accord stage-I approval as deemed fit.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- P.Mallikharjuna Rao
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

//True Copy//

ch. keef
for Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

7/5/2018

PART-IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of the Forest Department)

17.	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with remarks. (While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Dy.Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)	:	<i>Recommended</i>
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Signature ::



Name &

Designation::

Dr. R.P. KHAJURIA, IFS

Addl. Pri Chief Conservator of Forests(FCA)

% Pri Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF),

Office Seal GUNTUR, A.P.

Date: 01.05.18
Place: Guntur