

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From:  
Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi, IFS.,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force),  
Andhra Pradesh, "AranyaBhavan",  
K.M. Munshi Road, Guntur-522004.

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

Re.No.EFS02-15026/9/2018/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-1, Dated: 27.01.2019

Sir,

Sub:- APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd.,  
Visakhapatnam - Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable  
along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) passing  
through forest under Kurnool Division over an extent of 0.52  
Ha. for providing 4G Communications in the State of  
Andhra Pradesh - Proposals - Submission off - Reg.

- Ref:-
1. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Online Proposal No.  
EP/AP/Others/34709/2018, Dt. 19.07.2018.
  2. PCCF's Ref.No.EFS02-15026/9/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/FCA-  
1, Dt.25.07.2018.
  3. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Lr.No. RJIIL/OFC/ROW/  
NLD/AP/APFD/Kurnool/2018-19/074, Dt.25.07.2018.
  4. PCCF's Ref.No.EFS02-15026/9/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/ FCA-  
1, Dt.31.07.2018.
  5. CF, Kurnool Rc.No.2032/2018-TO, Dt.09.01.2019.

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It is submitted that, M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam  
vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited has submitted the proposals through online for  
diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.52 Ha for laying of underground  
Optical Fiber Cable along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) passing  
through forest under Kurnool Division for providing 4G communications in  
the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of  
India.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool and  
Conservator of Forests, Kurnool vide this office reference 4<sup>th</sup> cited for  
processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980  
and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool  
vide reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited has submitted the proposal duly processed under  
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines and amendment thereon for  
diversion of 0.52 Ha. of forest land.

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 under Kurnool Division  
for providing 4G communications in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per  
the license granted by Government of India.

- For locating this project on forest land, 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 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, Defense & Strategic establishments and from 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 50 to 100 cms. Width (approx.). The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition and also no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The User Agency has stated that, this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of Telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defense 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.65.00 Lakhs approximately.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 10,549 man days approx.
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required to an extent of 0.52 Ha. (i.e., 10,549 mts. length x 0.49 mts. Width approx.) is detailed below.

Sl. No.	Division	Range	Name of RF	Length (m) approx	Width (m) approx	Forest area diverted
1	Kurnool	Dhone	North Dhone	2720	0.49	0.12
2		Dhone	Jaladurgam	6719		0.35
3		Adoni	Gundlakonda	1110		0.05
<b>Grand Total:</b>				<b>10549</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.52</b>

- The User Agency has certified that the forest land proposed for diversion is barest minimum area and unavoidable.
- 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 Lt.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (p) 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, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause © read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second para of the Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009. The user agency has certified that the proposal for laying of underground OFC does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups/Pre-Agricultural communities (PTG/PAC) and also given an undertaking that the consent of Grama Sabha will be submitted, if it is found otherwise, at any point of time.

- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the area proposed for diversion.

**The Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:**

- This proposal is for Diversion of 0.52 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through forest land involving 0.12 Ha. in Compt.No.237, 238 & 239 in North Dhone RF of Dhone Range, 0.35 Ha. in Compt.No.258, 259, 265 & 266 in Jaladurgam RF of Dhone Range and 0.05 Ha. in Compt.No.49 in Gundlakonda RF of Adoni Range of Kurnool Division in favour of M/s. Relaince Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
- The legal status of forest land notified under Forest Acts are as follows.
  1. North Dhone RF notified U/s-16 vide Notification No.15, Dt.17.12.1897 as Reserved Forest.
  2. Jaladurgam RF notified U/s-16 vide G.O.No.575, Dt.29.11.1897 as Reserved Forest.
  3. Gundlakonda RF notified U/s-16 vide G.O.Ms.No.45, Dt.01.09.1897 as Reserved Forest.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the Density of Vegetation is 0.1 (Eco-Class-III).
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are 1 Cum of Fuel wood with a total value of Rs.1235.12/- each for felling in the Right of Way of proposed diversion North Dhone RF and Jaladurgam RF.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the proposed area does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc., and there are no protected archeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument located in the proposed area.



- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are no violations to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within the proposed forest areas.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool has inspected the forest land to an extent of 0.52 Ha. proposed for diversion towards laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the Right of Way passing under Kurnool Division along with field staff and officials of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam on 10.10.2018 and 16.11.2018.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that as per para-3.2(viii), NO Compensatory Afforestation shall be insisted upon in respect of proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 1 Ha.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool has recommended the proposal for consideration in Part-II.

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

The Conservator of Forests, Kurnool has agreed with the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool in Part-II and also recommended the proposal for consideration in Part-III.

**Both, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool and Conservator of Forests, Kurnool have recommended the proposal.**

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique proposal No. FP/AP/Others/34709/2018, Dt. 19.07.2018 generated and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above and 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 0.52 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the Right of Way passing through forests under Kurnool Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd. duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate. The Government are requested to consider the proposal and accord stage-I approval as deemed fit.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,  
**Sd/- Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi,**  
 Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests  
 (Head of Forest Force)

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Kurnool and Divisional Forest Officer, Kurnool for information and necessary action.

✓ Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s. Reliance JIO Infocom Limited, Visakhapatnam- 530003.

29/1/19

//t.c.b.o//

Superintendent

30/1/2019

Proposed for diversion of 0.52 Ha. of forest land for laying of OFC along the road within ROW passing under Kurnool Division in Hq. Mr. Beliamu ITO Hyderabad  
Vishakhapatnam

PART-IV

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

Detailed opinion and specific recommendation 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

Signature

Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi IFS.,  
Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests  
Name: (Head of Forest Force)  
Office: Andhra Pradesh, Guntur

Date:  
Place: