

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
(WILDLIFE) & FIELD DIRECTOR, PALAKKAD

The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, a Government of India Enterprise, has submitted an application for permission to lay \pm 320 KV Under Ground Power Cable for a length of 490 metre with a width of 2 metre comprising an area of 0.098 Ha of forest land which is already diverted by the Forest Department for NH 544. The proposed land falls in Paravattani Mala notified Reserve Forests forming part of Vellani Section of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The proposed land is recommended as the project activities do not involve tree felling/removal of any forest produce from the Sanctuary. Moreover the area will be restored back to the original condition after installation of the Power Cable. As such there is no impact on /diversion of rain water in or out of the Sanctuary limits. However additional protection against any possible erosion in the slopes shall be provided by the proponent at their cost for protection of the Under Ground Cable. No activities shall be carried out by the proponent before sunrise and after sunset during or after the installation of Power cable to avoid impact on wildlife.

The proposed area is a linear stretch and is not passing through any National Park or Tiger Reserve. Since the project is to lay an under ground power cable in an already diverted forest land without involving any diversion of water or removal of forest produce from the Sanctuary, there is no impact on the Sanctuary in terms of Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 or any amendments to it.

The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and is the barest minimum for the project. The proposal does not include or involve any fresh diversion of forest land. However since it is for a new activity other than for which the land was diverted, this proposal should be treated as a fresh proposal and the project proponent shall comply with the provision/condition under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In view of above, the proposal is recommended for acceptance as the Power Cable is passing through a forest land which is already diverted and is using barest minimum extent subject to the condition that the user agency shall pay an amount of Rs. 4 crores as a measure of mitigation and gesture towards conservation and various wildlife management measures, particularly mitigating human wildlife conflict (including erecting around 2.5 Kms. of rail fence) which shall also ensure protection of the under ground cable installation done by the user agency. This shall be apart from other regular mandatory payments and requirements.




31/5/12
Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Field Director, Palakkad