

By online / Email.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Ashok Upreti, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Department)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 9.

Ref. No. TS3/44731/2019 Dated: 08.12.2021.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Dharmapuri Forest Circle /
Wildlife Division, Hosur - Proposal for diversion of 0.777 ha of
forest land in Veppanapalli RF for laying 11 kv transmission line
along right of way in Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta
holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri District in favour of
Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri,
Krishnagiri District – Forwarding Off - Regarding

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the User Agency – Executive
Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri - Proposal No.
FP/TN/VELEC/36455/2018, dated 23.10.2018 and
resubmission of proposal on 14.09.2019 & 09.11.2019.
- 2 Part II of Form A uploaded by the Wildlife Warden, Hosur
Division, Hosur on 31.07.2020 and EDS replies.
- 3 Part III of Form A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests,
Dharmapuri Circle, Dharmapuri on 11.01.2021 and EDS
replies.

I wish to state that the Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO,
Krishnagiri, Krishnagiri District has uploaded online application under Section 2 of
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.81 ha of forest land in
Veppanapalli RF for laying 11 kv transmission line along right of way in
Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri
District under proposal No. FP/TN/VELEC/36455/2018.

2) The Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has forwarded the proposal along with his Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle on 31.07.2020.

3) After obtaining some details from the Wildlife Warden, Hosur, the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has uploaded his recommendation of the proposal and forwarded the proposal to the Nodal Officer on 11.01.2021.

4) Shortcomings noticed on the proposal had been informed to the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle in Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter dated 09.02.2021 and 11.08.2021.

5) The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has furnished report on the rectification of shortcomings and submitted the proposal through online.

6) Brief details of the project are given below.

i) Initially, the Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.81 ha of forest land for laying 11 kv transmission line along right of way in Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri District under proposal No. FP/TN/VELEC/36455/2018.

a) The Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division, after field inspection, has recommended the forest area diversion of 0.777 ha. The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle also recommended for diversion of 0.777 ha of forest area for the project proposal.

b) The user agency has also revised the forest area diversion proposal to 0.777 ha and details modified in the map section- kml file.

ii) The User Agency has uploaded the revised proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

iii) Name of the project in which forest land required reported as laying 11 KV transmission line along the right of way in Veppanapalli RF for the benefit of Patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri Division.

iv) Short narrative of the project reported as providing electricity to the enclosure Pattadar's in Veppanapalli RF.

v) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is for 0.81 ha., and non forest land required for the project is Zero ha.,

Based on the site inspection of the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division, project area revised to 0.777 ha

vi) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 15 years.

vii) In the section of uploading details of proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of forest land for the project already submitted in the past reported as NIL

viii) Diversion of 0.777 ha of forest has been requested in Hosur Wildlife Division area in Krishnagiri District.

ix) Name of the village in which forest land requested and component wise break-up details have been reported as Sigaramanapalli for 0.119556 ha area and Konganapalli village for 0.689634 ha area (total area is of 0.80919 ha)

In the EDS reply the user agency has modified the forest area requirement as per the actual length lies in the forest area as follows.

In Sigaramanapalli village 0.164km length with 7m Row – 0.1148 ha

In Konganapalli village 0.946km length with 7m Row – 0.6622 ha

In total 0.777 ha area has been requested for the project proposal.

x) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details and GPS co-ordinates of the proposed alignment path have been furnished.

xi) The user agency has uploaded note containing justification for locating the project in forest area.

xii) The User Agency has stated that this project is likely to generate permanent/regular employment for 10 persons and temporary employment for 50 persons, this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project, cost benefit analysis for the project is not required, not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone and not located in Scheduled area.

xiii) The User Agency has uploaded a copy of Forest Rights Act 2006 certificate issued by the District Collector of Krishnagiri District in Roc. No. 3398/2019/H1, dated 11.07.2019 for the project proposal.

xiv) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has not furnished the details of compensatory Afforestation land to be provided to the Forest Department in lieu of diversion of forest land required for the work.

The user agency has stated that non-forest or revenue forest land is not required to be provided by the user agency and reason for this stated that not applicable.

xv) In the additional information details section, following documents/ certificates/ undertakings have been uploaded.

a) Combined undertakings for

- i) To bear the cost towards compensatory afforestation along with maintenance of plantation.
- ii) Proposed path aligned with minimum forest involvement and certified that no suitable alternate non forest land is available for the project and all other alternative have been examined and found not feasible.
- iii) To bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees.
- iv) Certified that no work in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out.
- v) Agreed to pay the Net Present Value of the forest land required for the project.
- vi) Agreed to pay additional amount of Net Present Value of the forest land required for the project, if demanded subsequently.
- vii) To pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted for the project.

b) Area requirement statement for the project proposal

c) EDS reply of forest area requirement for the project is 0.777 ha

d) KML file image of the project area.

7) In the Part-II of Form-A, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has furnished the following particulars.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.81 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forest area – As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is “Veppanapalli Reserve Forest “

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is three.

iii) Species wise names and girth-wise enumeration of trees in the proposed diversion area reported as NIL.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer has reported that it is a linear project along the permitted right of way without having to change the landscape profile, hence no soil to be eroded.

v) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 not located within 1 km from boundary of NP/WLs etc.,

The District Forest Officer has reported that Indian hare, Spotted deer, Sloth bear, Peafowl etc., are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

viii) The District Forest Officer has not proposed any compensatory afforestation scheme for the diversion of 0.777ha of forest land for the project proposal.

ix) The District Forest Officer has not uploaded any documents in the additional information details section.

x) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that he inspected the area on 28.07.2020. This linear project is passing along the right of way in Veppanapalli RF. Right of way allowed for a length of 1157m and width is 5m. In which the user agency has proposed for laying of 11 kv transmission line to a length 1110 m and a width of 7.29m with total proposed area is 0.81 ha.

a) In the EDS reply, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur has reported that legal status of S.F No. 1/1 of Siagaramanapalli (proposed length of 164m) and SF No. 1/1 of Konganapalli (proposed length of 946m) are notified as Veppanapalli RF and copy of notification furnished.

b) The type of forest in the Veppanapalli RF is moderate slope/ Southern tropical dry mixed deciduous. There is no important endangered species found in this tract. Due to this proposal, it does not lead to any felling of trees or disturbance to the landscape and there would be no disturbance to wild animals.

xi) In the recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer has reported that the area proposed for laying transmission line is alongside of the right of way, the question of tree felling does not arise and no damages will be caused to Wildlife due to this project.

a) The District Collector, Krishnagiri certified that there is no suitable alternative non-forest land available for the electricity connection to the proposed site and it is for obtaining electricity connection to the bore well located in the Survey No. 202, 211 (patta No. 530 and 536) for agricultural purpose. The user agency has proposed for laying the transmission line passes through the Veppanapalli RF along the right of way to a length of 164meters in survey number 1/1 in Sigaramanapalli village and for a length of 946 meters in survey number 1/1 of Konganapalli villages and a total length of 1110 meters.

b) In the EDS reply, the user agency has reported that number of beneficiaries for the project is two persons (Patta holders).

c) The project proponent has given undertaking to bear the cost towards compensatory afforestation along with maintenance of plantation and also agreed to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation in future for the forest land to be diverted.

d) For laying 11 kv transmission line, following measures may be ensured for the protection of forests and wild animals in this tract.

- i. The underground cable may be provided to avoid electrocution (or)
- ii. The height of the transmission line should be not less than 7-8 meter from the ground level and provided with insulated wire to avoid electrocution.
- iii. The transmission line should be erected with tripping mechanism.
- iv To avoid damage and electrocution to the wildlife, the electric poles should be protected, fenced with suitable barriers like concrete wall.
- v. If permission will be given for laying transmission line through the forest, the electrical power supply may be utilized for bailing out water from the bore-well for supplying of drinking water facilities to the wild animals and also for watch tower and anti-poaching sheds if constructed in the remote places.

Under the above circumstances, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur has recommended the proposal for seeking diversion of land.

e) The user agency has furnished following undertaking in the EDS reply section for the above conditions.

- i) to avoid electrocution to wildlife animals, the electric pole along the path will be erected with 9 meter pole.
- ii) The electric line will be erected with DP structure with fuse control arrangement at TANGEDCO end.
- iii) The electric poles will be protected with pole earthing and electrical lines will be provided with guarding arrangements to avoid damage and electrocution to be wildlife.

8) The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle in Part-III has reported that he inspected the area on 02.11.2020 and field inspection report attached.

a) The Conservator of Forests has reported that he agree with the information given in Part-II and the recommendations of the District Forest Officer.

b) In the specific recommendation of the project, the Conservator of Forests has reported that, there is no alternative source and route for this project. This project does not involve any felling of trees. The project required for the agricultural purpose for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF)

c) The Conservator of Forests has recommended diversion of 0.777 ha of forest area as against the user agency proposal and District Forest Officer recommendation of 0.81 ha for laying 11 kv transmission line in the proposed area of Veppanapalli RF in Hosur Division with certain conditions.

d) On EDS query, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle have reported that for 11 kv transmission line, Right of way required is 7.0m and for 1110m length of transmission line, area requirement is 0.777 ha and accordingly, forest area diversion has been recommended for 0.777 ha

9) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 15 years. The Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle have recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 15 years.

Based on the recommendation made by the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division, diversion of forest area for the project proposal is recommended for a period of 15 years.

10) As recommended by the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle, the proposal for diversion of 0.777 ha of forest land in Veppanapalli RF for laying 11 kv transmission line along right of way in Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri District in favour of Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri may be recommended to the State Government for according approval under the power vested with State Government for according approval in General Approval category of critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government, subject to the following conditions.

a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.

b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.

c) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

d) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

e) Amount of Net Present Value of forest area under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

g) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.777 ha comprising the forest area to a length of 1110m and right of way width of 7m.

h) Information board on diversion of forest area shall be erected along the transmission path at regular intervals at the cost of user agency.

(i) For the protection of forest and wildlife following measures should be done by the user agency in the project area at their cost.

i) to avoid electrocution to wildlife animals, the electric pole along the path shall be erected with 9 meter pole.

ii) The electric line shall be erected with DP structure with fuse control arrangement at TANGEDCO end.

iii) The electric poles shall be protected with pole earthing and electrical lines provided with guarding arrangements to avoid damage and electrocution to be wildlife.

iv) The transmission line should be erected with tripping mechanism.

v) The user agency has to provide ELCB (Earth Leakage Current Breakage) arrangements all along the transmission line in the forest area and immediate outside the forest areas so as to prevent electrocution death of wild animals.

(j) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/department or person without prior approval of State Government.

k) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violations of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per rules in force.

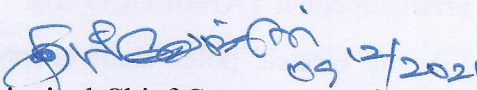
l) Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forests and wildlife.


m) Period of lease can be fifteen (15) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

11) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu. I request that the proposal may be considered and Stage-I approval of Government may be issued for diversion of 0.777 ha of forest land in Veppanapalli RF for laying 11 kv transmission line along right of way in Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri District in favour of Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri for a period of fifteen years.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully


09/12/2021
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)


9/12/21

PART - IV

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

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Dharmapuri Forest Circle / Wildlife Division, Hosur - Proposal for diversion of 0.777 ha of forest land in Veppanapalli RF for laying 11 kv transmission line along right of way in Veppanahalli RF for the benefit of patta holders (enclosure in RF) of Krishnagiri District in favour of Executive Engineer, O&M, TANGEDCO, Krishnagiri, Krishnagiri District – Proposal No. FP/TN/VELEC/36455/2018

17	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 : *V. Naganathan*

Name Designation : Dr. V. Naganathan, I.F.S.,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), Chennai.

Date : 01 . 12 . 2021.

Place: Chennai-15