

## TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From  
Thiru Ashok Upreti, IFS.,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Department),  
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 600 015.

To  
The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and  
Forests Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai 600 009.

**C.No.TS4/ 37431/2019, Dated: 01.11.2021**

Madam,

Sub: Forests – Theni Forest Division – SMTR, Madurai – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of Forest land of 0.022 ha for laying underground Optical Fiber cable along the road side across Paramasivankoil Karadu RL(0.365km) and Valkaradu RF (0.373km)in Theni Taluk, Theni District to a distance of 0.738 km for providing 4G wireless Broadband - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency Thiru.TT.Balsamy, SCO, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Chennai. (FP/TN/Others /41287/2019).  
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests C.No.TS4/37431/2019 Dated: 24.01.2020&29.01.2021  
3. Acknowledgement received from the District Forest Officer, Theni on 01.09.2020, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai on 04.09.2020 & the District Collector, Theni dated.27.08.2020  
4. District Forest Officer, Theni C.No:1305/2019/D dated 21.04.2021 & 01.06.2021.  
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai C.No:6361/2020/D dated 16.07.2021.  
6. District Forest Officer, Theni C.No:10649/2019/D dated 20.09.2021 7. Conservator of Forests & Field Director, SMTR, Madurai C.No:6361/2020/D1 dated 30.09.2021

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I wish to state that the User Agency (Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Chennai) has furnished online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the prescribed format of Form A – Part I for diversion of 0.022 ha of forest land for laying underground Optical Fiber cable along the road side across Paramasivankoil Karadu RL(0.365km) and Valkaradu RF (0.373km)in Theni Taluk, Theni District to a distance of 0.738 km for providing 4G wireless Broadband



The User Agency has uploaded the 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 in the online submission and Monitoring of Forests Clearances Proposal (OSMFCP) portal.

In this regard, it is submitted that the User Agency has uploaded the following Certificates / Undertakings along with the online proposal of Form A – Part I.

- 1) Short narrative of the proposal for which the forest land is required. (As required vide A-1 (iii) of proposal format.)
- 2) Copy of document in support of the competence / authority of the person making this application to make application on behalf of the User Agency (As required vide A-3, (xvii) of proposal format).
- 3) Copy of Survey of India Topo sheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted has been up-loaded forest boundary (Section C of Maps-C.iii)
- 4) Geo referenced location map of the proposed diversion of forest area for formation of road marked in the google earth (Section C of Maps-C.iv).
- 5) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area (As required vide D (i) of proposal format) enclosed.
- 6) Certificate about the settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act in Form I on the forest land proposed to be diverted issued by the District Collector, Theni District in ref. No. 6965/2020 G7, dt. 07.07.2020. (As required under section K(i) of the proposed format)
- 7) Certificate about no suitable and technically approved alternate non forest land available for laying of OFC issued by the District Collector, Theni District in ref. No. 6965/2020 G7, dt. 07.07.2020.
- 8) Google earth KML file uploaded.
- 9) Area requirement details has been uploaded.
- 9) Certificate about catchment area treatment plan.
- 10) Certificate from the project proponent demands for forest land for the project is barest minimum.
- 11) Certificate from the project proponent this is only possible as there is no other alternative feasible route available except this.



12) Undertaking to bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation / Penal Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of Plantation / Protection of plantation for the proposed diversion of forest land as fixed by the Forest Department.

13) Undertaking to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

14) Undertaking to bear the additional 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.

15) Undertaking to pay the cost for exploitation of trees if any available in the alignment path for the proposed land as fixed by Forest Department.

16) Undertaking to agree to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department for the forest land to be diverted of the above project.

17) Certificate regarding No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been occurred.

18) Form A signed copy enclosed.

5) The District Forest Officer, Theni has inspected the proposed area applied for diversion on 16.03.2021 and stated that the area requested by the User Agency is 0.022Ha for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cables (OFC) for a distance of 0.738kms with a width of 0.30mt.

The proposed area is forest land of Valkaradu Reserved Forest(0.373km) along the road side from Bus stand to Sivaji Nagar, and Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365km) along existing roadside from Bus stand to District Collector office. The area is side of the road devoid of vegetation with no tree growth and no important monuments. The distance from the proposed project location to Kodaikanal Wildlife division is around 13.30km and Megamalai Wildlife Division is 11.20km.

Since the project is essential for improvement of communication infrastructure and Hon'ble Prime Ministers Vision of Digital India, the diversion of 0.022ha of forest land may be permitted.

The District Forest Officer in his recommendation stated that the project site does not fall in Eco Sensitive Zone of Megamalai and Kodaikanal Wildlife sanctuaries and also does not fall under Ecologically sensitive areas. The District Collector has certified there is no alternate non forest land and the user agency has



not carried out any work in violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980. Since the project aims to provide improvement of communication infrastructure and Hon'ble Prime Ministers Vision of Digital India, the diversion of 0.022ha of forest land may be permitted.

The District Forest Officer, Theni in Part-II has stated that the density of the vegetation in the proposed area is zero and Eco class 3 and no tree growth is available. The District Forest Officer has not insisted Compensatory Afforestation scheme as the project area is only 0.022 ha and no tree felling is involved.

6) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai has inspected the proposed area for laying underground OFC on 24.06.2021 and stated that the underground OFC proposed to be laid on the right side of the existing road from Theni New Bus stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest (0.373 km) and along existing roadside from Bus stand to District Collector office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365km). The proposed width of the trench is 0.30m and to a depth of 1.2m. There is no felling of trees involved in this proposal hence the diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.022ha may be considered.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai in his recommendation has stated that the underground OFC proposed to be laid to a distance of 0.373 km in Valkaradu Reserved Forest and 0.365 km in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land. There is no felling of trees involved in this proposal and the location is doesn't fall in Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Megamalai and Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuaries and tiger corridors of Mathikettan Shola National Park and Pamban Shola National Park of Kerala State. This project is essential for the development of communication infra structure of the said area and hence the diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.022ha may be recommended.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai in Part III of Form A proposal stated that the proposed area for diversion does not have any important monuments of Archeological, Heritage site, Defense establishment etc and the project is location specific and the area requested for the project is barest minimum and recommended the proposal for underground OFC in Valkaradu Reserved Forest and Paramasivankoil Karadu RL of Theni Forest Division to a



distance of 0.738km length and trench width of 0.30m to improve the communication facilities.

7) In this regard, it is submitted that the User Agency has uploaded all the certificates /undertakings/details as required in this proposal.

8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended in the part IV format proposal by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

The area proposed for diversion of 0.022ha of forest land in Valkaradu Reserved Forest (0.373km) and Paramasivankoil Karadu RL (0.365km) of Theni Forest Division to a total distance of 0.738km length and trench width of 0.30m for underground OFC is recommended and forwarded to the Government of Tamilnadu for obtaining approval from Government of India subject to the following conditions.

1. The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.
2. The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts at the cost of User Agency.
3. The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
4. The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
5. The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.Ms.No.272, E&F(FR.XIII) Dept. dated 15.04.1991.
6. The period of lease is 20 years
7. The User Agency should send renewal proposal one year before expiry of lease.
8. The Conservator of Forests & Field Director, SMTR, Madurai and District Forest Officer, Theni may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation /protection land development of forests.



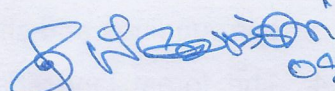
In Government of India Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in F.No.5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, exemption for payment of Net Present Value for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable has been allowed, if the area does not form a part of National Park / Sanctuary and no felling of trees is involved.


The project area is not declared as National Park / Sanctuary and no felling of trees involved in this project. Hence payment of Net Present Value for the forest area diversion of laying OFC may not be insisted.

I enclose the proposal in duplicate duly recommended for obtaining concurrence of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, Integrated Regional Office, Chennai under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.022ha of forest land for laying Optical Fibre cable along road side of the existing road from Theni New Bus stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest 0.373km and from Bus stand to District Collector office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365km). in Theni division, Theni district for 20 years in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

Encl.: Proposal in duplicate.

Yours faithfully

  
for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department)

  
9/11/2021.



## PART IV

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

**Name of the work:** Proposal for Diversion of Forest land of 0.022ha for laying underground Optical Fiber cable along the road side across Paramasivankoil Karadu RL(0.365km) and Valkaradu RF (0.373km) in Theni Taluk, Theni District to a distance of 0.738 km for providing 4G wireless Broadband - online proposal by the Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Chennai (FP/TN/Others /41287/2019).

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

Date:

Place:

Signature:

Name :

Official Seal:

Dr. V. Naganathan. IFS,  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator  
of Forests (FCA)  
O/o. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Chennai - 600 015.