

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER (FOR THE FOREST LAND PROPOSED TO BE DIVERTED UNDER FCA)

PROJECT:- Construction of 400 kV transmission line from Jigmelling to Alipurduar by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

Forest area proposed for diversion under Chirang Forest Division : 135.588 Hectare

A proposal (REF NO:- FP/AS/TRANS/19330/2016) has been received by this office from the Deputy General Manager of POWERGRID, Salakati for diversion (under FCA-1980) of 134.588 ha of forest land under Chirang Forest Division for non-forestry purpose. The proposal has been received in Chirang Division in the online mode through MoEF web portal on 07-11-2016. The project envisages the use of forest land for construction of a 400 KV transmission line from Jigmelling to Alipurduar. A joint site inspection has been carried out by the undersigned along with the representative of POWERGRID (*S. Kakati, Manager, Salakati and D. Baruah, Sr. Env. Officer, Guwahati*) on 05-01-2017 as per the guideline of FCA.

Upon inspection of the site, it is found that the proposed forest land required by the User Agency falls under Runikhata Forest Range of Chirang Forest Division comprising of Manash RF (104.871 ha) and Bengtol RF (29.717 ha) altogether 134.588 hectare in total. The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and barest minimum required for the project.

The salient features of the proposed diversion area as found during site inspection are:-

- There is no plantation raised by this Division in the proposed area for diversion.
- The major portion of the transmission line route in forest area will pass through plain land and paddy field/agriculture land allotted to forest villagers.
- The section of the transmission line route from Loc AP-4 to AP-5 will pass through elephant corridor/habitat area in Manash RF which requires special protection measures like increase of tower height etc. as per MoEF guideline.
- There is not any rare/endangered species of flora and fauna present in the proposed area.
- There is not any protected archaeological/heritage sites located in the proposed area.
- The density of the forest area proposed to be diverted is appx. 35%.
- The User Agency has not violated any provision of the FCA and no work has been started without necessary clearance.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

The construction of the Transmission line is a Govt. of India project having national interest. It will improve the overall power scenario without major damage of forest and environment provided mitigative measures are implemented by User Agency as per guideline. Therefore, the diversion of the forest land as above is recommended for acceptance.

Date ; 05/01/17

Signature



Place: CHIRANG

Name

: R. SAHA

Designation : DFO, CHIRANG Forest Division

Office seal

Divisional Forest Officer
Chirang Division
Kajalgaon

SITE INSPECTION PHOTOGRAPHS




Divisional Forest Officer
Chirang Division,
Kajalgaon