

F.No.8-29/2010-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Forest Conservation Division

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110510  
Dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests)  
Government of Karnataka  
Bangalore

Subject: Diversion of 172.53 ha of forest land for the construction of 400 KV DC line (CKT-1) from Nandikur (Udupi) Generating Station to 400/220 KV Receiving Station at Shantigramma (Hassan) in favour of the Executive Engineer, Ele., Major Works Division, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Hassan-Regarding.

Sir

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. FEE 20 FGL 2010 dated 15.04.2010 on the subject cited above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) ACT, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under section-3 of the said act, in-principle approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 17/02/2011 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State government vide letter no. FEE 20 FGL 2010 dated 15/06/2011, 20/09/2011 and 30/09/2011 approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) ACT, 1980 for Diversion of 172.53 ha of forest land for the construction of 400 KV DC line (CKT-1) from Nandikur (Udupi) Generating Station to 400/220 KV Receiving Station at Shantigramma (Hassan) in favour of the Executive Engineer, Ele., Major Works Division, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Hassan subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. (i) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over 172.53 ha. of non-forest land

stage  
II Approval  
On  
18/1/2012

shall be undertaken at the cost of the User Agency.


(ii) The above land should be notified as RE/PF under the Indian Forest Act or relevant State Forest Act within six months from the date of issue of this approval.

3. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency.
4. The User Agency shall prepare scheme of plantation of dwarf species (preferably Medicinal plants) on the Right of Way, wherever possible after completion of the stringing work. If the project site involves part of an animal corridor, plantation of dwarf species like Zizyphus etc may be taken up.
5. The plantation scheme as mentioned above shall be executed by the State Forest Department at the project cost.
6. The Tree felling be restricted to only 3 meters on either side of the transmission line. Rest of the trees will be allowed to remain intact except some peripheral pruning.
7. Nodal Officer will monitor the marking and felling of trees during construction and the tree felling shall be restricted to the minimum.
8. The User Agency shall restore an alternative corridor by dismantling the older Kemar-Kudremukh power line and allied structure as compensatory measure for the loss of the corridor biodiversity values between Neriya-Banjar-Balur.
9. The alternative arrangement of power for relocated people due to dismantling of the old Kemar-Kudremukh line has to be expedited.
10. The new transmission line will be charged only after the old Kemar-Kudremukh is dismantled.
11. An inspection report on the compliance of the conditions at 9 and 10 above will be submitted by the Regional Office, Bangalore.
12. KPTCL has to pay the dues of Rs.44.71 lakhs towards the NPV of forest land diverted earlier vide orders dated 04-07-2003 and 03-11-2003 as reported by the State Government within three months of the approval.
13. (i) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3(Three) meters shall be permitted for taking tension stringing equipments. However, natural regeneration coppice shall be allowed to come up to the height of clearance.  
(ii) Felling-pollarding-pruning of trees shall be done with the permission of the State Forest Department, whenever necessary to maintain height of clearance under the stringing.

- (iii) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line.
- (iv) Gap planting to be done to increase the density all along the transmission line.
14. In the remaining width of the Right of Way minimum clearance of 2.8 meters between conductors and trees shall be allowed.
  15. In case, the transmission line is to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be felled.
  16. The User Agency shall ensure minimum felling of trees and maximum height of the towers in the forest area to ensure movement of elephants and other wild animals without any hurdles.
  17. The User agency will provide free electricity to the forest department in the area.
  18. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
  19. Sufficient alternate fuel shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers to avoid pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
  20. The conditions put forth by the Gram Sabha when furnishing no objection to the project will be complied with.
  21. The User Agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to available wildlife in the area because of this project.
  22. Necessary safeguards are to be provided to prevent electrocution of elephants and the height of the towers through the wildlife corridor will be increased fairly high to avoid any electrocution due to possible sag.
  23. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
  24. A monitoring committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall be constituted with Regional CCF, Bangalore as one of the members for monitoring the conditions and report on the compliance at six monthly interval.
  25. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the condition stipulated by the Government of India and also the legal matter, if any.
  26. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to any other clearances required as per provisions of various Acts/Rules and notifications.
  27. The user agency shall submit an annual self monitoring report of the compliances to the nodal officer of the State and Regional office, Bangalore.

28. Any other condition that the CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore/the State Forest Department may impose from time to time for protection, conservation and development of flora and fauna shall also be applicable.


Yours faithfully

  
(N.C. Saravanan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka for information.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF for information and necessary action
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Southern Regional office, Banagalore.
4. The User agency
5. Monitoring cell of the FC section
6. Guard file.

  
(N.C. Saravanan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests