

I/560298/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

<p>From Sri N. Prateep Kumar, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.</p>	<p>To The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi.</p>
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Ref.no.EFS02-15026/17/2020-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
dated:07/04/2022 .

Sir,

Sub APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.45 ha of forest land in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad - Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref: 1. Online Proposal no. FP/AP/OFC/81411/2020, dated: 12.12.2020.
2. PCCF &HoFF, A.P, Guntur Rc. no. EFS02-15026/17/2020-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated: 03.01.2021.
3. CCF, Guntur Rc. no. 2551/2018-TO, dated: 08.03.2022.

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It is submitted that, the Authorized Signatory, M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad, in the reference 1st cited, has uploaded the proposal in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 0.45 ha of forest land in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur in the reference 3rd cited has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.45 ha of forest land in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 0.45 ha is required in Rapur Range, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable in favour of M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.23.8 lakh.
- The user agency has justified that, the area required for laying of the OFC is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also considering the safety of cables so laid. Since the Telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defense and strategic establishments, and from the differential industrial organizations apart from the general public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conservation so made it not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties. The cable alignment will be suitable diverted to avoid any cutting of trees and laid within the road land boundary by excavating a narrow trench of 0.47 m. width. The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition. It is also intimated that no structure will be erected on the cable route. The project does not involve felling of trees as OFC is laid within the Road Boundary along the Road only.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, Addl. NPV, CA, tree extraction charges etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 0.45 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved in this project.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 2 persons get permanent employment and 2000 person / days temporary employment will be generated.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.
- The User Agency has stated that, Wildlife Clearance yet to be obtained, as the proposal or a part thereof is located within a Protected Area/ Eco-sensitive Zone.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest land to an extent of 0.45 ha is required in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.
- Legal Status of the forest is RF.
- The density of vegetation is 0.4 Eco-Class-IV (Tropical thorn forests and tropical dry ever green forests) open scrub forest..
- No tree felling is required for laying optical fiber cable
- The proposed Reserve forest is not vulnerable to erosion.
- Approximate distance from proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest is the proposed laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable is linear in

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nature and falls in Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur-Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Rapur-Veligonda Extn "C" RFs.

- The alignment of underground OFC cable in Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Rapur-Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Rapur-Veligonda Extn "C" RFs fall in Sri Penusila Narasimha Wildlife Sanctuary and also in its Eco-Sensitive Zone. A certificate showing the RF wise areas falls in Wildlife Sanctuary as well as in Eco-sensitive Zone is enclosed.
- The rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna like Red sander species are found in adjacent RF areas.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 26.12.2021 and stated that, laying of underground Optical Fiber falls in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division. Further, the proposed OFC falls in Sri Penusila Narasimha Wildlife Sanctuary and also in its Eco-sensitive Zone. The Rare/ unique /endangered species of flora and fauna like Red Sander species are noticed in adjacent RF areas. The proposed RF areas are not vulnerable for erosion. There will be no impact on flora and fauna of adjacent RFs due to this project since it is an underground Optical Fibre Cable along the existing road.

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has **"Recommended"** the proposal.

In part -III, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

In Part-IV, the Nodal Officer (FCA), Andhra Pradesh has "Recommended the proposal.

As per Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi F. no. 5-2/2017-FC, Dt. 28.03.2019, under RoFR Act, 2006, the user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, SPSR Nellore District in the prescribed format for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006. The certificate is enclosed with the proposal.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/OFC/81411/2020** has been generated for this proposal on 12.12.2020. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

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In this regard it is to submit that, as per para 4.2 of Chapter-4 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, **the subject project falls under general approval category subject to requisite permissions from the State Board for Wildlife shall be obtained, for which, the User Agency has already uploaded proposal for wildlife clearance vide proposal no. FP/AP/OFC/81411/2020 on 29.11.2021.**

Further, as per Chapter 2.6 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980, Compensatory Afforestation is not required towards diversion of forest land upto 1.00 ha. However, cost of plantation (including ten years maintenance) of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled or specified number of trees as may be specified in the order for diversion of forest land (subject to a minimum number of 100 plants) shall be levied from the user agency towards compensatory afforestation.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (3) sets, for diversion of 0.45 ha of forest land in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in F. no.5-2/2017 (FC Division) Dt. 28.03.2019 is submitted herewith for taking further action as deemed fit in the matter.

Encl:- (3) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
N Prateep Kumar I/s
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore for information.

Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & CWLW), Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P, Guntur for information

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and necessary action.

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PART-IV

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

Diversion of 0.45 ha of forest land in Compartment no.308, 309, 310 & 312 of Rapur-Yerragonda RF, Compartment no.333 of Rapur Veligonda Block "A" Extn "B" RF and Compartment no.331 of Rapur-Veligonda Block Extn "C" RF, Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in favour of Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad....

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations 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.
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Date:05/04/2022

Signature

Place : Guntur

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

Signed by Anand Kumar Jha

Date: 05-04-2022 17:56:02

Reason: Approved