

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From: Dr. Mohd. Iliyas Rizvi, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh, "AranyaBhavan", K.M. Munshi Road, Guntur-522004.	To, The Prl. Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi.
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Rc.No.EFS02-15026/11/2018/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-1, Dated: 04.01.2019

Sir,

Sub:- APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd.,
Visakhapatnam - Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable
along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) passing
through forest under Kakinada Division over an extent of
4.64 Ha. for providing LTE voice & Data services in the State
of Andhra Pradesh - Proposals - Submission off - Reg.

- Ref:-
1. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Online Proposal No.
FP/AP/OFC/35350/2018, Dt. 24.08.2018.
 2. PCCF's Ref.No.EFS02-15026/11/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/
FCA-1, Dt:03.09.2018.
 3. Authorized Signatory, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.,
Lr.No.RJIL/OFC/ROW/NLD/AP/APFD/KAKINADA/2018
-19/132, Dt: 04.09.2018.
 4. PCCF's Ref.No.EFS02-15026/11/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/
FCA-1, Dt:11.09.2018.
 5. CF, Rajamahendravaram Rc.No.4015/2018-D1,
Dt:22.12.2018.

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It is submitted that, M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam
vide reference 1stcited has submitted the proposals through online for
diversion of forest land to an extent of 4.64 Ha for laying of underground
Optical Fiber Cable along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) passing
through forest under Kakinada Division for providing LTE voice & Data
services in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by
Government of India.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada and
Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram vide this office reference 4thcited
for processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act,
1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests,
Rajamahendravaram vide reference 5thcited has submitted the proposal duly
processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines and amendment
thereon for diversion of 4.64 Ha. of forest land.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- This proposal is for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the Road within in
the existing Right of Way passing through forests under Kakinada Division

for providing LTE voice & Data services in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.

- For locating this project on forest land, the User Agency has justified that the Optical Fiber Cable is generally laid along the admitted RoW of State / National Highway roads. Such road side area is declared as the Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act. The area requested for laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also considering the safety of the cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defense & Strategic establishments and from different industrial organizations apart from the general public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conversation so made it is not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties. The cable alignment will be suitably diverted to avoid any cutting of trees and laid within the road land boundary by excavating a narrow trench of 50 to 100 cms. Width (approx.). The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition and also no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The User Agency has stated that, this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of Telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defense and Society. This telecom Infrastructure shall lead to growth in economy and hence more employment and better living conditions of the geography/state/Country.
- This new scheme of laying Optical Fiber Cable is most modern and state of art Technology in the field of Digital Telecommunication. Moreover the same cable will provide most of new value added services as well as it will cater for the needs of Integrated Services Digital Network.
- The cost of the project is Rs.391.00 Lakhs approximately.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 41,105 man days approx.
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required is an extent of 4.64 Ha. (i.e., 60,156 mts. length x 0.771 mts. Width approx.)
- The User Agency has certified that the forest land proposed for diversion is barest minimum area and unavoidable.
- The User agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, NPV, Additional NPV, tree Extraction charges and escalation charges, if any, as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.
- In regarding the certificate under RoFR Act-2006, the user agency has submitted that as per the GOI Lr.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dt.5.2.2013, proposals like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipe lines / Optical fiber and transmission lines etc., where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved the Grama Sabha resolution may not be required until unless recognized rights of PTG/PAC are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause © read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second

para of the Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009. The user agency has certified that the proposal for laying of underground OFC does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups/Pre-Agricultural communities (PTG/PAC) and also given an undertaking that the consent of Grama Sabha will be submitted, if it is found otherwise, at any point of time.

- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the area proposed for diversion.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- This proposal is for Diversion of 4.64 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through forest land involving 2.37 Ha. in Maredumilli RF, 1.29 Ha. in Valamuru RF and 0.98 Ha. in Antilova RF of Rampachodavaram Range of Kakinada Division in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam. **The proposed area is passing through Papikonda National Park in Compt.No.183 from Pamuleru vagu to two hillock junction where the boundary of Compt.No.183 ends and continues along the road in Compt.No.172 and its Eco-Sensitive zone of Valamuru Beat of Maredumilli Section.**
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has enclosed a statement of legal status of forest land notified under Forest Acts.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no particular vegetation in the proposed area of diversion except some weeds and some bamboo clumps in Maredumilli RF since it is right of way and regularly used by public.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no requirement of trees felling involved along the length and width of proposed OFC path.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that **the proposed area is passing through Papikonda National Park in Compt.No.183 from Pamuleru vagu to two hillock junction where the boundary of Compt.No.183 ends and continues along the road in Compt.No.172 and its Eco-Sensitive zone of Valamuru Beat of Maredumilli Section.**
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no violations to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within the proposed forest areas.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has inspected the proposed land for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the existing right of way passing Kakinada Division along with Sub- Divisional Forest Officer,

Rampachodavaram and Forest Range Officer, Rampachodavaram and officials of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam on 21.10.2018.

- The Divisional Forest Officer has certified that the area is not covered under any VSS area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has recommended the proposal in Part-II.

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has furnished the information in Part-III as follows:-

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has not inspected the proposed area and agreed with the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada in Part-II and also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Further, the Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has stated that a portion of the stretch falls under Papikonda National Park, hence permission from competent authority to be obtained.

Both, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada and Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram have recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique proposal No. FP/AP/OFC/35350/2018, Dt. 24.08.2018 generated and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF& CC, New Delhi F.No. 11-09/98-FC, Dt. 16.10.2000 & 07.11.2014, proposal for Diversion of 4.64 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing right of way passing through forests Kakinada Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd. duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate for consideration of the proposal and accord stage-I approval as deemed fit.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

//True Copy//

ch. Deep
for Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests

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08/01/19

Proposed for diversion of 4.64 Ha of forest land for laying of OFC along the road within ROW
Passing through forest under Kapinda Division in Lt. Mf. Reserve Jio Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam.

PART-IV

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

1	<p>Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks</p> <p>(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)</p>	<p>Recommended</p>
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Date:
Place:

Signature


Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi IFS.,

Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
Name : (Head of Forest Force)
Official Seal: **Andhra Pradesh, Guntur**