

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**
ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

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Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 0.3225 ha. forest land in favour of
M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for Laying of
underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within
ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhori to Tekawadi road
passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi,
Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune
in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/OFC/45822/2022)

No. : Desk-17/Nodal/Pune /I.D-13164(25)/2661/2022-23
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated 11/01/2023

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai – 400032

The Project Authority, Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune has submitted proposal for diversion of 0.3225 ha. forest land in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhori to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra. The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as given below: -

Sr. No.	Item	Name of the Village	Tahsil	Dist.	Survey/ Gut No.	Length (Mtr) x Width (mtr)	Area (in Ha)	Legal Status
(A) Pune Forest Division								
1	Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road	Dalimb	Duand	Pune	727	350 x 1	0.035	Reserved Forest
2		Bori Aindi			836	550 x 1 50 x 1	0.060	
3		Tamhan wadi			56	1945 x 1	0.1945	
(A) Total Area in Pune Forest Division (in ha.)							0.2895	
(B) Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Bhore Forest Division								
4	Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road	Tekwadi	Purandar	Pune	814,815	330 x 1	0.033	Reserved Forest
(B) Total Area in Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Bhore Forest Division (in ha.)							0.033	
Grand Total (A+B)							0.3225	

2.00 The project has been initiated by Project Authority, Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable line along the road in ROW of Loni Kalbhor to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra. The User Agency has highlighted that as per the policy of the Government of India, it is planned to lay Optical Fiber Cable for reliable communication from remote place to District/State Headquarters. Basic aim of the project is to provide the people of under developed areas with reliable and high speed media connectivity. Keeping in mind the above, the Project Authority has submitted the proposal for diversion 0.35525 ha forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forests Division, Pune and Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Sub-Division, Bhore are enclosed on page no. 36 to 44.

3.0 Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in two copy.

- 3.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.
- 3.2 Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,
- 3.3 Area Statement,
- 3.4 Index map in suitable scale

4.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forests Division, Pune and Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Sub-Division, Bhore have certified that:-

- 4.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is barest minimum.
- 4.2 (i) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is below 0.01 (Open Forest)
(ii) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is 0 (Open Forest)
- 4.3 There is no cutting and felling of trees involved in this project
- 4.4 The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc.
- 4.5 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 4.6 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 4.7 (i) The proposed OFC line passing through at Village Tamhanwadi is 18 Km. from the Mayureshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Supe.
(ii) The proposed OFC line passing through at village Tekawadi is 17.700 Km from the Mayureshwar Wildlife Sanctuary Supe.
- 4.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert

committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.

- 4.9 The project is in ROW along with the State Highway, hence settlement of rights in accordance with Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is not required.
- 4.10 The Chief Engineer, PWD, Division Pune vide letter No. 144, dated 07/01/2021, 286, dated 13/01/2021, 583, dated 27/01/2021 and 692, dated 05/01/2018 has given permission for Laying Optical Fiber Cable along the Kunjirwadi to Shindavane, Dalimb to Shindavane, Bolha to Shindavane, Tekewadi to Malshiras. Copy enclosed on page no.131 to 142.
- 5.0 The Government of India has conveyed its general approval under the Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide Chapter 4 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide letter No.5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28/3/2019 for 15 activities for diversion not more than 1.00 ha forest land to Government Departments, Government undertakings, Boards, Corporations and various user agencies. 'Electric and telecommunication lines is included in these 15 activities.
- 6.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forests Division, Pune, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Sub-Division, Bhore and Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Pune have recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.3225 ha. of Reserved forest land.
- 7.00 **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: –**
- i) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged.
 - ii) As per Government of India guidelines No.FC-11/165/2019, FC dt.27/7/2020 the compensatory afforestation may not be levied in case of laying of underground Optical Fiber Cables(OFC). Therefore the cost of compensatory afforestation may not be insisted upon the User Agency.
 - iii) Net Present Value is exempted for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable as per the Government of India guidelines.
 - iv) The Optical Fiber Cable Line will be laid within maximum size of the trench of 2.00 m depth & 1.0 m width with cable line under the PVC Pipeline.
 - v) The land under project will be reclaimed by the user agency for which the agency shall submit a bank guarantee at the rate of Rs. 50/- per running meter and an undertaking to that effect shall also be submitted. If the agency fails to reclaim the land to the satisfaction of Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned, the cost for reclamation will be recovered from the bank guarantee.
 - vi) If the cable is going to be laid in the formation width of the road, then additional charges in form of bank guarantee shall be given at the rate of Rs.35/- per running mtr. Similarly for reclamation of side drain and for tarred portion, the guarantee will be at the rate of Rs. 300/- per mtr. and Rs.750/- per mtr. respectively. An undertaking shall be obtained from the user agency that it has agreed to make good any loss to Forest/ Environment while

laying the cable in the forest area and during maintenance of the same in future. For further maintenance of the project, the agency shall obtain permission from the Forest Department as and when required.

- vii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.
- viii) No felling of trees shall done during the implementation of project.
- ix) The user agency will be authorized to lay the Optical Fiber Cable outside the confines of the protected area after compliance of this order. Any breach of the conditions by the user agency will be treated as violation of the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- x) No new forest area beyond the Right of Way of existing road should be broken for laying Optical Fiber Cable.
- xi) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- xii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government.
- xiii) The User Agency will be authorized to lay the Optical Cable only outside the confines of the Protected Area. Any breach of the said condition by the User Agency will be treated as violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- xiv) All the conditions stipulated by the Forest Department shall be binding on the User Agency.
- xv) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Act, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.
- xvi) All necessary approvals required for the project as per the prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanctions.
- xvii) The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.

This proposal falls in the category of Laying of Under Ground Optical Fiber Cables (OFC), telephone line. In this proposal area requirement is less than 1.00 ha. and there is no tree felling involved in the proposal. Hence, this proposal is fit under 4.2 guidelines of FCA Handbook. Approval of such proposal rest with State Government, therefore this proposal is recommended for proposal for diversion of 0.3225 ha. forest land in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhor to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra.

Encl. :- Proposal 1 copies



(Naresh Zurmure)

**Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial) Pune for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune and Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhore Forest Division for information.

Copy to the Project Authority, Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for information

Form-A Part-III (Nodal Officer)	
1	2
Project Details	Checklist
1. Site Inspection report	Site Inspection carried out on 12/06/2021 & 07/09/2020 by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division Pune, and Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Bhore
2. Total Forest Area applied (ha.)	0.3225
3. Whether proposal has been deliberated at PSC	PSC not required
4. Recommendation	Recommended
5. Justification.	The proposal is for Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhore to Tekawadi road passing through forest area. This proposal is used for public utility.
Part-I (Proposed Diversion):-	
1. Whether the Geo-referenced Map is provided	Geo-referenced Map enclosed on page no.155
2. KML file of the proposed area	Place on file top.
3. Justification note of the project provided by User Agency	The User Agency has highlighted that as per the policy of the Government of India, it is planned to lay Optical Fiber Cable for reliable communication from remote place to District/State Headquarters. Basic aim of the project is to provide the people of under developed areas with reliable and high speed media connectivity. Keeping in mind the above, the Project Authority has submitted the proposal for diversion 0.35525 ha forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
<input type="checkbox"/> I endorse the justification to locate the proposal on the forest area by the User Agency	
Part-II (Compensatory Afforestation) If applicable	
4. Whether the Geo-referenced map is provided.	Geo-referenced map is enclosed on page no.155
5. Legal status of User Agency	Project Authority, Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune
6. Whether PCCF approval obtained	PCCF (HoFF) recommendation placed on file page no.5
7. Type of CA land [DFL/NFL/Combined(DFL&NFL)]	Not required

8. Whether CA is selected in the same state	Not required
9. Whether violation is reported in proposed area	No violation is observed.
10. Whether land use plan is attached	Land use plan is enclosed on page no. 153 to 163
11. Whether the project Site is specific	The Government of India vide guidelines dated 22/03/2021 has given extension of date of General Approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of less than one hectare of forest land non-forestry purpose. The said proposal is site specific.
12. Whether is there any court case/judgment pertaining to the project proposal or related to diversion of forest land.	No.
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby undertake that the above information is accurate and duly verified. I am responsible for any data discrepancy found and liable for action.	

 11/1/23

(Naresh Zurmure)

**Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Date: /01/2023

Place: Nagpur

PART -IV

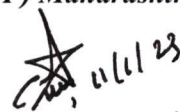
**(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force))**

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

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Sr. No.	Item	Name of the Village	Tahsil	Dist.	Survey/ Gut No.	Length (Mtr) x Width (mtr)	Area (in Ha)	Legal Status
(A) Pune Forest Division								
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(A) Total Area in Pune Forest Division (in ha.)							0.2895	
(B) Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Bhore Forest Division								
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(B) Total Area in Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Bhore Forest Division (in ha.)							0.033	
Grand Total (A+B)							0.3225	

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Maharashtra State, Nagpur is attached on page no.



**(Naresh Zurmure)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Date: 11/01/2023
Place: Nagpur

Proposal for diversion of 0.3225 ha. forest land in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhor to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/OFC/45822/2022).

Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons.

- 1) Proposal is for diversion of 0.3225 ha. forest land in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable duct and cable within ROW of existing road to Loni Kalbhor to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/OFC/45822/2022). The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

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Grand Total (A+B)							0.3225	

2.00 The project has been initiated by Project Authority, Vice President, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd, Pune for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable line along the road in ROW of Loni Kalbhor to Tekawadi road passing through forest area in villages Dalimb, Bori Aindi, Tamhanwadi, Tekwadi, in Tal. Daund, Purandar, Dist. Pune in the State of Maharashtra. The User Agency has highlighted that as per the policy of the Government of India, it is

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3.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Forests Division, Pune and Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Sub-Division, Bhore have certified that:-

- 3.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is barest minimum.
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7.00 **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: –**

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- vii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.
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- xiv) All the conditions stipulated by the Forest Department shall be binding on the User Agency.
- xv) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Act, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.
- xvi) All necessary approvals required for the project as per the prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanctions.
- xvii) The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.



(Dr.Y.L.P Rao)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur