

PART-IV

Diversion of 0.12 ha. of forest land in compartment no.459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by 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: 11.9.2021

Place : Guntur

Signature

Name:

Office Seal:


N. Prateep Kumar, IFS.,
Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Andhra Pradesh

I/472273/2021

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

<p>From Sri N. Prateep Kumar, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Guntur - 522004.</p>	<p>To The Secretary to the Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522 503.</p>
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Ref.no.EFS02-15026/4/2021-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
Dated:11/09/2021.

Sir,

Sub APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.12 ha. of forest land in compartment no.459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by 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/128499/2021, dated: 11.03.2020.
2. PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Rc. no. EFS02-15026/4/2021- FCA- SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated:14.04.2021.
3. CF, Guntur Rc. no. 731/2021-TO, dated: 19.08.2021.

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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 0.12 ha. of forest land in compartment no. 459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.

Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur in the reference 3rd cited has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.12 ha. of forest land in compartment no. 459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad and processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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

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- Forest area to an extent of 0.12 ha. is required for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as ₹8.86 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 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 0.12 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 District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest land to an extent of 0.12 ha. is required in compartment no.459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad
- Legal Status of the forest is RF.
- The density of vegetation is 0.3 to 0.4. The proposed area falls in Tropical Dry Deciduous forests classified as Eco-Class-III, open / scrub forest as per ecological classes.
- 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 Fibre Cable is linear in nature and falls in Guvvadi West RF.
- The area proposed for diversion is not a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- No rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna found in the proposed area.
- 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

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The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 19.07.2021 and stated that, laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the existing Right of Way falls in compartment no.459 of Guvvadi West RF of Udayagiri Range. No valuable tree species are existing along the alignment of the OFC cable. There will be no impact on flora and fauna of adjacent RFs due to this project since it is an underground Optical Fiber Cable line.

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.

The District Collector, SPSR Nellore District has issued certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, as stipulated by the MoEF, GoI, New Delhi in the Lr.No.11-9/1998-FC (pt), Dt.05.07.2013, in the prescribed format Annexure-I (Form-I) 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/128499/2021** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

The Conservator of Forests, Guntur & District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore have recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.12 ha. in compartment no.459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad.

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.

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

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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 on the user agency towards compensatory afforestation.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (2) sets, for diversion of 0.12 ha. in compartment no.459, Guvvadi West RF, Udayagiri Range, Nellore Division for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in Gol, 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:- (2) sets of proposals

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

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

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

PART-IV

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:11/09/2021

Signature:

Place:

Name:N Prateep Kumar

Office Seal:

Signed by N Prateep Kumar

Date: 11-09-2021 22:26:14

Reason: Approved