

I/680796/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force(FAC), Andhra Pradesh, 'AranyaBhavan', Guntur-522004.	To The Spl.Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi.
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**Rc.no.EFS02-15026/18/2019/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, Dated:13/12/2022**

Sir,

Sub: APFD – F (C) Act, 1980 – Diversion of 0.26 ha forest land in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam for laying underground optical fibre cable along the road within the existing RoW passing through forest in Guntur Division for providing Telecommunication services in the State of A.P – Proposals submitted – Reg.

Ref:- 1. Online proposal no. FP/AP/OFC/42713/2019, Dt.31.10.2019.  
2. PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Rc.no.EFS02-15026/18/2019/FCA-1, Dt. 06.03.2020.  
3. CCF, Guntur, Rc.no.621/2019/TO, Dt. 20.10.2020 & 10.11.2022.

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It is submitted that, the Authorized Signatory, M/s. Jlo Digital Fibre Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam (User Agency), in the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, has submitted proposal for diversion of 0.26 ha forest land for laying underground optical fibre cable along the road within the existing RoW passing through forest in Guntur Division for providing Telecommunication services in the State of A.P., in favour of M/s. Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur in the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited has submitted the proposal as per the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments from time to time for diversion of 0.26 ha forest land in Guntur Division for laying underground optical fibre cable along the road within the existing RoW in favor of M/s. Jlo Digital Fibre Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

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

- Forest area to an extent of 0.26 ha is required for laying optical fiber cable by M/s. Jlo Digital Fibre Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.208 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

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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 user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, Addl. NPV, CA, tree extraction charges etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 0.26 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 16,023 man days approx will be generated.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.

**The District Forest Officer, Guntur has submitted the following information in Part-II.**

- Forest land to an extent of 0.26 ha is required for laying of Optical Fiber Cable **along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) passing through forest land in Vinukonda Range** of Guntur Division in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Visakhapatnam.
- Legal Status of the forest is RF.
- **As per Fort. St. George, March,14, 1901 (iv), the local fund road from Vinukonda to Karempudi is excluded from the reservation to a width of twenty-two yards on either side from its centre.**
- The density of vegetation is less than 0.10.
- There are no trees falling along the length & width of OFC path proposed. Proposed Reserve forest is not vulnerable and hence there is no erosion.
- Details of Wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion is Blacked naped hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Sambar(*Rusauniclour*), Wild boar(*Susscorfa*), Neelgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*).
- 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.
- The User Agency has not violated the provisions of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980.

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

The District Forest Officer, Guntur has inspected the area proposed for

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diversion of forest land on 22.09.2022 and stated that, the area proposed for diversion is falling in compartment no.39,40 and 41 of Guthikonda RF in Vinukonda Range of Guntur. Site inspection report of the District Forest Officer, Guntur is enclosed herewith.

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the District Forest Officer, Guntur has **Recommended** the proposal, as there is not much of loss to Flora and Fauna and also the project is useful in facilitating communication facilities to interior places.

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

In Part -IV, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests(Head of Forest Force), A.P, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and the District Forest Officer, Guntur and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to submit RoFR Certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, as stipulated by the MoEF, Gol, New Delhi in the Lr.No.11-9/1998-FC (pt), Dt.05.07.2013, stating that, "issuance of Form-I (for Linear Projects) under RoFR Act, 2006 from District Collector is under process and may take some time due to the recent District re-organization in the State and they are constantly pursuing the same and the same will be submitted before Stage-II approval". Copy of undertaking is enclosed herewith.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal ([www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in)) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/OFC/42713/2019** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

In this regard it is to submit that, as per para 4.2 of Chapter-4 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, 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.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (3) sets, for diversion of 0.26 ha in compartment no.39,40 & 41 of Guthikond RF, Vinukonda Range, Guntur Division for laying optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Visakhapatnam 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:- (3) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,  
Y Madhusudhana Reddy Ifs  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Head of Forest Force(FAC)

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

Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited for information and necessary action.

**PART-IV**

Diversion of 0.26 ha in compartment no.39,40 & 41 of Guthikond RF, Vinukonda Range, Guntur Division for laying optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Visakhapatnam.

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:12/12/2022

Signature

Place:

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

**A.K. JHA**  
Principal Chief Conservator  
of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer

Validity unknown

Digitally signed by ANAND  
KUMAR JHA  
Date: 2022.12.12 22:55:38 IST

