



**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State Nagpur**

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Sub.: - Forest Land-Raigad

Change of alignment 0.8878 ha forest land (Previously sanctioned area 9.4040 Ha) for laying of HPCL's Uran Chakan / Shikrapur LPG Pipeline along with 6" dia Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in forest land in Raigad district.

No.:Desk-17/NC/II/12343(Align)/(53)-¹⁸⁹⁶/16-17
Nagpur – 440 001, dated: 13/01/2017

To

The Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.

Ref.: - 1) Government of India letter No. 6-MHC 33/2014-BHO/482 dated 19/11/2015.

2) Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane letter No. Desk- 10/FCA/CR 52/ 16-17/OW-895/16-17, Dt. 28/12/2016.

Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Bhopal has accorded formal approval for the diversion of 9.4040 Ha. of forest land for laying of HPCL's Uran Chakan / Shikrapur LPG Pipeline along with 6" dia Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in forest land in Raigad district under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No. 6-MHC 33/2014-BHO/482 dated 19/11/2015. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane vide his letter dated 28/12/2016 has submitted a proposal for change of alignment of additional area 0.8878 ha. as per revised alignment of the project for technical requirements within the same forest compartment.

Out of 9.4040 ha diverted forest area for diversion which includes 0.1522 ha from village Dighati, Tal. Panvel, Dist Raigad, the revised requirement of additional forest area is 0.8878 ha is demanded by User Agency in village Dighati.

The additional area involved for change of alignment is 0.8878 Ha. In the 1.5 Kms ROU there are about 400 people have permanent dwellings. In terms of safety point of view, it is not recommended to lay the pipeline in heavy dense areas. The pipeline required plenty of bends to mitigate the safety issue. Further the multiple bends in the pipeline will also result in flow related problems and resultant pressure drop. Due to above technical issues, the pipeline requires slight re-routing in the abutting forest area. The pipeline instead of route involving 1.5

Km in cross Country and 0.1522 ha of forest area passes through a new route admeasuring 1.04 Ha of forest area. This is in additional diversion of 0.8878 Ha of forest in the same survey number 78pt where in final permission had already been obtained. In line with above, it is proposed for submitting the amendment proposal for an area of 10.2918 Ha from the final approval for diverted 9.4040 ha, involving a additional 0.8878 Ha in the survey number 78pt in Dighati village. The number of felling of 24 trees is not exceeding the number given in the original proposal (i.e. 726 trees). Diverted forest area as per Government of India order dated 19/11/2015 and forest area proposed for diversion as per realignment is as follows-

Approved Forest area					Proposed forest area as per re-alignment				
Village	Comptt No.	Sur No.	Area in Ha	Legal Status	Village	Comptt No.	Sur No.	Area in Ha	Legal Status
Dighati	37	78	0.1522	Reserved Forest	Dighati	37	78	1.04	Reserved Forest
Total			0.1522		Total			1.04	

Abstract

Particulars	Length X Width	Area in Ha
The area details for which permission granted by Government of India	152.2 X 10 mtr	0.1522
Revised area demanded for change in alignment	1155.5 X 9.0 mtr	1.0400
The area for which sanction required from GOI	1003.3	0.8878

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag has certified that User Agency has not started the work. The area belongs to eco-value class I and dense forest. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed for realignment. The User Agency has fulfilled the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006. Site Inspection Report of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag has certified that the area 1.7756 ha out of 3.14 ha protected forest from Gut No. 143 of village Kavir, Tal. Alibag Dist. Raigad proposed for compensatory afforestation for change of alignment is suitable for afforestation and management purpose and also free from encroachment and encumbrances.

According to the Guidelines of Government of India in clause 2.1 (V), in case the proposal is duly approved by Government of India then there is no need to submit complete proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 if there is minor change in the alignment. The clause is reproduced below :-

“In case of irrigation projects or projects involving linear diversion of forest land, when during execution, some realignment is needed due to technical reasons and where the re-alignment is of a minor nature. i. e. deviation from the original alignment is at a few points and the number of trees to be cut does not exceed the number given in the original proposal, the State Government need not submit a fresh proposal. Rather, they may send this information through a covering letter giving maps of the original alignment and fresh alignment with details of the additional forest land required and the variation in the number of trees which will be affected due to the re-alignment.”

In original 9.4040 ha proposal involving felling of 726 trees of various species and girth class. Girth wise break up is as under-

15/30 cm	46/60 cm	61/75 cm	76/90 cm	91/105 cm	106/120 cm	121/135 cm	136/150 cm	Above 151 cm	Total
128	124	140	45	84	15	08	11	15	726

As per survey number 78, original diverted & proposed realignment proposal involving felling of trees of various species and girth class. Comparative girth wise break up is as under-

Sr. No.		15/ 30 cm	31/45 cm	46/60 cm	61/75 cm	76/ 90 cm	91/ 105 cm	106/120 cm	Total
Original		4	7	8	1	4	1	1	26
Realigned		5	6	6	5	-	2	-	24

In original 9.4040 ha proposal 726 trees were to be felled which included about 199 trees in the road corridor. In amended proposal of 10.2918 ha of forest approval about 824 trees (726 + 98) on a part of amended area are to be cut. However in the road alignment passing in forest areas, User Agency cut physically 100 trees thereby saving about 99 trees. Hence, there are no additional requirement of trees cutting in the amended proposal for diversion of 10.2918 ha of forest.

The forest area diverted for this project as per Government of India letter at reference No. 1 above is 9.4040 Ha. After realignment of the Project the proposed, forest area for diversion is 10.2918 Ha. (9.4040 ha + 0.8878 ha.).

As per the revised alignment, 0.8878 Ha additional forest area is required. The realignment proposal is recommended for approval under section - 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions -

- Compensatory afforestation will be raised at the cost of User Agency on 1.7756 Ha degraded forest land incharge of the Forest Department in addition to earlier proposed for compensatory afforestation.
- The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the project.
- The User Agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 0.8878 Ha. of forest land as per the latest guideline of Government of India.
- The User Agency will defray the cost of additional Net Present Value of 0.8878 Ha. of forest land as per the latest guideline of Government of India.
- The User Agency will defray the cost of removal of 24 trees in the area. However, barest minimum number of trees will be felled.
- Any other conditions imposed by Forest Department at the time of submission of the realignment proposal will be binding to User Agency.
- Any other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.

In view of the above facts, it is requested that Government of India may kindly be moved to issue formal approval under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. : 2 sets of proposal.

Dr. apal. vl

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

Draft Approved by PCCF(HoFF)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

13/9/17

Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane for information.

Copy to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag for information.

Copy to Chief Manager, LPG Project, HPCL, 8, Shoorji Vallabhdas Marg, P. O. Box No.

15, Mumbai 400001 for information.

