

**PART -IV****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)

Sub.:- M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, 2 Shantisadan Society , Near Paimal Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 submitted the proposal for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district for which 0.0351 ha forest land required under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has been proposed by the User Agency. The details of Forest land proposed for diversion is as under :-

Ser No	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Forest Survey No	Area	Legal Status	Remarks
1.	Sarani	Dahanu	Palghar	215	0.0351	Reserved Forest	For 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution

**Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) MS Nagpur is attached on page no. 21A**

Date : 31/03/2018  
Place : Nagpur

  
 (G Sai Prakash) 31/3  
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
 & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur  
 JKM  
 26/3/18

Laying of 10" dia Steel Pipeline to Set up Natural Gas Distribution Network in Dahanu  
Taluka & Surrounding area in Palghar District

**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**

The proposal is for diversion of 0.0351 Reserved Forest land for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district. The non forest area involved in the proposal is approx 1.0905 ha. The detailed Forest area statement is as under-

Ser No	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Forest Survey No	Area	Legal Status	Remarks
1.	Sarani	Dahanu	Palghar	215	0.0351	Reserved Forest	For 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution

The project has been initiated by M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, 2 Shantisadan Society, Near Paimal Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board, New Delhi grant of authorization to M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, Ahmedabad for laying, Building, operating or expanding the CGD Network in Thane District (Maharashtra) excluding areas already authorized on 01/04/2015.

The Government of Maharashtra made a MOU with Gujarat Gas Limited during the Maharashtra investment Seminar held at the Make in India week on 13-18 Feb 2016 in Mumbai to steup City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects (Piped Natural Gas for Domestic/Commercial/Industrial-SMEs usages and CNG for Transport Sector) in Thane & Palghar District (excluding already authorized) in the state of Maharashtra to facilitate and to obtain necessary permissions/registrations/approvals/clearances/fiscal incentives etc from the concerned departments of the state, as per the existing policies/rules and regulations of the Government of Maharashtra.

Therefore the Project Authority is planning to lay 10" dia Steel pipeline to supply natural gas to Dahanu Taluka and its surrounding areas to provide natural gas to enrout industries/consumers in Palghar District of Maharashtra State. The project approximately 18/760 Km long. The route has been carefully selected to minimize total length of the pipeline and forest base. The Right of Use (RoU) for forest area is proposed as minimum of

0.6 mts width (which is the minimum requirement). The pipe line will be laid at minimum 1.5 M below the ground level, as per the requirement of the authority.

The pipe line will be laid through feasible shortest route along the road side to transport the Natural Gas by Gujarat Gas Limited. The route is finalized to parallel the various roads . Executive Engineer, PWD, Palghat & Irrigation Division, Kalwa (Thane) has been requested by Project Authority for grant of permission for laying the Steel Natural Gas pipeline along to Road in Dahanu Taluka of Palghar District. Executive Engineer, PWD, Palghat & Irrigation Division, Kalwa (Thane) vide letter dated 25/01/2017 agreed and intimated to deposit the Govt fees.

The pipe line is passing through Reserved Forest land (length is 351 sq mt) for which 0.351 ha Reserved forest land required for laying of gas pipeline. Therefore Projecty Authority has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.0351 ha Reserved forest land under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for laying of Natural Gas pipe line in Dahanu Taluka of Palghar District.

The proposal has been submitted by CCF (T) Thane vide letter Desk-10/FCA/CR-55/17-18/OW-965/17-18 dated 05/02/2018 alongwith following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 as well as per Government of India's instructions issued from time to time .

- 1) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu certified that alternatives have been explored and the demand for the required forest land is the barest minimum demand.
- 2) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu certified that no suitable alternate non forest land is available for the proposal for laying natural gas pipeline and demand for the forest land is minimum.
- 3) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu certified that 1.00 ha area of Survey No/Compt No 239 of village Bharad, Tal-Dahanu, Distt-Palghar is suitable for compensatory afforestation and management purpose and it is free from encroachment and an encumbrances. CA Scheme is enclosed on page No 37 to 45.
- 4) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu certified that there is no cutting or felling of trees in the proposed project.
- 5) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu vetified that the forest area proposed for laying of pipeline are being proposed along with the road and forms part of the ROW.
- 6) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu certified that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 or its guidelines.
- 7) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu has certified that proposed site is not likely to affect any monuments site of cultural, historical, religious archeological or recreational importance.

- 8) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu has certified that the proposed project is not included in the area of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature reserve.
- 9) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu has certified that proposed area is beyond 10 kms (about 60 kms) of the boundary of the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 10) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dahanu certified that the non forest land involved in the project are not under provisions 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 the dictionary meaning of Forests as intimated to the expert Committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 11) Site Inspection of Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu is on Page No 59.
- 12) The project area belongs to Eco-Value class I having density below 0.4.
- 13) The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Compensatory afforestation .
- 14) The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forestland proposed for diversion.
- 15) The User Agency has fulfilled the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006. Certificate of District Collect Palghar dated 15/03/2018 is enclosed on page No 56
- 16) The User Agency has submitted the undertaking that pipeline will be laid within Road ROW only and permission has been obtained from Executive Engineer PWD, Palghar, therefore no any private land/survey No comes unde pipeline route
- 17) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu and Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane have recommended the proposal

**In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section 2(ii) subject the following conditions.**

- i) The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged.
- ii) The forest land shall not be used for any purposes other than specified in the project.

- iii) Compensatory afforestation will be raised at the cost of the project authority over 1.00 ha of degraded forest land at Survey/Compt No 239 of Village Bharad, Tal-Dahanu, Distt-Palghar.
- iv) The Project Authority will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 0.0351 ha. of forest land as per latest guidelines of Government of India.
- v) The Project Authority will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of forest land as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- vi) The agency will pay the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars on the compensatory forestation land.
- vii) The User Agency shall obtained the permission of Executive Engineer PWD, Palghar for laying of pipeline within Road ROW.
- viii) The User Agency will obtain Environmental Clearance from competent authority, if required.
- ix) The Natural Gas pipe line will be laid well below as per norms the ground level all along its length through forest and adequate safety measures to be adopted .
- x) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- xi) It will be the responsibility of the Project Authority to ensure that the labourers, staffs engaged in construction activity do not damages nearby forest flora and fauna.
- xii) ~~All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.~~
- xiii) All necessary approvals required for the project as per prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanction.

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



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

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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9001:2015

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**Sub.:-** Diversion of 0.0351 ha of Forest land for for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district.

No. : Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12591/(62)/ 66 /2017-18  
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated: 06/04/2018

To ,

The Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue and Forests Department,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai-32

**Ref:-** CCF (T) Thane letter No. Desk-10/FCA/CR-55/OW 965 /2017-18 dt 05/02/2018

Sir,

The project has been initiated by M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, 2 Shantisadan Society , Near Paimal Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district. The non forest area involved in the proposal is approx 1.0905 ha. The detailed Forest area statement is as under :-

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- xii) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.

- xiii) All necessary approvals required for the project as per prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanction.

It is therefore requested that the Government of Maharashtra may kindly be moved to approve diversion of 0.0351 ha. Forest Land in favour of M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, 2 Shantisadan Society, Near Paimal Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 for laying of 10" dia Steel pipeline to set up Natural Gas distribution Network in Dahanu Taluka & surrounding area in Palghar district under section (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

Encls : As above

Yours faithfully,

*G Sai Prakash*  
= 31/5

(G Sai Prakash)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur

*[Signature]*  
26/3/18

*[Signature]*  
28/08/2018

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane.

Copy to Deputy Conservator of Forests Dahanu.

Copy to M/s Gujarat Gas Company Limited, 2 Shantisadan Society, Near Paimal Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 .