By On-line/e-mail.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru R.K. Upadhyay, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 600 009.

C.No. TS3/16613/2017 Dated: 18.05.2018.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Proposal for diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 Kv HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore - Online Submission of proposal by the User Agency - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency – Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, SRTS-II, RHQ, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka State, Pincode 560064. - Proposal No. FP/TN/TRANS/25759/2017- dated 20.04.2017 and re-submission of proposal on 17.07.2017 & 17.11.2017

2. Part-II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division on 17.05.2018 and by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division on 17.05.2018.

3. Part-III of Form -A uploaded by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle on 17.05.2018 and by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle on 17.05.2018.

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I wish to state that, the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, SRTS-II, RHQ, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64, Karnataka State represented by Assistant General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, SRTS-II, RHQ, Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka, Pincode 560064 has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the prescribed format of Part-I of Form A for diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri

(6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 Kv HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore.

2) The User Agency has requested diversion of forest area for a period of 35 years.

3) The User Agency has proposed establishment of 800 kv HVDC transmission line from Raigarh (Chattishgarh) to Pugalur (Tamil Nadu). This project is envisaged to enhance the power scenario of the southern states and further strengthen the national grid. The proposed transmission line passes through forest areas in two forest divisions, namely, Vellore Forest Division in Vellore District and Dharmapuri Forest Division in Dharmapuri District. 2.76 ha of forest area in Kallapadi RF of Vellore Forest Division and 6.36 ha of forest area in Kalappampadi RF of Dharmapuri Division areas are required for this transmission line.

4) The User Agency has submitted following details / undertakings along with the proposal.

i) Authorization letter of Executive Director / SRTS-II Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Southern Region Transmission System-IIm RHG, Bangalore for making on line proposal for forest clearance.

ii) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area and no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project.

iii) Location map of the proposed diversion of forest area in kml file of google earth has been up-loaded

iv) Scanned copy of Survey of India toposheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted.

v) Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map along with GPS reading of the proposed diversion of forest area for formation of road marked in the google earth.

vi) Undertaking to deposit the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit

additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.

vii) Undertaking to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed by the guidelines of Supreme Court of India.

viii) Undertaking to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed by the guidelines of Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

ix) Undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project.

x) Certificate to effect that no violation of the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurred.

xi) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees in lieu of forest land to be diverted to the project.

xii) Certificate from the Project authority (User Agency) that demands for forest land for the project is minimum.

xiii) Certificate to effect that no suitable alternative non forest land is available for the project.

xiv) The User Agency has uploaded certificate obtained from the District Collector stating that, there is no suitable and technically approved alternate non-forest land available for the project.

5) After getting additional essential details from the User Agency, the proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officers, Vellore Division and Dharmapuri Divisions.

6) After field inspection, the District Forest Officers, Vellore and Salem Divisions and Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore and Salem Circle have forwarded the proposal.

During field inspection, it was found that, the proposed tower line erection in forest areas falls in Paradharami RF of Vellore Forest Division (not in Kallapadi RF mentioned by the User Agency and Kalappampadi Rf of Dharmapuri Forest Division.

7) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has furnished following particulars.

i) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class three in forest area.

ii) The proposed forest diversion area is already eroded and further no soil is to be eroded now, due to this project.

iii) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

iv) There is no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. There is no specific wildlife found in that locality.

v) There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vi) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

vii) a) The District Forest Officer Vellore has reported that, 282 number of spontaneous growth of miscellaneous species have to be felled in the area in the to be diverted transmission lines apart from 204 number of planted trees, where transmission towers have located and for felling of spontaneous tree growth, the User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission.

vii) b) The District Forest Officer Dharmapuri has reported that, 176 number of spontaneous growth of miscellaneous species have to be felled in the area in the to be diverted transmission lines, where transmission towers have located and for felling of spontaneous tree growth, the User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission.

viii) a) The District Forest Officer, Vellore Division has proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs. 2598865/- over an extent of 5.52 ha, in the

degraded forest area of Paradharami RF, where forest area diversion has been proposed This amount includes raising of plantation, chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure and maintenance of plantation for 7 years.

viii) b) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs. 62,78,000. over an extent of 12.72 ha, in the degraded forest area of Kalappampadi RF, where forest area diversion has been proposed This amount includes raising of plantation, chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure and maintenance of plantation for 7 years.

ix) As against the diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in two forest divisions, compensatory afforestation scheme has been proposed for double the extent of 18.24 ha (12.72 ha in Dharmapuri Forest Division and 5.52 ha in Vellore Forest Division).

As per Forest Conservation Act, 1980 guidelines, Central Government Agencies were exempted for providing non-forest CA land, hence, CA scheme has been proposed in the degraded forest area double in extent.

8) a) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has inspected the proposed forest area diversion site on 31.03.2018 and by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division on 17.05.2018.

b) In the specific recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officers have stated that, considering the importance of the developmental scheme, the forest area diversion has been recommended.

c) The District Forest Officers have recommended the period of diversion for thirty five year.

9) By providing this 800 kv HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur, people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka State will be benefitted, hence the Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore and Dharmapuri have recommended this forest area division.

10) Based on recommendations made by the District Forest Officers and Chief Conservator of Forests, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions.

a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.

b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.

c) The User Agency has to pay the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation, protection of plantation etc., as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.

d) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

e) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

g) The User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission for felling of trees of Spontaneous origin.

h) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees in the proposed forest area division area.

i) Period of lease can be thirty five (35) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before six months of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act)-i/c / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu. I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and Government of India approval may please be obtained for diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha) and Vellore (2.76 ha) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 Kv HVDC transmission line from Raigarh

to Pugalur by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore for a period of 35 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully

18-05-2018

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

18/5/2018

## PART IV

**(To be filed in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)**

Name of the work: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 9.12 ha of Forest land in Vellore and Dharmapuri Divisions in Tamil Nadu for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd Proposal No. (FP/TN/TRANS 25759/2017).

17. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation 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).

The proposal of M/s Power Grid Corporation of India for diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in Vellore and Dharmapuri division for construction of 800 kv transmission line is in public interest and is recomended

Date: 18.05.2018

Place: Chennai

Signature: Rhlupadhyay

Name : R.K. UPADHYAY

Official Seal: **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) I/c Chennai - 600 015.**