

By On-line/e-mail.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

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

C. No. TS3/7921/2019 Dated: 19 .03.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Forest Circle /
Tirupathur Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 4.47 ha of
forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in
newly formed Tirupathur District for conversion of existing 11 kv
line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in
Pungamaduvu village -- Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency - Tamil Nadu
Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO)
Pudurnadu, Tirupathur, Vellore District - Proposal No.
FP/TN/TRANS/30358/2017, dated 22.11.2017 and resubmission
of proposal on 06.02.2019, 19.05.2019, 12.06.2019, 20.06.2019,
04.07.2019 & 04.09.2019 & 02.01.2020

2. Part II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Tirupathur Division on 20.12.2019 and resubmission of proposal
on 13.01.2020 & 21.02.2020

3. Part III of Form A uploaded by the Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle on 15.01.2020 and
resubmission of proposal on 06.03.2020

* * *

I-1) I wish to state that, in the references 1st cited above, the Executive Engineer
TANGEDCO, No. 34/F, Sowkathali Pettai, London Mission Road, Tirupathur pin code
635601 on behalf of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation
(TANGEDCO), (A subsidiary of TNEB Limited) Tirupathur has submitted online
application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 4.47 ha
of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District –

present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungamaduvu village.

2) The User Agency has requested diversion of forest area for a period of 99 years.

3) On behalf of User Agency – Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (A subsidiary of TNEB), the Executive Engineer TANGEDGO, Tirupathur, has uploaded the proposal.

4) The User Agency has stated that, forest area diversion of 4.47 ha has been proposed in Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District. In the village wise breakup details of forest area requirement village name reported as Pungambattunadu. Forest area in Andiyappanur RF (4.47 ha) in Poongampattu nadu villages area has been requested for the work.

In the additional information details section, area requirement statement furnished by the user agency is as follows.

Length of the transmission line reported as 2980m and width at 15.00m (As per Government of India guidelines in F. No. 7-25/2012-FC, dated 05.05.2014, width of right of way prescribed for 33 kv transmission in forest area is 15m).

Based on the above, forest area requirement for 2980m is 44700 sq.m or 4.47 ha.

5) Kml file on google earth map of the proposed segment area has been uploaded in the proposal.

6) Copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted has been uploaded.

7) Scanned copy of the Geo-referenced map of the forest land proposed to be diverted preparing by using GPS or total station has been uploaded. GPS reading of the transmission line furnished in additional information details section.

8) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area. has been uploaded.

9) Copy of map indicating location of alternative examined for the project has not been uploaded and this may has not insisted since the transmission line has been proposed for the habitation surrounded by forest area.

10) The User Agency has stated this project or part thereof is not located in any Scheduled area.

11) The User Agency has stated process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted has been completed. Forest Rights Act, 2006 certificate issued by the District Collector on completion of process for settlement of rights on 4.37 ha of forest land in the project area has been uploaded in the project proposal.

12) In the additional information details segment, the User Agency has uploaded following documents.

i) Certified that no violation of the provision of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 occurred in the place.

ii) Certified that the demand of forest land for the project is minimum and no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project.

iii) Undertaking for the payment of Net Present Value as fixed by Forest Department.

iv) Undertaking for the payment of additional amount of Net Present Value as fixed by Forest Department.

v) Undertaking to bear the cost of exploitation of trees.

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

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

viii) Area requirement statement.

The user agency has reported that the area required for conversion of existing 11 kv to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new sub-station in Pungampattu nadu in Jawadhu hills in Tirupathur Forest Division is 4.37 ha. The width of line is 15 mts and length of 2980 mts.

ix) GPS reading of the waypoints 1 to 39.

x) District Collector certificate about no alternate suitable non-forest land is available since the proposed work on conversion of existing conductor in voltage level of 11 kv into 33 kv running through the middle of Reserve Forests.

II) After getting essential details from the User Agency, the proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division for necessary follow up action.

III-1) The District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division, Tirupathur has forwarded the proposal along with his Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle on 20.12.2019 and resubmitted the proposal after EDS raised by the APCCF, Vellore Circle on 13.01.2020.

2) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle has uploaded his site inspection report and recommendation of the proposal and forwarded the proposal to the Nodal Officer on 15.01.2020.

3) For the shortcomings pointed out in the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter dated 03.02.2020, the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle have rectified the shortcomings in the forest clearance web portal and resubmitted the proposal and furnished hard copies of the proposal.

IV-1) 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 0.5 and Eco class three in forest area.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, there is no trees available in the forest land proposed for diversion.

iii) On vulnerability of the forest land to erosion, the District Forest Officer has reported that the Reserved Forests are proposed for diversion are not vulnerable for erosion.

iv) 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.

v) Indian Gaur, Wild boar, Spotted deer, Hare, Peafowl, Indian Rock Python are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

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

vii) 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.

viii) For the diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose of conversion of existing 11 kv to 33 kv line for establishment of 11/33 new substation in Pungampattu Nadu village in Tirupathur Range area in newly formed Tirupathur District (old part of Vellore district area), compensatory afforestation area has been identified in the degraded forest area in the same Andiyappanur Reserved Forests in 8.94 ha.

a) Scanned copy of geo-referenced map of 8.94 ha of degraded forest area in Andiyappanur RF along with GPS readings have been uploaded.

b) Copy of survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of 8.94 ha of degraded forest area in Andiyappanur RF has been uploaded

c) 3As per Government of India guidelines under Compensatory Afforestation work, CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of the user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted in the case of laying transmission lines and CA scheme shall be prepared for minimum of 1000 seedlings per hectare of identified CA land with ten-year maintenance.

Based on the above guidelines, the District Forest Officer has prepared and uploaded the revised detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme estimate for the work at Rs. 57,74,029/- (@Rs. 645864/- per ha) for raising and ten years maintenance of plantation.

d) Site suitability certificate of the Compensatory afforestation plantation area has been furnished with the CA scheme proposal.

ix) In the additional information details section, the District Forest Officer has uploaded following documents

a) Revised CA scheme estimate

b) GPS reading of the degraded forest area identified for CA scheme

c) Site suitability certificate of the selected CA area..

2) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, detailed field inspection was conducted on 20.09.2019 and 30.11.2019.

i) The proposed site is located in Jawathu hills at an altitude of 1340 mts in Andiyappanur RF area of Tirupathur Range with coordinates N12.47457, E 78.66129, and N12.46475 , E78.68463. Forest type is Southern Dry Mixed deciduous forest and Southern dry deciduous scrub forest. Density of vegetation is noted as fairly dense forest. The density of vegetation is more than 0.40 and less than 0.60.

ii) The proposed area for diversion proposed by the user agency is as follows.

Length in metre – 2980m

Width in metre- 15m

Total area in ha – 4.47 ha.

iii) The user agency has given following justification for the diversion proposal.

a) Establishment of 33/11 KV sub-station in Pungampattu Nadu village from Singampalyam to Serkanur village in Jawadhu hills in Tirupathur forest division, Vellore District under DDUGJY Scheme.

b) Nearly 34 villages and 4200 EB service connections will get proper streamlined power supply.

c) Breakdowns will be minimized which ensure the Hill area people will get uninterrupted electricity.

iv) The proposed transmission line work will have only minimum impact on wildlife in particular and biodiversity in general. The proposed area is not close to any National Park or Wildlife sanctuary Further, this proposed project does not involve felling of any trees only side branches needs to be trimmed.

3) In the specific recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer has stated that, the project work will have only minimum impact on the wildlife in particular and biodiversity in general. The proposed area is not close to any National Park or Wildlife sanctuary. There is no violation of provisions of Forest Conservation Act is found in the proposed area and there is no encroachment in the proposed area. Further, this proposed project does not involve felling of any trees only side branches needs to be trimmed. The establishment of substation is inevitable which would facilitate in

improving the standard of living of the local people. Hence the District Forest Officer has recommended the project on public interest.

V) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle has inspected the area on 06.01.2020. He endorses the views of the District Forest Officer and recommended the proposal.

VI) Forest area diversion has been requested by the user agency for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests have recommended this forest area diversion for a period of 99 years.

Transmission line projects in the forest area are being recommended for a period of 25 to 35 years based on the period requested by user agencies (Power grid corporation, TNEB). This proposal has been recommended for a period of 30 years as recommended for TNEB project of laying 230 kv transmission line Cuddalore to Veerapuram (S.P. Koil) via Neyveli proposal.

VII) Based on recommendations made by the District Forest Officer and Additional Principal 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.

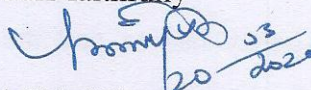
f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

g) Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

VIII) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden and Additional 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 be considered and Government of India approval may be obtained for diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District – present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungamaduvu village by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), (A subsidiary of TNEB Limited) Tirupathur for a period of 30 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully



For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of FDepartment)

20/12/2020

PART - IV

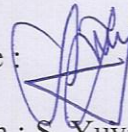
(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Proposal for diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungamaduvu village- Online proposal Submission by the User Agency Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) Pudurnadu, Tirupathur – Proposal No. FP/TN/TRANS/30358/2017

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)

— Recommended —

Signature :



Name Designation : S. Yuvaraj, I.F.S.,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) (i/c),

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), Chennai.

Date : 19 -03-2020