

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

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

To

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

C. No. TS3/48986/2018 Dated: 19.08.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Chennai Forest Circle/
Kancheepuram Forest Division - proposal for diversion of 0.096
ha of forest land in Sonalur Reserved Forest area in Mambakkam
village of Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division for laying
of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv
SS to Puthupakkam 33Kv SS in Kancheepuram District in
favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Development Circle,
TANGEDCO, Thiru-Vi-Ka-Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai.32
- Online Submission of proposal by the User Agency - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the User Agency – CDE
TANGEDCO, A-10, Thiru-Ki-Ka-Industrial Estate, Guindy,
Chennai - Proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/37009/2018, dated
12.11.2018 and resubmission of proposal on 06.12.2018
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Kancheepuram Division on 17.10.2019 and EDS replies
furnished
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Chief Conservator of
Forests, Chennai Circle on 07.03.2020.

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I.- i) I wish to state that, in the references 1st cited above, the Executive
Engineer, Chennai Development Circle, TANGEDCO, A-10, Thiru-Vi-Ka-
Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 has uploaded online application under
Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.096 ha of forest
land in Sonalur Reserved Forest area in Mambakkam village of Chengalpattu-
Kancheepuram Forest Division for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable

from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS under proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/37009/2018.

ii) After obtaining proposal copy from the user agency, the proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division for taking appropriate action under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines vide Principal Chief Conservator of Forests ref. No. TS3/48986/2018, dated 18.02.2019

2. - i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required (A1-iii), the User Agency has reported that diversion of forest land is required for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS

iii) Diversion of 0.096 ha of forest has been requested in Kancheepuram Forest Division area in Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram District. Name of the village reported as Pudupakkam. Forest area diversion has been requested in Sonalur Reserved Forests.

iv) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details and DGPS co-ordinates of the proposed alignment path have been furnished.

v) The user agency has proposed forest area diversion for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS Total length involved in the forest area is for 1600m and width of the underground cable trench proposed at 0.60m

vi) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

vii) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector, Kancheepuram District about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

viii) The user agency has furnished following certificates/ undertakings/ details under additional Information details section.

a) Certified that, there is no work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out in the project area.

b) Certified that no alternative non forest land is available for the project.

c) Certified that project has been aligned with minimum forest involvement and all alternative have been examined and found not feasible.

d) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

e) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of forest land demanded subsequently.

f) To bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost of protection of plantation as per the scheme prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu in lieu of RF land diverted for the project and to deposit additional amount if any suggested as amended owing to change in planting technique, enhancement in FSR etc.,

g) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees if any available in the project area.

h) Undertaking to lay the lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the subsequent years.

i) Certificate obtained from the District Collector about non-availability of non-forest land for the project.

3) The proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram through online on 19.02.2019 for necessary follow up action.

After obtaining additional details from the user agency, the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division has forwarded the proposal along with Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal on 17.10.2019. After getting EDS reply from the District Forest Officer, the Chief Conservator of Forests,

Chennai Circle has forwarded the proposal along with recommendation of the proposal on 07.03.2020. Hard copy of the proposal has also been furnished.

4) Specific remarks on the proposal forwarded and recommended by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division and by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle are detailed below.

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

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.096 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests notified under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.

As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Sonalur Reserved Forests" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.096 ha

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is four.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported that species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is NIL.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer reported that there is no possibility of vulnerability to erosion (NIL).

v) 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.

Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion reported as NIL and there is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

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) Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.096 ha and there is no felling of trees involved. However the District Forest Officer has recommended compensatory afforestation scheme in the degraded forest area of 0.192 ha area in Sonalur RF with an financial outlay of Rs. 3,76,387/-. This CA scheme amount includes planting of 192 seedlings in 0.192 ha area with maintenance of plantation for 10 years. The District Forest Officer has uploaded the geo-referenced map and location marked in the Survey of India topo sheet indicating the forest area where CA scheme has been proposed.

As per Forest Conservation Act, 1980 guidelines under special provisions for CA for certain categories of schemes, CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted for laying of transmission lines.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, site inspected carried out on 07.05.2019. This proposal is for diversion of 0.096 ha of forest land for laying of 33 Kv 1x630 sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudupakkam 33 KV SS location of Vandalur-Mambakkam-Kelambakkam road km 13/2-km 11/6 in Sonalur RF of Thiruporur Range in Kancheepuram Forest Division.

The proposed area is for laying of UG cable in the Reserved Forest land to a length of 1600m and a width of 0.60m on the south side of the Sonalur Rf. There is no water body along the stretch of the proposed laying of XLPE UG cable. No tree felling is involved along the stretch in which underground cable is proposed to be laid in Sonalur RF. From the Pudupakkam SS to 13/2 km on Vandalur-Kelambakkam road, the supply is already available by overhead transmission line. Further it is proposed to lay the cable from 13/2 to 11/6 km by Underground.

x) In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer has stated this diversion is proposed for a project which may cater to the housing demand, improve the voltage regulation of the existing feeders feeding the area, reduce line loss and accommodates the future load growth. At Pudupakkam which is the load centre of Kancheepuram District. Diversion of the particular stretch may not cause much disturbance to wildlife and will not adversely affect eco system. There is no

any plantation available along the stretch of UG cable proposed to be laid and there is no spontaneous growth along the UG cable stretch. No violation has been taken place with respect to this underground cable laying work proposed. Hence the proposal is recommended for laying underground cable in Sonalur RF for a length of 1600m to a width of 0.60m on the Southern side provided the user agency restore the forest areas to the previous condition after the finishing the laying of underground cable.

5) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has inspected the area on 01.03.2020 and in her recommendation has stated that the diversion of the area in Sonalur RF is proposed to reduce the voltage fluctuation, reduce transmission losses at Pudupakkam, This proposal will not cause disturbance to wildlife and no plantation is available along the proposed area of underground cable to be laid and there is no spontaneous growth and no felling of trees involved. Hence the proposal is recommended for laying underground cable to a length of 1600m width of 0.60m and depth of 1.20m on the southern side along the existing boundary of Sonalur RF.

6) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 30 years. The District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division has recommended the forest area diversion for 20 years and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 30 years

Based on the recommendations made by the Chief Conservator of Forests, diversion of forest area for the project proposal has been recommended for a period of 30 years.

7) As per guidelines issued by the Government of India in letter F. No. 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, collection of Net Present Value of forest land to be diverted for laying of transmission lines up to 22 kv only exempted up to forest area diversion of 1 ha area. This proposal is for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS. Hence applicability of exemption of Net Present Value for the project does not arise. Hence collection of Net Present Value of forest area has been recommended.

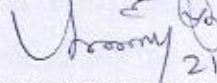
8) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division and by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, the proposal of diversion

of 0.096 ha of forest land in Sonalur Reserved Forest area in Mambakkam village of Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Development Circle, TANGEDCO, A-10, Thiru-Vi-Ka-Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 has been recommended to the Government for issue of Stage I approval 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 compensatory afforestation scheme cost for 0.192 ha of forest land in Sonalur RF area
- 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 shall compulsorily transfer the Compensatory Afforestation scheme cost and Net present Value of forest land proposed for diversion under the project to CAMPA funds only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- g) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent for the forest area diversion period 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.
- h) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.096 ha comprising underground cable to a length of 1600m width of 0.60m and depth of 1.20m on the southern side along the existing boundary of Sonalur RF and after completion of underground laying UG cable, area should be restored to its normalcy.
- i) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

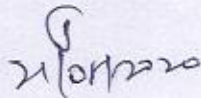
9) The proposal is sent duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act)/ Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (i/c) of the State of Tamil Nadu. I request that the proposal may be considered and in-principle Stage-I approval orders issued for diversion of 0.096 ha of forest land in Sonalur Reserved Forest area in Mambakkam village of Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Pudhupakkam 33Kv SS in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Development Circle, TANGEDCO, Thiru-Vi-Ka-Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-32.
Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully



21/08/2020

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



21/08/2020

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 – Chennai Circle/
Kancheepuram Forest Division - proposal for diversion of 0.096 ha of forest land in
Sonalur Reserved Forest area in Mambakkam village of Chengalpattu-
Kancheepuram Forest Division for laying of 33Kv 1x630sqmm XLPE UG cable
from Mambakkam 110 Kv SS to Puthupakkam 33Kv SS in Kancheepuram
District in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Development Circle,
TANGEDCO, A-10, Thiru-Vi-Ka-Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032-
Proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/37009/2018.

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 :

Thiru S. Yuvaraj, I.F.S.,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), (i/c)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai-15

Date : 05.08.2020

Place: Chennai-15