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Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest  
Extension Division Kachchh- Bhuj

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No. C/FCA/T-8/ 893-24/21-22

Date: 12/12/2022

To,

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd,  
BSNL Satellite Compound,  
Haripar road, Bhuj.

Sub: Diversion of 1.02564 Ha Protected Forest land for laying of Underground Optical Fiber Cables From Bitta to Sanosara Ta: Abdasa, Dist: Kutch of Gujarat state in favour of RailTel Corporation of India. (Proposal No: FP/GJ/OFC/147876/2021)

Ref. 1. Government of Gujarat Forest & Environment Department letter no.

FCA/1015/1013/15/SF-83F Dtd. 04.02.2016

2. RailTel Corporation of India letter: RCIL/NOFN/ROW/Bhuj/Kutch/ Social Forest/Abdasa/Lossy-4/6 Dt.08/10/2021

3. Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest: FCA/29/A/1062-1135/2015-16 Dt.10/03/2016.

4. Government of Gujarat Forest & Environment Department Resolution No- FCA-1016-290-F Dt.25/05/2016.

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter RCIL/NOFN/ROW/Bhuj/Kutch/Social Forest/ Abdasa/Lossy-4/6 Dt.08/10/2021 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Government under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 as per following.

Sr. No	Particular	Length (M)	Width (M)	Area ( Sq Meter)
	Bitta T-point to sanosara FPOI	22792	0.45	10256.4 ( i.e. 1.02564 HA)
	Total			1.02564 HA

Government of Gujarat Forest & Environment Department Gandhinagar vide its circular mentioned under reference no-1 has delegates power under General Approval to the concerned Division forest officer to grant approval under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for laying of underground optical fiber cable, Telephone lines, drinking water, electric line, CNG/PNG Pipeline along the roads within existing right of way not falling in National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, without felling of trees, where the maximum size of trench is not more Than 2 mtr depth and 1 mtr width subject to certain conditions.

AND whereas, the user agency while applying and through the documents Submitted has Confirmed that its FCA proposal falls along the roads within existing Right of Way not Falling in National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary without felling of trees where the maximum Size of trench is not more than 2 Mtr depth and 1 Mtr width and hence fulfills all the above specified conditions & eligibility as laid down in circular mentioned as ref (1) and falls under the category of proposal eligible for "General Approval"

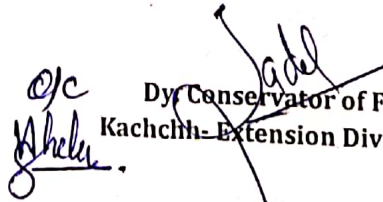
D/JIT/GENERAL APPROVAL/ IN PRINCIPAL/IN PRINCIPAL F-1

AND whereas having verified on the site that above facts are correct and fulfill the above Specific conditions of "General Approval" the following order is issued.

In view of the above the undersigned is pleased to convey its "In-principle" approval for Diversion of 1.02564 Ha of Protected Forest subject to the following conditions:-

1. This permission is granted only for the use of the forest land for the purpose specified in the proposal. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The cost of NPV and CA is Exempted as per the Reference No (3) and as per the ref No (4) for the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) Project and Bharat Broadband Network Limited project Registration Fees, Processing Fees is Exempted.
3. The User Agency shall generate challan through OSFMWC portal before making payment for Stage-II clearance process. All the fund shall be deposited through OSFMWC portal by the User Agency.
4. In future if any amount regarding net present value (NPV) or compensatory afforestation (CA) is required, the user agency is bounded to pay in favour of Deputy Conservator of Forest.
5. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the FCA proposal.
6. The user agency will have to obtain permission from the undersigned for carrying out any maintenance works in future
7. The user agency will have to make good the forest land after use / maintenance works. No tree shall be cut.
8. The user agency will be liable to make good any loss to Forests/ Environment cause due to use of the said land by the user agency.
9. The user agency will seek permission from Road & Building Department /Science and Technology Department, Sachivalay Gandhinagar if required so.
10. The line will be laid underground in a trench of the depth 2.00 mtr & width 1.00 mtr in between rows of road side plantation with no damage to either plantation or barbed wire fencing and by employing manual labor wherever necessary.
11. The User Agency shall submit the detail regarding compliance of MoEF's guidelines dated 03.08.2009 & 05.02.2013 with regard to the schedule tribes & other forest Dwellers ( Recognition of Forest Rights) Act,-2006
12. The additional condition under chapter 5 of Forest (Conservation) Act- 1980 shall be applicable to this proposal as the Government of Gujarat resolutions no. FCA-1013/11-10/11 /SF-24, dated 12.06.2015. The user agency shall comply additional condition as per the aforementioned resolutions.
13. Any other condition, with the Nodal Officer (FCA)/ the State Government may stipulate from time to time.

After receipt of compliance report on the fulfillment of conditions no (2),(3),(5) & (12) mentioned above from you, order of formal approval will be issued by this Department.

  
Dy. Conservator of Forests  
Kachchh-Extension Division, Bhuj

Copy submitted to:-

1. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Land Gujarat State, Gandhinagar
2. Chief Conservator of Forest, Kutch Forest Circle Bhuj-Kutch.

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**PART - II**  
(To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)

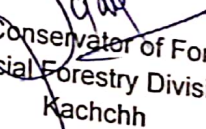
State Serial No. of Proposal: (FP/G.J/OFC/147876/2021) (RailTel Corporation of India Ltd)  
For laying of optical fiber cable

7. Location of the Project/Scheme		::	For laying of optical fiber cable
(i)	State/Union Territory		Gujarat
(ii)	District		Kachchh
(iii)	Forest Division		Social Forestry Division, Bhuj
(iv)	Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in ha)		1.02564 Ha
(v)	Legal Status of Forest		Protected Forest
(vi)	Density of vegetation		Not too Much road side plantations
(vii)	Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case of irrigation/hydel projects enumeration at FRI...1, FRI...2 meter also to be enclosed).		No Need to Cut the Tree During the work of laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable user agency gave undertaking for this.
(viii)	Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion		Not applicable.
(ix)	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.		preferably on the extra ledge of the boundary
(x)	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).		Demanded Road Side Protected Forest area is 31.2 Km far from Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary.
(xi)	Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area -- if so details thereof.		No, rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna not found in the area.
(xii)	Whether any protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from Competent Authority, if required.		No Protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
8.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col.2 of part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item wise with details of alternatives examined.		Yes, The area required for laying Optical Fiber Cable is bare minimum which is a part of Protected forest land.
9.	Whether any work in violation of the act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress?		User Agency has not violated of Forest Conservation Act 1980
10.	Details of compensatory afforestation scheme		
(i)	Details of non forest area / degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.		Not Applicable for the proposal of laying underground optical fiber cable
(ii)	Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.		Not Applicable

(iii)	Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	Not Applicable
(iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme.	Not Applicable
(v)	Certificate from Competent Authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view. (To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests).	Not Applicable
11.	Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col.7 (xi,xii), 8 and 9 above.	Demande protected forest area is barest minimum and no need to cut the tree in demanded forest area.
12.	Division / District Profile:	Covering an area of 45,692 km <sup>2</sup> , it is the largest district of India. The population of Kutch is 21 Lacs, literacy rate is 59.79%
(i)	Geographical area of the district	45,692 square kilometres
(ii)	Forest area of the district	Forests Area : 1635.51 Ha.
(iii)	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.	834.68165 Ha. No. of cases – 42
(iv)	Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on.  a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation  b) Non – forest land	  (a) 364.04 Ha.  (b) NA-
(v)	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) 2014-15 on  a) Forest land  b) Non-forest land	  (a) 82.18  (b) NA
13	Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons	Recommended diversion 1.02564 Ha

Date: 12/12/2021

Place: Bhuj

  
Dy. Conservator of Forests  
Social Forestry Division  
Kachchh