

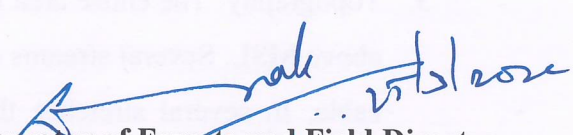
**RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND FIELD
DIRECTOR, SRIVILLIPUTHUR MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE (SMTR),
MADURAI**

The area requested by the user agency for laying 11 KV HT XLPE underground Electric Cable towards Electrification of Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Swamy Thirukkovil from Vazhathoppu pathway to Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Thirukkovil area across Saptur R.F is 0.28 ha. The proposed underground electric cable passes through Saptur beat IX and X and Watrap beat IV for a distance of 5.61 km. The following observations were made during the visit.

1. Majority of the proposed area for diversion falls under core area of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Srivilliputhur Division.
2. It is a part of Agasthiyar Biosphere Landscape, Elephant Reserve No. 7 and erstwhile Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary.
3. Topography: The entire area is a hilly region and its altitude varies from 179 to 947 m above MSL. Several streams also run across the proposed area for laying underground cable. In several stretches the slope / gradient of the hill would be around 60-70 degree.
4. Vegetation types: It varies from tropical dry deciduous forest in the lower reaches to tropical semi evergreen forest and montane grassland in the upper reaches.
5. The forest inhabits lesser known mammals in the lower reaches and it is home for large mammals like elephant, gaur, Nilgiri Tahr, sambhar, common langur in the upper reaches.
6. The forest floor in the lower reaches is formed with disintegrated rocky boulders followed by long stretches of huge rocky outcrops. Grass lands along these rocky outcrops is an ideal habitat for Nilgiri Tahr.
7. Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Swamy and Sandana Mahalingam temple complex has very few buildings which can be electrified by off-grid solar power.
8. Currently, no pilgrims are allowed to stay inside the temple premises, free food distribution is permitted before frisking point at the foothills in Taniparai to prevent pollution in the hills as per Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High Court judgment in WP (MD) No. 6400 of 2019.
9. Laying of the cable underground on the rocky stretches would necessarily involve blasting of rocks.

10. Overlaying the underground cable on the rocks inside galvanized iron pipes and covering it with concrete as proposed by user agency will endanger the entire ecosystem.
11. In the upper reaches where there is evergreen high forests the laying of cable by way of digging trench would lead to large scale cutting of root system of the well grown and established evergreen tree species.

The electrification of Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Swamy Thirukkovil by laying 11 KV HT XLPE underground Electric Cable will be detrimental to the ecological integrity of the area. The laying of the cable line would disturb the pristine forests and ecologically sensitive habitat of Nilgiri Tahr. It would destabilize the profile of the hilly slopes / soils. I also here by accept the observations/ remarks made by the Deputy Director in his recommendation report. Hence, the proposal is not recommended.


**Conservator of Forests and Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai-2**

PART - III

**[to be filled by concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director,
SMTR, Madurai]**

14.	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director, SMTR, Madurai (Yes / No) if yes, the date of inspection & observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed.	:	Yes. Inspected by the Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai on 19.03.2022 and inspection notes enclosed.
15.	Whether the concerned Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part B and the recommendation of District Forest Officer.	:	Yes
16.	Specific Recommendation of concerned Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for acceptance	:	The electrification of Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Swamy Thirukkivil by laying 11 KV HT XLPE underground Electric Cable will be detrimental to the ecological integrity of the area. The laying of the cable line would disturb the pristine forests and ecologically sensitive habitat of Nilgiri Tahr. It would destabilize the profile of the hilly slopes / soils. I also here by accept the observations/ remarks made by the Deputy Director in his recommendation report. Hence, the proposal is not recommended.

Signature :

Name : **DEEPAK S. BILGI, IFS,**

Office Seal: **Conservator of Forests and Field Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai - 625 002.**

Date: 25.03.22

Place: Madurai.

