

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From	To
Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force) Forest Head Quarters Building, Guindy- Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai-32.	The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/45980/2021 Dated: 23.12.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land in Social Forestry plantation area in Othivakkam for erection of 230 kv DC line on MC tower by making L.I.O of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 kv Substation in Chengalpattu District in favour of Executive Engineer, TANTRANSCO, General Construction Circle II, 230 kv GIS SS TNEB, Alandur, Chennai - Proposal forwarding off - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by the Executive Engineer, TANTRANSCO, General Construction Circle II, 230 kv GIS SS TNEB, Alandur, Chennai 16 - Proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/150320/2021, dated 23.12.2021 and resubmission of proposal on 11.01.2022 and 09.02.2022
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division on 18.04.2022 and resubmission of proposal on 25.10.2022, 07.11.2022 and 29.11.2022
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle on 10.08.2022 and Resubmission of proposal by the Conservator of Forest, Chennai Circle on 16.09.2022, 08.11.2022 and 06.12.2022

I wish to state that, the Executive Engineer, TANTRANSCO, General Construction Circle II 230 kv GIS SS TNEB, Alandur, Chennai has uploaded online forest area diversion proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land in Social Forestry plantation area in Othivakkam for erection of 230 kv DC line on MC tower by making LILO of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 kv Substation in Chengalpattu District under Proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/150320/2021.

1) Brief details of the project are given below.

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) Name of the project for which forest land required reported as erection of 230 kv DC line on MC towers by making L.H.O of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder-II at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 kv substation.

iii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has stated that this scheme has been proposed to upgrade existing Mambakkam 110 KV substation as 230/110 kv substation for which this 230 kv line is proposed to erect by utilizing existing 110 kv corridor up to Mambakkam substation. The proposed new 230 kv towers are being erected by dismantling and replacing old 110 kv.

iv) 4.27 ha of forest area diversion for the project has been proposed and the User Agency has stated that 77.455 ha of non forest land is required for the project.

v) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 30 years.

vi) Name of the user agency is reported as Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Ltd O/o the Superintending Engineer, General Construction Circle-II, TANTRANSCO 230 kv GIS SS TNFB, Alandur, Chennai. The Executive Engineer, TANTRANSCO, GCC-II Alandur, Chennai has uploaded the proposal on behalf of user agency.

vii) The Project Proponent has uploaded a copy of documents issued by the Superintending Engineer, Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation (TANTRANSCO) General Construction Circle-II, Alandur, Chennai authorizing the Executive Engineer, TLC, GCC-II/Alandur Chennai to make application for obtaining forest clearance.

viii) In the section of uploading details of proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of forest land for the project already submitted in the past reported as NII.

ix) Diversion of 4.27 ha of forest has been requested in Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division area in Chengalpattu District. District name reported as Chengalpattu District. Name of the village in which forest land requested has been reported as Othivakkam. Component wise breakup details of land required for the project reported as Othivakkam for the transmission line.

x) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest area and marking the transmission line passing through the forest area, scanned copy of Geo referenced location details of the forest land proposed to be diverted prepared by using GPS or Total Station along with DGPS readings of the transmission line.

xi) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area has been furnished.

The User Agency has reported that since the new transmission line is proposed in the existing tower by dismantling, alternative not examined.

xii) The User Agency has stated that, the project is likely to generate permanent/ regular employment for 5000 persons and temporary employment for 2000 persons, this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project, cost-benefit analysis for the project not required and this project does not require clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

xiii) The User Agency has stated this project or part thereof is not located in any protected or their eco sensitive zone and is not located in any Scheduled area.

xiv) 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 not been completed.

The user agency has reported that a letter has been communicated to District Collector, Chengalpattu to obtain the certificate for Forest Rights Act 2006 & Non availability of non forest land for the project and reported that the certificate will be obtained and furnished before Stage-II approval vide File No. 11-43/2013-FC dated 26.02.2019 (of Government of India guidelines.)

xv) As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, guidelines, transmission line projects are exempted from providing compensatory land.

xvi) In the additional information details section, the user agency has uploaded following documents.

a) Copy of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No. 10, published on March 4th 2020 in which notification of erection of transmission line for the proposed transmission line was issued.

b) Area wise break up details of forest land required for the work reported as follows.

Loc TN114 to Loc TN118- 1220m length and 35m corridor width = 4.27 ha area

c) The user agency has uploaded combined certificates/undertakings required for processing the forest clearance proposal under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

i) Certified that the requested diversion of forest land for the project proposal is designed for minimum forest area involvement.

ii) Certified that there is no suitable alternative non-forest land available for the project and all other alternative have been examined and found not feasible

iii) Certified that no work in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has been carried out in the project proposal area.

iv) Undertaking to deposit the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme if any stipulated and willingness to deposit additional amount if any owing to change in planting technique and enhancement of FSR etc., demanded subsequently.

v) Undertaking to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

vi) Undertaking to bear the additional 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

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

viii) Undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of the trees likely to be removed, those available in the alignment path for the proposed diversion of forest land as fixed by the Forest Department.

2) 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 4.27 ha of forest land requested for the project is Revenue Forest.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.3 and Eco class of forest area is four

iii) The District Forest Officer has reported that 284 number of trees enumerated in the proposed forest diversion area and needs felling.

a) The District Forest Officer has reported that, there is no presence of spontaneous tree growth in the proposed forest diversion kadu poramboke area.

iv) On the Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion reported as Nil.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that Spotted deer, Peacock, Rabbit etc., are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

The forest area proposed for diversion is not part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. Rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna are 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) For the diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land, the District Forest Officer has proposed the compensatory afforestation scheme work in 8.54 ha degraded forest area in Kolathur RF to at an amount of estimated cost of Rs. 1,68,95,173/-.

Salient feature of Compensatory Afforestation scheme proposed is as follows.

No of seedlings proposed for planting in one ha. – 1000 No.

Maintenance years - 10 years

Nursery, planting and 10 years maintenance cost with

escalation of cost over the years and contingency fund for

Special nature of works @ 5% of total scheme cost - Rs. 1,68,95,173

Average cost of CA scheme per ha including raising and ten year maintenance is proposed at Rs. 19,78,357/-

Site suitability certificate of the proposed CA area has been uploaded by the District Forest Officer.

ix) The District Forest Officer has uploaded the map of the proposed diversion area marked in the Survey of India Topo sheet and document issued by the Revenue Department on legal status of the area recorded as 'Kadu'

x) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, the proposed site was inspected on 04.03.2022. The user agency has furnished proposal requesting prior permission under forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land in Social Forestry Plantation area at Othivakkam for erection of 230 KV DC line on MC tower by marking LILO of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 Kv Substation to Chengalpattu District. The proposed 230 Kv DC line passes through 4.27 ha of forest land in Social Forestry plantation area.

a) The proposed area is a linear stretch of Social Forestry Kumizi TAP 2000 plantation to a length of 1220 m and a width of 35m. Five towers have to be erected in this stretch. There is a fairly large water body is located adjacent to this stretch.

b) On inspection, it was found that the DC line is to be laid across the forest land in Social Forestry Plantation area in Othivakkam and 284 trees planted in Othivakkam Kumizi TAP area to be removed for the erection of this 230 KV DC line with high tension towers.

c) The project of erection of 230 KV DC transmission line is very important to give load relief to Singaperumalkoil 230/110 KV SS and Veerapuram 230 KV SS to avoid overloading of 10 KV Singaperumalkoil-Siruseri feeder.

d) This diversion is proposed for a project which may lead to the Industrial development of the State. Diversion of this particular stretch may not cause much disturbance to Wildlife or adversely affect Ecosystem. The Plantations available along the stretch of the transmission line are manmade plantation.

xi) Taking into consideration of the above facts, the proposal has been recommended by the District Forest Officer.

3) The Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has inspected the area on 26.07.2022 and has endorsed the details furnished by the District Forest Officer and recommended the proposal for diversion.

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

Based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officer, and Conservator of Forests, diversion of forest area for the project proposal is recommended for a period of 20 years.

5) As recommended by the District Forest Officer Kancheepuram Division and Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, the proposal for diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land (Recorded as Kadu in Revenue records) in Social Forestry Plantation area at Othivakkam for erection of 230 KV DC line on MC tower by marking LILO of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 Kv Substation to Chengalpattu District in favour of Executive Engineer, TANTRANSO, General Construction Circle II, Alandur, Chennai is recommended subject to the following additional conditions.

- i) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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.
- vi) Amount of Compensatory levies, Net Present Value of forest area etc., under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

vii) The user agency shall furnish the District Collector certificate on completion of process for settlement of Rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest area proposed for diversion in the format prescribed by the Government of India before Stage-II approval.

viii) The user agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation cost of trees to be cut in the project area to the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division for immediate execution of the felling of trees work after getting necessary permission for felling of trees.

ix) 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 as the forest area diversion is meant for commercial activity usage.

x) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/ department or person without prior approval of State Government.

xi) The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 35 mtrs

xii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government.

xiii) Minimum height of the lower conductor should be maintained to 7.00 m in the transmission line corridor and the guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC on transmission lines should be adhered by the user agency.

xiv) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Chennai or State Government-Forest Department may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.

xv) The user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulation and guidelines of the MoEF&CC for the time being in force as applicable to the transmission line projects

xvi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 4.27 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any other purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.

xvii) The approval under FCA 1980 is subject to the clearance under all other Acts, Rules, Guidelines, Regulations and Court Orders applicable to such projects.

xviii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions, the User Agency is liable for penal action provision made under FCA 1980 and guidelines made there under.

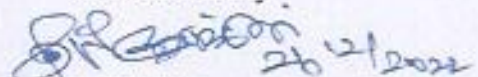
xix) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

6) The proposal is sent through online with the recommendation of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu. Hard copy of the proposal also furnished.

7) I request that the proposal may be considered and approval may be obtained from the Government of India for diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land (Recorded as Kadu in Revenue records) in Social Forestry Plantation area at Othivakkam for erection of 230 KV DC line on MC tower by marking L.I.O of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 Kv Substation to Chengalpattu District in favour of Executive Engineer, TANTRANSO, General Construction Circle II, Alandur, Chennai for a period of 20 years.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,


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

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26/12/2022

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 Forest Circle / Kancheepuram Division - Diversion of 4.27 ha of forest land in Social Forestry plantation area in Othivakkam for erection of 230 kv DC line on MC tower by making LILO of existing Ottiyambakkam to Omega feeder 2 at the proposed Mambakkam 230/110 kv Substation in Chengalpattu District in favour of Executive Engineer, TANTRANSCO, General Construction Circle II, Alandur Chennai - Proposal No. FP/TN/Trans/150320/2021

	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
K. Karunapriya
16/12/22
Signature :

Name Designation : Tmt. V. Karunapriya, I.F.S.,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai.

Date : 12.2022.

Place : Chennai 32.