

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From	To
Sri N. Prateep Kumar, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.	The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522 503.

Ref.no.EFS02-15026/3/2021-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
dated:26/05/2022.

Sir,

Sub APFD - F(C)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.14 ha forest land in Compartment no. 1205, 1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within existing Right of Way (Row) in favour of M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd. Secunderabad - Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref: 1. Online proposal no. FP/AP/OFC/128463/2021, dated: 11.03.2020.
2. PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Rc. no. EFS02-15026/3/2021-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated: 14.04.2021.
3. CCF, Visakhapatnam Rc. no. 4112/2019/TO, dated: 30.04.2022.

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It is submitted that, the Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd. Secunderabad in the reference 1st cited has uploaded the proposal in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 0.14 ha forest land in Compartment no. 1205, 1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within existing Right of Way (Row) in favour of M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd. Secunderabad.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam in the reference 3rd cited has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.14 ha forest land in Compartment no. 1205, 1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within existing Right of Way (Row) in favour of M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd., Secunderabad processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 0.14 ha in Compartment no. 1205, 1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division is required for laying Optical Fiber Cable along the road and within existing Right of Way (Row) in favour of M/s Vindhya Telelinks Ltd. Secunderabad.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.10.57 lakh.
- The user agency has justified that, the area requested for laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and considering the safety of the cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defense & Strategic establishments and from different industrial organizations apart from the public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conversation so made, it is not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties. The cable alignment will be suitably diverted to avoid any cutting of trees and laid within the road land boundary by excavating a narrow trench of 40 cms approx width. The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition. It is also intimated that no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, Addl. NPV, CA etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 0.14 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved in this project.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 2, 000 man days approx.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest land to an extent of 0.14 ha is required in compartment no.1205,1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Yerravaram to Pappusettipalem route in Golugonda (M), Visakhapatnam District in favour of M/s Vindya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad under F(C) Act, 1980.
- Legal Status of the forest is Arilova RF notified under Section-15 of A.P, Forest Act, 1967.
- The density of vegetation in the vicinity is 0.5.
- **No tree felling is required for laying optical fiber cable**
- No vulnerability of forest area to erosion.
- The proposed OFC path **is shoulder portion of existing road passing in RF area.**
- **The proposed alignment is not falling in National park, Wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor etc.**
- No rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna found in adjacent RF areas.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS

maps are furnished.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 03.11.2021 and stated that, the proposed area falls in the berm regions of the road. As per Arilova Reserve Forest notified under Section-16 of Madras Forest Act (V of 1882) Gazette Notification i.e. OOTACAMUND, October-14, 1892, **the Right of Way over the Golgonda - Narasapatnam road**, it enters the reserve in No.70 (a) of Nagandhorapalem and leaves it on the western side of No.100 (b) of Erravaram where it enters the enclosure; and then re-entering the reserve on the eastern side of No.89 leaves it on the western side of No.39 of Yaravaram. It traverse the reserve for a total length of one mile and three and a half furlongs. **A width of thirty feet to be demarcated out on each side from the center of the road.** Site inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam and copy of the Gazette notification are enclosed herewith.

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has **Recommended** the proposal.

In part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam has agreed with the information furnished by the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

In Part-IV, the Nodal Officer (FCA), Andhra Pradesh has **Recommended** the proposal.

As per Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi F. no. 5-2/2017-FC, Dt. 28.03.2019, under RoFR Act, 2006, the user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, Visakhapatnam District in the prescribed format for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006. The certificate is enclosed with the proposal.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/OFC/128463/2021** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

In this regard it is to submit that, as per para 4.2 of Chapter-4 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, **the subject project falls under general approval category .**

Further, as per Chapter 2.6 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980, Compensatory Afforestation is not required towards diversion of forest land upto 1.00 ha. However, cost of plantation (including ten years maintenance) of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled or specified number of trees as may be specified in the order

for diversion of forest land (subject to a minimum number of 100 plants) shall be levied from the user agency towards compensatory afforestation. Though there are no trees found to be felled in the forest area proposed for diversion, the User Agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of plantation of ten times the number of trees towards compensatory afforestation.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (3) sets, for diversion of 0.14 ha forest land in compartment no.1205,1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Yerravaram to Pappusettipalem route in Golugonda (M), Visakhapatnam District in favour of M/s Vindhya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in F. no.5-2/2017 (FC Division) Dt. 28.03.2019 is submitted herewith for taking further action as deemed fit in the matter.

Encl:- (3) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
N Prateep Kumar I F S
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam and the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam for information.

Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s Vindhya Telelinks Limited, Willington Street Near AOC Centre, Secunderabad-500015 for information and necessary action.

PART-IV

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

Diversion of 0.14 ha forest land in compartment no.1205,1206, 1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, Narsipatnam Division for laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Yerravaram to Pappusettipalem route in Golugonda (M), Visakhapatnam District in favour of M/s Vindya Tele Links Ltd., Secunderabad....

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations 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.
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Date:26/05/2022

Signature

Place : Guntur

Name: Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

Signed by Anand Kumar Jha

Date: 26-05-2022 17:44:59

Reason: Approved