

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Subrat Mohapatra, IFS.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Forest Headquarters Building,
Guindy Velachery Main road,
Near Kannikapuram Checkpost,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.

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

Ref. No. TS4/2125/2021 dated 24.02.2023.

Madam,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Trichy Circle / Pudukkottai Division
- Proposal for diversion of 0.0107 ha of forest land for laying of underground
OFC along Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai route through forest areas in
Pudukkottai District Ammankurichi RF– Online proposal submission by the
User Agency ie. Jio Digital Fibre private Ltd., Chennai - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency – Jio Digital Fibre private
Ltd., Chennai (FP/TN/OFC/119342/2021) and revised proposal on
10.07.2022.
2. Part-II uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Pudukkottai on 25.01.2023.
3. Part-III uploaded by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trichy on 07.02.2023.

I wish to state that the Jio Digital Fibre private Ltd., Chennai has sent a proposal
under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.0107 ha of forest
land for laying of underground OFC along Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai route
through forest areas of Ammankurichi Reserved Forest in Pudukkottai District through
online web portal in the prescribed format.

2) The User Agency has furnished following Certificates / Undertakings.

- i. Signed copy of Form A.
- ii. Letter of Authorisation.
- iii. GPS map of the proposed water supply pipelines through Ammankurichi Reserved
Forest
- iv. Survey of India topo - sheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed.
- v. Google map for the Forest land proposed for diversion in Ammankurichi RF.
- vi. Justification for locating the project in Forest land
- vii. Certificate of Settlement of rights under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest
Dwellers under Forest Rights Act 2006 in the prescribed format obtained from the
District Collector, Pudukkottai in ROC No.E4/2718/2021 dt.15.06.2022.
- viii) Certificate from the District Collector regarding no other feasibility alternate alignment for
the above project obtained from the District Collector, Pudukkottai vide
ROC.No.E4/2718/2021 dt.15.06.2022.

3) In Additional information details the following documents were uploaded.

- a) Area requirement details (357m length; 0.30m width=0.0107ha)

- b) Certificate by the user Agency that there is no CAT plan in the approved plan.
- c) Certificate given by the User Agency regarding the no violation of any provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- d) Certificate by the User Agency that this is only possible route and there is no other alternative feasible route available.
- e) Under taking by the user agency to bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation / Penal Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation/ Protection of plantation if any for the proposed Diversion of Forest land fixed by the Forest Department.
- f) Under taking by the user agency for the payment of Net Present Value of the forest land involved.
- j) Undertaking by the user agency for the payment of Additional Net Present Value if any demand raised by the forest department.
- h) Undertaking to pay the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees if any available in the alignment path any for the proposed Diversion of Forest land fixed by the Forest Department.
- i) Undertaking for the payment of cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of the trees to be removed in the forest land involved.
- j) Undertaking for the payment of 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.

4) The District Forest Officer, Pudukkottai has uploaded the Part-II of Form A and furnished the details as noted below.:

- i) Area to be diverted for the above proposal is 0.0107ha forest land in Ammankurichy Reserved Forest to a density of zero and type of forest is Eco class-4 .
- ii) No spontaneous or planted tree growth is available in the proposed forest area.
- iii) The details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion is Spotted deer, Peacock, python, monkey and hare.
- iv) The proposed area does not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor.
- v) The proposed area is not located within Eco Sensitive Zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- vi) The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within 1km from the boundary of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, and Wildlife Migration Corridor.
- vii) No rare / endangered / unique species of Flora and Fauna found in the proposed area.
- viii) No protected archeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

ix) No work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the act.

x) No Compensatory Afforestation, has been proposed as no felling of trees involved in this project.

5) The District Forest Officer, Pudukkottai has inspected the proposed project site in Ammankurichi Reserved Forest on 15.12.2022 and stated that

a) The length of the OFC to be laid is 357m to a width of 0.30m to a depth of 1 to 2m and the area proposed is 0.0107ha.

b) The cable will be laid on the right side of the road from Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai across Ammankurichi Reserved Forest.

d. The user agency has informed that no trees or vegetation will be felled or disturbed during the execution of the project.

e. About machinery to be used for excavation and its impact, the user agency has informed that earthmover will be used without disturbing the vegetation and the excavated earth will be dumped on the road side and not on the forest side.

f. The project is important for better connectivity of 4G net work to all the public for communication.

g) The user agency has informed that the excavation will be immediately closed after laying the underground OFC without affecting the migratory wildlife.

6) In the recommendation, the District Forest Officer has stated that since the work is essential for improvement of better communication infrastructure (4G network) to all the people and the project does not involve felling of trees and other vegetation, it is recommended.

7) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Trichy in his site inspection report stated that
(i).The proposed area for diversion of 0.0107ha in Ammankurichi Reserved Forest in Pudukkottai District has been inspected along with District Forest Officer, Pudukkottai on 29.12.2022.

ii). The project is important for better connectivity of 4G net work to all the public for communication.

iii) The user agency has informed that no trees or vegetation will be felled or disturbed during the execution of the project.

(iv) The user agency has informed that the excavation will be immediately closed after laying the underground OFC without affecting the migratory wildlife.

(v) There is no alternate land is available.

8) In the recommendation, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trichy has stated that the proposal for diversion of 0.0107ha of forest land for laying of underground OFC in Chokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai across Ammankurichi Reserved Forest for providing 4G

wireless broadband at Pudukkottai Division is recommended since no alternative land is available.

9) In this regard, it is submitted that the User Agency has uploaded all the certificates /undertakings/details as required in this proposal.

10) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended in the part IV of Form A by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

12) The area proposed for diversion of 0.0107ha of forest land for laying of underground OFC in Chokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai across Ammankurichi Reserved Forest for providing 4G wireless broadband at Pudukkottai Division is recommended and forwarded to the State Government for consideration and to obtain approval from Government of India as the User Agency is a private company subject to the following conditions.

- (i) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.
- (ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at appropriate places as per the directions as the District Forest Officer concerned at the cost of User Agency.
- (iii) The pipeline shall be laid down 1.5m below the ground and after laying down of OFC the ground should be leveled.
- (iv) The Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to the effect.
- (v) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
- (vi) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (vii) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.Ms.No.272, E&F(FR.XIII) Dept. dated 15.04.1991.
- (viii) The period of lease is 20 years.
- (ix) The User Agency should send renewal proposal one year before expiry of lease.
- (x) The Chief Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officer may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation /protection and development of forests.
- (xi) The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal.


The Government of India Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in F.No.5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, exemption for payment of Net Present Value for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable has been allowed, if the area does not form a part of National Park / Sanctuary and no felling of trees is involved.

This project area is not declared as National Park / Sanctuary and no felling of trees involved in this project. Hence payment of Net Present Value for the forest area diversion of laying OFC may not be insisted.

I request that the proposal for diversion of forest land of 0.0107 Ha for laying of underground OFC in Chokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai across Ammankurichi Reserved Forest of Pudukottai Division for providing 4G wireless broadband may kindly be considered and approval may be obtained from the Government of India. for a period of 20 years.

Encl.: Proposal

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)


27/2/2023

PART IV

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

Name of Work: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Trichy Circle / Pudukkottai Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.0107 ha of forest land for laying of underground OFC along Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai route through forest areas in Pudukkottai District Ammankurichi RF– Online proposal submission by the User Agency ie. Jio Digital Fibre private Ltd., Chennai – Online proposal submission by the User Agency ie. M/S Jio Digital Fibre private Ltd, Chennai

Proposal No: FP/TN/OFC/119342/2021

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

V. Karuna Priya
24/12/2023

Date : .02.2023
Place: Chennai

Signature:

Name : V. Karuna Priya, IFS
Official Seal:
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act)/Nodal Officer