

By On-line/e-mail.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 600 009.

C. No. TS3/27203/2015 Dated: 26.11.2019.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Chennai Forest Circle /
Kancheepuram Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of 3.256
ha forest area in Sonalur Reserved Forests for erection of 230 Kv
DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station
to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour
of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Chennai
2- Online Submission of proposal by the User Agency -
Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the User Agency - Tamil
Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Chennai 2
represented by Executive Engineer / Civil, Transmission
Projects, TANGEDGO, A-10, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai 32 - Proposal No.
FP/TN/TRANS/15163/2015.
- 2 Part II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Kancheepuram Division, Kancheepuram
- 3 Part III of Form A uploaded by the Chief Conservator of
Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai

* * *

I wish to state that, in the reference 1st cited above, Tamil Nadu Generation
and Distribution Corporation, Chennai 2 represented by Executive Engineer / Civil,
Transmission Projects, TANGEDGO, A-10, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate, Guindy,
Chennai 32, has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3.256 ha of forest land in Sonalur RF of
Kancheepuram Forest Division for 230 Kv DC transmission line from

Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Chennai 2.

2) The User Agency has requested diversion of forest area for a period of 30 years.

3) Initially the user agency has furnished forest clearance proposal for 3.256 ha of forest land adopting Right of way width of 35m for erection of 230 KV transmission line. However instructions has been issued to revise the Right of way width to 46m based on the guidelines issued by the Government of India letter No. F. No. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 accordingly, the user agency has submitted proposal and details for diversion of forest area for 4.278 ha adopting 46m right of way.

4) However, during the Regional Empowered Committee in its 38th meeting held on 22.10.2019, it has been requested to revise the forest area requirement to 35m Right of way width for erection of 230kv transmission line for the work of diversion of forest land for erection of 230 KV DC transmission line from Cuddalore to Veerapuram (S.P. Koil) via Neyveli in Kancheepuram District (Government file No. 8384/FR.10/2019). Based on the above decision, the user agency again modified the proposal with right of way width of 35m for erection of 230 KV DC line and forest area diversion has been requested for 3.256 ha.

5) The User Agency has submitted following details / undertakings along with the proposal.

i) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area and no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project.

ii) Location map of the proposed diversion of forest area in kml file of google earth has been up-loaded

iii) Scanned copy of Survey of India toposheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted.

iv) Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map along with GPS reading of the proposed diversion of forest area for formation of road marked in the google earth.

v) Undertaking to deposit the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation 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.

vi) Undertaking to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed by the guidelines of Supreme Court of India.

vii) Undertaking to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed by the guidelines of Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

viii) Undertaking 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.

ix) Certificate to effect that no violation of the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurred.

x) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees in lieu of forest land to be diverted to the project.

xi) Certificate from the Project authority (User Agency) that demands for forest land for the project is minimum.

xii) Certificate to effect that no suitable alternative non forest land is available for the project.

xiii) The User Agency has uploaded certificate obtained from the District Collector stating that, there is no suitable and technically approved alternate non-forest land available for the project.

xiv) The User Agency has uploaded certificate issued by the District Collector about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

6) The District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division, Kancheepuram has re-submitted the proposal with rectification of defects and additional details called for on the proposal along with his Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai and

resubmitted the revised proposal for the updated forest clearance proposal furnished by the user agency.

7) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai has forwarded the revised proposal along with her site inspection report and recommendation of the proposal.

8) The User Agency has submitted revised proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha of forest land in Sonalur RF of Kancheepuramu Forest Division for erection of 230 KV DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV SS to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District.

9) The District Forest Officer has uploaded detailed CA scheme for the project along with abstract of the scheme for 6.512 ha of degraded forest area in Sonalur RF nearer to the transmission line proposed.

As per abstract of CA scheme uploaded, the District Forest Officer has proposed CA scheme for planting of 6512 seedlings planting in the 6.512 ha of CA degraded forest area identified for the project with maintenance of plantation for 10 years in the Sonalur RF of Kancheepuram Division.

Detailed CA scheme and maintenance of plantation has been proposed at a financial out lay of Rs. 1,27,65,799/- and uploaded in the Part II of online proposal.

10) Separate scheme for planting of dwarf species under the transmission line and protection and maintenance of transmission path area in forest land by the user agency at their cost has been formulated at a cost of Rs. 46,67,77/- and uploaded in the proposal.

11) The District Forest Officer has uploaded the site suitability certificate of proposed CA Scheme land of degraded forest area in Sonalur RF.

12) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has furnished following particulars.

i) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.30 and Eco class three and not vulnerable to erosion.

ii) The District Forest Officer has furnished the list of trees available in the project area and stated that there are 255 numbers of trees are existing in the proposed diversion area, which are required to be felled before taking up the project.

In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that the plantation available along the stretch of the transmission line is manmade plantations and there is no spontaneous growth along the transmission line.

iii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, Spotted deer, Bonnet Macaque, Indian Hare, Reptiles and Birds are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

iv) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

v) There is no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defence 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.

13) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, he Inspected the proposed site for erection of this transmission line which falls in Sonalur RF of Thiruporur Range on 09.11.2019.

The proposed area is a linear stretch of RF land to a length of 930 mts and a width of 35 mts on the North Western part of Sonalur RF. Three towers have to be erected in this stretch inside the RF. There is a fairly large water body (Siruseri Periya Yeri) outside the southern boundary of the proposed site in contiguous to the boundary.

The project of erection of 230 kv DC transmission line is very important to ensure reliable electricity supply to OMEGA Industrial estate at Mahabalipuram.

This diversion is proposed for a project which may lead to the industrial development of the State. Diversion of the particular stretch may not cause much disturbance to wildlife or adversely affect eco system.

The plantations available along the stretch of the transmission line are manmade plantations and ascertained that there is no spontaneous growth available along the transmission line.

14) Taking in to the consideration of above facts, the District Forest Officer has recommended the proposal submitted by the User Agency for diversion of forest land in Sonalur RF.

15) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has also inspected the site on 12.01.2017 for the proposal furnished earlier before revising the area by the user agency and stated that considering the importance to meet the growing power needs in Kancheepuram District and he project will not affect the flora and fauna of Reserved Forests, the Chief Conservator of Forests has also recommended the proposal.

16) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 30 years. The District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division and Chief Conservator of Forests have recommended the diversion of forest land for three years. However, erection of transmission line projects are recommended for thirty years period in other cases. Based on the above, diversion of forest area for the project has been recommended for 30 years.

17) Based on recommendations made by the District Forest Officers and Chief Conservator of Forests, the proposal is recommended subject to the following conditions.

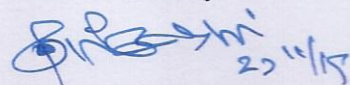
- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c) The User Agency has to pay the cost 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.

- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees in the proposed forest area division area.
- h) The user agency has to carry out plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants under the transmission line and maintenance of plantation for five years period and to provide two mazdoors under the control of District Forest Officer for the protection and maintenance of dwarf species and protection and maintenance of transmission path in the forest area.
- i) Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

18) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act)/ Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu in duplicate. I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and Government of India approval may please be obtained for diversion of 3.256 ha of forest land in Sonalur Reserve Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottayampakkam 400 KV SS to Omega 230 KV substation in Kancheepuram District by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, Chennai-1 for a period of 30 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully

 22/11/15

for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)

①
22/11/15

Proposal No. FP/TN/TRANS/15163/2015.

Proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha of forest land in Sonalur Reserved Forests in Kancheepuram Forest Division for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV SS to OMEGA 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District - Online proposal Submission by the User Agency ie., Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), Chennai-2.

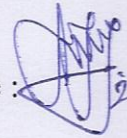
PART - IV

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

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 -

Signature :

 26-11-19

Name, Designation :

Thiru. S. Yousaf IAS

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservator Act)
O/o POCF (HeD), Chennai-015.

Date : 26-11-2019

Place: Chennai-15