

By online / Email.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/35079/2021 Dated: 29.03.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Chennai Circle / Chennai Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF of Chennai Forest Division in Chengalpattu District area for laying of water supply pipeline for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 – Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Revised Online application uploaded by the Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 - Proposal No. FP/TN/pipeline/146983/2021
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division on 18.03.2022
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle on 19.03.2022

I wish to state that the Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF of Chennai Forest Division in Chengalpattu District area for laying of water supply pipeline for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South

of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years under proposal No. FP/TN/pipeline/146983/2021.

1) 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.

i) Name of the project in which forest land required reported as 150 MLD Product water main.

ii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required the User Agency has reported that forest land required for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water through pipeline from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years

iii) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is 0.24 ha., and non forest land required for the project reported as 'ZERO' ha.,

iv) On behalf of User Agency-Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai, the Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 has uploaded the forest clearance proposal. Legal status of the User Agency is State PSU.

v) Diversion of 0.20 ha of forest has been proposed in Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division area in Chengalpattu District. Village wise breakup reported as Nanmangalam RF.

vi) The User Agency has furnished the component wise breakup details of land required for the project as 1200mm dia MS pipe laying for 0.24 ha

vii) The user agency has uploaded location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth for the work in two segments, scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the proposed water supply pipeline alignment marked in the map, scanned copy of Geo referenced location details of the forest land proposed to be diverted along with GPS co-ordinates.

viii) The user agency has uploaded a copy of note containing justification for locating the project in forest area. The user agency has stated that there is no

alternative examined, hence copy of map indicating location of alternative examined for the project has not been furnished.

ix) The User Agency has stated that this project is likely to generate permanent /regular employment for 200 persons and temporary establishment for 328500 persons.

x) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project, cost-benefit analysis for the project is not required, this project not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

xi) The User Agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone and this project or a part thereof is not located in a Scheduled area.

xii) The User Agency has uploaded a copy of certificate issued by the District Collector, Chengalpattu on completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted.

xiii) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has stated that, non-forest or Revenue forest is not required to be provided by user agency and reason for not providing non-forest land reported as 'Not applicable'.

As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines, compensatory land may not be insisted for the area diversion of below one hectare and general approval up to one hectares. In this case, area diversion proposed is 0.24 ha.

xiv) In the additional information details section, the user agency has uploaded following document/details.

a) Certified that the requested diversion of forest land for the project is 0.24 ha and is aligned with no forest land involvement (pipe to be laid along the existing State Highways road) and all other alternatives have been examined and found not feasible.

b) Certified that no suitable alternative non forestland is available for the project.

c) Undertaking to deposit the cost of compensatory afforestation fixed by the Forest Department.

d) Undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department

e) Undertaking to bear the cost of compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation and as well as cost of protection and regeneration of safety zone etc., as fixed by the Forest Department.

f) Certified that no work in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 has been carried out.

g) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

h) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of diverted forest land becoming due after revision of the same by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future.

i) Undertaking to bear the cost along with escalation for exploitation of trees in the project.

j) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Chengalpattu District about no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project at Nanmangalam forest land and Forest Rights Act certificate.

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

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests and as per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Nanmangalam Reserved Forests". Extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.24 ha

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

iii) There is no tree growth available in the area proposed for diversion.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer reported that the Nanmangalam RF being forest with zero density (area adjacent to State Highways Road), prone susceptible to splash and rill erosion.

v) 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 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.

a) Details of wildlife present in and around the forest area proposed for diversion reported as No and there is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna 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) Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.24 ha only and there is no felling of trees involve. This forest area diversion has intended for Government welfare measure of providing drinking water supply to the Chennai Metropolitan and suburban area. The District Forest Officer, Chennai Division has not proposed any compensatory afforestation scheme.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, site inspected carried out on 14.09.2021.

a) The proposal is a linear project and it passes through the Nanmangalam RF of Tambaram Range, Chennai Forest Division, of about 0.24 area in total. Nanmangalam forest area has been declared as RF in G.O. 931, dated 18.11.1890. The vegetation of the area described as Vandalur scrub and is dominated by thorny shrubs and hardy species. Though the Nanmangalam RF has remarkable biodiversity comprising of about 442 species of plant, 100-125 species of birds, 40 species of butterflies, 15-20 species of amphibians and reptiles, 15-20 species of dragonflies and damselflies etc., the conveyance of 150MLD of product water through pipeline along Medavakkam main road in the proposed forest area shall not affect the movement of birds and other species mentioned above. The RF or portion of the proposed area is neither forming a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve and Wildlife Migration Corridor nor forming a part of Eco-sensitive Zone of any protected area notified under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

b) Further, the forest area proposed for diversion under FC Act State Highway 635 passes along the State highways (Medavakkam main road) which is passes lies adjacent to the sub-urban residential area and hence there is no specialized habitat (breeding ground/nesting area) for any faunal species including avi-fauna and hence there is no disturbance for any form of wildlife as well.

c) Since, there is a acute shortage of drinking water in Chennai, a basic essential requirement for any living being, the proposed pipeline address this basic needs especially during summer period (April-August) and supports in survival of the people in the suburban areas of Chennai District.

d) Taking into consideration of the facts, the proposal has been recommended by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division.

3) The Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle in her recommendation has stated that the proposed area has been inspected on 14.09.2021 and endorsed the views and points reported by the District Forest Officer and recommended the project proposal.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Chennai Division and the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle have recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 99 years

a) Forest area diversion proposals are being recommended for a period of 20-25 years. As recommended in other forest diversion proposals, diversion of forest area has been recommended for a period of 20 years, since the O&M has been proposed for 20 years only by the User Agency.

5) As per guidelines issued by the Government of India in letter F. No. 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, collection of Net Present Value of forest land to be diverted for laying of underground drinking water supply pipeline up to 4 inches diameter of forest area diversion below one hectare is exempted.

However, this project of water supply pipeline is proposed in 1200mm diameter MS pipe line. Hence applicability of exemption of Net Present Value for the project does not arise. Hence Net Present Value of forest area may be collected.

6) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division and Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, the proposal of diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF of Chennai Forest Division in Chengalpattu District area for laying of water supply pipeline for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 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 amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

d) 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.

e) Amount of Net Present Value of forest area under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual 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 total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.24 ha comprising water supply pipeline to a length of 1200m and width is 2.00m and after completion of underground laying of pipeline, area should be restored to its normalcy.

h) The pipeline shall be laid down at-least 1.50 meter below the ground and after laying the pipeline, the ground will be leveled.

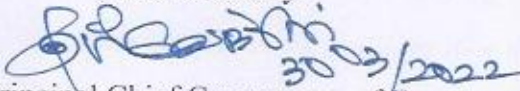
i) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

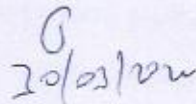
7) On-line forest clearance proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

8) I request that the proposal may be considered under the General approval category where-in the State Government was empowered to divert forest areas up to one hectare for critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by Government agencies with certain conditions and in-principle Stage-I approval orders may be issued for diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF of Chennai Forest Division in Chengalpattu District area for laying of water supply pipeline for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 for a Period of 20 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully


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



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 Circle / Chennai Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.24 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF of Chennai Forest Division in Chengalpattu District area for laying of water supply pipeline for conveyance of 150 MLD of product water from the desalination plant at Nemmeli, East Coast Road South of Chennai and up to Pallavaram and all allied works including O&M for 20 years in favour of Executive Engineer, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, RA Puram, Chennai 28 - Proposal No. FP/TN/PIPELINE/146983/2021

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

[Signature]

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 : 25-03-2022

Place: Chennai-15.