

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From: N. Prateep Kumar , IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Head
of Forest Force)(FAC),
Andhra Pradesh, "Aranya Bhavan", K.M.
Munshi Road, Guntur-522004.

To,
The Spl. Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Forests, Science &
Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat,
Velagapudi, Amaravathi.

Rc.no.EFS02-15026/15/2018/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-1, Dt 28/10/2019

Sir,
Sub APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.,
:- Visakhapatnam - Laying Optical Fiber Cable along the road within
the Right of Way (RoW) passing through forest under Narsipatnam
Division over an extent of 2.18 ha. for providing 4G Communication
in the State of Andhra Pradesh - Proposals submitted - Reg.

- Ref: 1. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Online Proposal No.
- FP/AP/OFC/36777/2018, Dt. 27.10.2018.
2. PCCF's Ref.no.EFS02-15026/15/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/FCA-1,dt:
01.11.2018.
3. Refiefance Jiefo Infocomm Ltd. Lo.No.
RJIL/OFC/ROW/NLD/AP/APFD/NARSIPATNAM/2018-19/180,
Dated:02.11.2018.
4. PCCF's Ref.No.EFS02-15026/15/2018/FCA SEC/PCCF/ FCA-1,
Dt: 11.11.2018.
5. Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam, Rc.no. 1202/2018/TO,
dt: 16.07.2019.

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It is submitted that, M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.,
Visakhapatnam in the reference 1st cited has submitted proposal online
for diversion of 2.18 ha. of forest land in Narsipatnam Division for laying
Optical Fibre Cable along the road within Right of Way (RoW) for providing
4G Communication in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license
granted by the Government of India.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam
and Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam in the reference 4th cited for
processing the proposal as per the guidelines envisaged under Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the
Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam in the reference 5th cited has
submitted the proposal as per the guidelines issued under Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments issued up to date for diversion of 2.18 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- This proposal is for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the Road within in the existing Right of Way passing through forests under Narsipatnam Division for providing 4G Communication in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.
- For locating this project on forest land, the User Agency has justified that the Optical Fiber Cable is generally laid along the admitted RoW of State / National Highway roads and such road side area is declared as the Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act. The area requested for laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also 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 general 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 50 to 100 cm. width (approx.). The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition and also no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The User Agency has stated that, this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of Telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defense and Society. This telecom Infrastructure shall lead to growth in economy and hence more employment and better living conditions for the people in the geography/state/Country.
- This new scheme of laying Optical Fiber Cable is most modern and state of art Technology in the field of Digital Telecommunication. Moreover, the same cable will provide most of new value added services as well as it will cater for the needs of Integrated Services Digital Network.
- The cost of the project is Rs.1276.00 Lakhs approximately.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 98,177 mandays approximately.
- Details of the total land required to an extent of 2.18 ha. is 43451 m. length x 0.50 m. average width)
- The User Agency has certified that the forest land proposed for diversion is the barest minimum area and unavoidable.
- The User agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of

raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation in any of the degraded forest land, NPV, Additional NPV, tree Extraction charges and escalation charges, if any, as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.

- With regard to the certificate under RoFR Act-2006, the user agency has submitted that as per the GOI Lr.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dt.5.2.2013, proposals like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipe lines / Optical fiber and transmission lines etc., where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved the Grama Sabha resolution may not be required until unless recognized rights of PTG/PAC are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause (c) read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second para of the Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009. The user agency has certified that the proposal for laying of underground OFC does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups/Pre-Agricultural communities (PTG/PAC) and also given an undertaking that the consent of Grama Sabha will be submitted, if it is found required otherwise, at any point of time.
- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed maps for the area proposed for diversion.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- This proposal is for Diversion of 2.18 ha. of forest land for laying Of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through Arilova & Pedimikonda RFs in Narsipatnam Range, Bointhi RF in K.D. Penta Range, Wangasara RF, Lammasingi-I RL & Krishnapuram RL in Chintapalli Range, Lothugedda RF & Kokkirapalli RL in Lothugedda Range and Gudem RL in Sileru Range of Narsipatnam Division in favour of M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has submitted the Legal status of Forests as detailed below.
 1. A stretch of 0.25 ha. with a length of 4215 m. passing through Comt.no.1207 & 1208 of Arilova RF, notified under Section 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Narsipatnam Range is within existing Right of Way.
 2. A stretch of 0.18 ha. with a length of 3,590 m. passing through Compt.no. 1181, 1182 & 1183 of Pedimikonda RF, notified under Section 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Narsipatnam Range is within existing Right of Way.
 3. A stretch of 0.16 ha. in with a length of 3,269 m. passing through Compt.no. 1355 of Bointhi RF, notified under Section 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in K.D.Peta Range is within existing Right of Way.
 4. A stretch of 0.12 ha. with a length of 2, 776 m. passing through Compt.no. 1545 of Gudem RL, notified under Section 4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Sileru Range is within existing Right of Way.

5. A stretch of 0.47 ha. with a length of 8, 644 m. passing through Compt.no. 1603, 1606 & 1608 of Wangasara RF, notified under Section 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Chintapalli Range is within existing Right of Way.
6. A stretch of 0.12 ha. with a length of 2, 359 m. passing through Compt.no. 1508 in Lammasingi-I RL, notified under Section 4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Chintapalli Range is not within existing Right of Way.
7. A stretch of 0.65 ha. with a length of 13,072 m. passing through Compt.no. 991, 992, 993 & 995 of Krishnapuram RL, notified under Section 4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Chintapalli Range is not within existing Right of Way.
8. A stretch of 0.07 ha. with a length of 2, 052 m passing through Compt.no.1027, 1018 & 1017 in Lothugedda RF, notified under Section 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Lothugedda Range is within existing Right of Way.
9. A stretch of 0.16 ha. with a length of 3, 474 m. passing through Compt.no. 982 in Kokkirapalli RL, notified under Section 4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967, in Lothugedda Range is not within existing Right of Way.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that
 - (i) The proposed area is a berm region of the road with <0.5 density.
 - (ii) There are no tree species falling along the length and width of the proposed forest area.
 - (iii) There is no vulnerability of forest area to erosion.
 - (iv) The proposed OFC path is shoulder portion of existing roads passing in RF areas.
 - (v) The area proposed is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
 - (vi) There are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the proposed area.
 - (vii) There are no protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument in the proposed area.
 - (viii) The proposed area is not forming part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, tiger and Elephant Corridor etc.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no violation to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within the proposed forest area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has inspected the proposed area for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in the existing right of way passing through the Reserve forests of Narsipatnam Division along with concerned staff on 09.12.2018 & 05.02.2019.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has recommended the proposal in Part-II.

The Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam has furnished the information in Part-III as follows:-

The Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam has not inspected the proposed area since the area proposed for diversion of laying underground Optical Fibre cable is below 40 ha. but agreed with the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada in Part-II and also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Both the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam have recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique proposal FP/AP/OFC/36777/2018, Dt. 27.10.2018 and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that, **the GoI, MoEF&CC vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC, dt: 28.03.2019** has issued a hand book of guidelines in supersession of the guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **As per 4.4 of Chapter-4 of the new guidelines issued, 14 categories of public infrastructure works undertaken by the State Government in LWE District, as notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) from time to time, not falling in PAs, are given general approval in forest land up to 40 ha under Section 2(ii) of FCA, 1980. Among the 14 categories mentioned in 4.4, one of the categories is underground Optical Fibre cable. In the present case, the area proposed for diversion for laying underground OFC is 2.18 ha. and it is being taken up by the M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Visakhapatnam i.e., private agency but not the State Government. Guidelines of Chapter-4 is enclosed.**

In view of the above, the proposal for diversion of 2.18 ha. of forest land (1.25 ha. within the existing RoW in 6 stretches & 0.93 ha. not covered in RoW in 3 stretches) for laying underground Optical fiber cable along the road passing through forests of Narsipatnam Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd., duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate for consideration and forwarding the same to the GoI, MoEF&CC, R.O, Chennai for according Stage-I approval.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,

N.PRATEEP KUMAR

Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)(FAC)

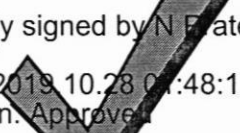
Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam for information.

Copy to the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam for information.

Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s. Reliance JIO Infocom Limited, Visakhapatnam- 530003 for information.

Signature valid

Digitally signed by N Eateep
Kumar
Date: 2019.10.28 07:48:11 IST
Reason: Approved



Diversion of forest land of 2.18 ha. in Nalipatnam Division
in flt M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. for laying optical fibre cable.

PART-IV

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

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

.. 28.10.19

Date:

28-10-2019

Place:

Guntur.

Name:

Official Seal:

N. Prateep Kumar, IFS.,
Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Andhra Pradesh