

Following guide lines of MOEF related to Transmission Line Project are referred.

- 1) MOEF Guide Line No. F.NO. 11-9/98-FC(pt) dt 05/02/2013
:- linear projects like transmission line are exempted from obtaining consent of Gram Sabha
- 2) MOEF Guide Line No. F.NO. 7-25/2012-FC dt 05/05/2014
:- width of Right of Way for 400 kV D/C line is considered as 46m.
- 3) MOEF Guide Line No. F.NO. 11-68/2014-FC(pt) dt 11/07/2014
:- Provision of said clause (C) of sub para 3.1 of the guide lines for diversion of forest land for non forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 shall be extended to all proposals of laying of transmission lines. The said clause which reads as “ For Laying of transmission lines up to 220 kV “ shall therefore be read as “For Laying of transmission line”

The copies of above guidelines are enclosed below.

F. No. 11-9/98-FC (pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510.
Dated: 5th February, 2013

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State / Union Territory Governments

Sub: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - ensuring compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

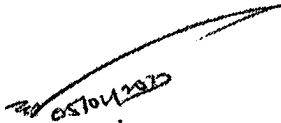
Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 03.08.2009 wherein this Ministry issued detailed guidelines on submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

This Ministry has received representations from various Ministries to exempt projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/optical fibres and transmission lines etc. where linear diversion of forest land in several villages are involved, from the requirement of obtaining consent of Gram Sabha, as stipulated in this Ministry's said letter dated 3.8.2009.

The matter has also been examined by an inter-ministerial Committee. The Committee after examination of the matter had *inter alia* recommended that a resolution of the Gram Sabha of the area, based on full and prior information of the project and a public hearing, endorsing that the project is in the interest of the people living on the forest land, use of which is proposed to be diverted for non-forest purposes may not be required for the projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/optical fibres and transmission lines etc. where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) and Pre-Agricultural Communities (PAC) are being affected.

The Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs in his D.O. letter dated 21.01.2013 addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power has informed that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs agrees with the recommendation of said Committee that resolution of the Gram Sabha may not be required in cases of projects like transmission lines where linear diversion of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of PTG/ PAC are being affected.


05/04/2013

Accordingly, I am directed to say that proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/ optical fibres and transmission lines etc. where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of PTG/ PAC are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the concerned Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause (c) read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second para of this Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009.

This issues with approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Director, Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, New Delhi.
4. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum, and Natural Gas, New Delhi.
5. The Chairman, Railways Board, New Delhi.
6. The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.
7. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), New Delhi.
8. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
9. Nodal-Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
10. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
11. Joint Secretray in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF.
12. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
13. Director R.O. (HQ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
14. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
15. Sr. PPS to the Secretray, Environment and Forests.
16. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretray, MoEF.
17. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

F. No. 7-25/ 2012-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510
Dated: 5th May, 2014

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State / Union Territory Governments

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas - reg.

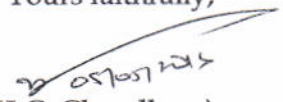
Sir,

I am directed to say that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in their Order dated 7th March 2012 in the Appeal No. 10 of 2012 in the matter of Janajagarithi Samiti (Regd.) versus Union of India and Others directed this Ministry to take steps and notify the detailed fresh guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest area, incorporating necessary changes to mitigate the difficulties which arise during granting forest clearance.

Accordingly, this Ministry in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority formulated revised guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas. A copy of the same is enclosed.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,

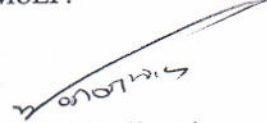

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy along with a copy of the said guidelines to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
4. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
5. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI).
6. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF, GoI
7. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Director in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEF, GoI.

8. Director R.O. (HQ), MoEF, GoI.
9. Sr. Director (Technical), National Informatics Centre (NIC), MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
10. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Environment and Forests.
11. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF.
12. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
13. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
14. Guard File.


(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

GUIDELINES FOR LAYING TRANSMISSION LINES THROUGH FOREST AREAS

1. Where routing of transmission lines through the forest areas cannot be avoided, these should be aligned in such a way that it involves the least amount of tree cutting
2. As far as possible, the route alignment through forest areas should not have any line deviation.
3. (i) The width of right of way for the transmission lines on forest land shall be as follows:

Transmission Voltage	Width of Right of Way (Meter)
11kV	7
33 kV	15
66 kV	18
110 kV	22
132 kV	27
220 kV	35
400 kV S/C	46
400 kV D/C	46
+/- 500 kV HVDC	52
765 kV S/C (with delta configuration)	64
765 kV D/C	67
+/- 800 kV HVDC	69
1200 kV	89

- (ii) In forest areas, only vertical delta configuration of 400 kV S/C and delta configuration of 765 kV S/C shall be permitted.
4. (i) Below each conductor or conductor bundle, following width clearance would be permitted for stringing purpose:

Transmission line with conductor bundle	Width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle (meter)
Upto 400kV twin bundle	3

Handwritten signature/initials

400 kV triple bundle	5
400 kV +/- 500 kV HVDC / 765 kV Quadruple bundle	7
+/- 800 kV HVDC / 765 kV hexagonal bundle	10

- (ii) The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration will be allowed to come up. Felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line.
- (iii) During construction of transmission line, pollarding/ pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strips, whose branches/ parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer.
- (iv) Pruning of trees for taking construction/stringing equipments through existing approach/access routes in forest areas shall also be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer. Construction of new approach/access route will however, require prior approval under the Act.
- (v) In the remaining width of right of way trees will be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the following:

Transmission Voltage	Minimum clearance between conductor and trees (Meters)
11 kV	2.6
33 kV	2.8
66 kV	3.4
110 kV	3.7
132 kV	4.0
220 kV	4.6
400 kV	5.5
+/- 500 kV HVDC	7.4
765 kV	9.0
+/- 800 kV HVDC	10.6
1200 kV	13.0

- (vi) The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while

32/05/2017

working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.

- (vii) To avoid any hazard, felling/cutting/pruning of those trees which because of their height /location may fall on conductors shall also be permitted, as may be decided by local forest office.
 - (viii) In the case of transmission lines to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees will not be cut except those minimum required to be cut for stringing of conductors.
 - (ix) In case of transmission lines passing through National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Corridors, insulated conductors shall only be used to prevent electrocution of animals.
5. Where the forest growth consists of coconut groves or similar tall trees, widths of right of way greater than those indicated at Sl. No.3 may be permitted in consultation with CEA.

28/05/2017

F. No. 11-68/ 2014-FC (pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 001
Dated: 11th July, 2014

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State/ Union Territory Governments.

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Amendment of para 3.2 (vi) (c) thereof- reg.

Sir,

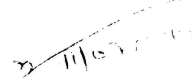
I am directed to say that Ministry of Power has drawn attention of this Ministry to clause (c) of sub -para (vi) of the para 3.1 of the guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that as an exception to para 3.2 (i) of the said guidelines, compensatory afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted/de-reserved in respect of the proposals for laying of transmission lines upto 220 KV. The Ministry of Power has requested this Ministry that the said provisions may be extended to all transmission lines.

The matter has been examined in this Ministry and after careful consideration this Ministry hereby decides that provisions of the said clause (c) of sub -para (vi) of the para 3.1 of the guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be extended to all proposals for laying of transmission lines. The said clause which reads as "*For Laying of transmission lines upto 220 KV*" shall therefore be read as "*For Laying of transmission lines*".

I am further directed to say that provisions of the said clause (c) of sub -para (vi) of the para 3.1 of the guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall not be applicable in respect of the forest land required for sub-stations, switching stations, and other components of the of HVDC terminal or invertors *etc.*

This issue with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,


(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).

2. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. The Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India New Delhi.
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/ Union Territory Governments.
6. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/ Union Territory Governments.
7. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI).
8. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
9. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
10. Director, Regional Offices Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
11. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC, GoI with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
12. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI.
13. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC.
14. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC.
15. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC.
16. Guard File.


(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director