



गेल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम - महारत्न कंपनी)

GAIL (India) Limited

(A Govt. of India Undertaking - A Maharatna Company)

"स्वान", दूसरी मंजिल,
323, कोडिगेहल्ली मेन रोड,
सहकार नगर,
बेंगलुरु - 560 092

"Swan", 2nd Floor,
323, Kodigehalli Main Road,
Sahakarnagar,
Bengaluru - 560 092

फोन /Phone : 080-46244111
फैक्स/Fax : 011-26185941

Ref. No. GAIL/BLR/PROJ/KKBMPL-II/FOREST/01

Date:04.03.2024

To,
The Secretary,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu,
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Kind Attention: Thiru.V. Rajaraman, IAS.,

Sub.: Request for issue of certificate for non-availability of non-forest land in compliance of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 dated 29.11.2023 for diversion of forest land for laying of 24" Ø Krishnagiri-Coimbatore Gas Pipeline in Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu. (55831 sq.m. i.e. 5.5831 Ha Area)

Ref.: 1. Letter from PCCF, Chennai dated 18.01.2024.
2. Letter from DFO, Dharmapuri dated 03.02.2024.
3. VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) ADHINIYAM, 1980 WITH AMENDMENTS MADE IN 1988 AND 2023 dated 29.11.2023.

Respected Sir,

GAIL (India) Limited, a CPSE under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt of India is laying Natural Gas Pipeline from Krishnagiri to Coimbatore section of KKBML-II Project about 294 kms, to connect the state of Tamil Nadu with the national gas grid. The pipeline will pave the way for access of environmental-friendly fuel to the various end users such as CNG, Domestic Gas and Industry etc. in the state of Tamil Nadu. As advised by Govt of Tamil Nadu, the pipeline route has been aligned predominantly along highways i.e. NH-844, NH-44, SH-86, NH-544, MDR etc.

It is pertinent to mention that, the pipeline project is being executed on a fast-track basis with a completion target of November'2024, as this project is being monitored by PMO and a letter received from the Secretary, MOPNG in this respect is attached for your reference.

Presently, the pipeline laying activities are under full swing, with the support of the State and District administrations, and we have completed 103 kilometres of welding and 72 kilometres of pipeline lowering.

The said GAIL pipeline is passing through Gummanur RF and Toppur RF land for a length of 6.2 Km falling along NH-844 and NH-44 under Dharmapuri district of the state of Tamil Nadu. Following are the chronology of events w.r.t. diversion of 5.5831 Hectare of forest land.

[Handwritten Signature]

पंजीकृत कार्यालय:

गेल भवन, 16, आर. के. पुरम, भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली - 110066, इंडिया

REGD. OFFICE :

GAIL BHAVAN, 16, R.K.PURAM, BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEWDELHI - 110066, INDIA

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सीआईएन/CIN

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1. An online application (Reference No. FP/TN/Pipelines/50403/2020) was submitted on 09.08.2021 for granting the permission/_diversion of 5.5831 Hectare of forest land.
2. Application has been processed by DFO, Dharmapuri and 11.88 Hectares of degraded forest land was allotted as Compensatory Afforestation land (as per prevailing forest guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose).
3. As per recent forest guidelines i.e. Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules-2023, which came into existence w.e.f 29.11.2023, the forest department has returned the proposal, requesting compliance with the new provisions outlined in the updated guidelines.
4. According to the amended provisions, GAIL is required to arrange non-forest land for compensatory afforestation through either the state government or the forest department, as applicable. In this regard, it has been stipulated that a certificate from the State Government, in the prescribed format (Schedule-III) is necessary to confirm the non-availability of non-forest land for the proposed compensatory afforestation.

It is pertinent to mention that the forest department has already allocated 11.88 hectares of degraded forestland for compensatory afforestation, which is twice the area of the forestland proposed for diversion by GAIL. However, in adherence to the revised guidelines, the certificate verifying the unavailability of non-forest land is now a prerequisite before further proceedings.

As the DFO, Dharmapuri, has already processed the file by assigning the degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation, we request you to consider our application and issue the certificate from the State Government through concerned in the enclosed format (Prescribed by forest department), which will facilitate GAIL to take up the works without any further delay.

As the matter is urgent in nature, your kind support is highly solicited.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely,


24/03/2024

(L Arumugam)

Chief General Manager (Const.)

Enclosures:

1. Format for issue of certificate.
2. Copy of letters from forest department dated 18.01.2024 and 03.02.2024.
3. Revised forest guidelines dated 29.11.2023.
4. Copy of CA scheme by DFO, Dharmapuri.
5. Letter from Secretary, MOPNG

Copy to: - For kind information

1. Industries Department Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu.
2. MD, TIDCO (Nodal Officer for GAIL project).
3. PCCF, Head of Forest Forces, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
4. Conservator of Forest, Dharmapuri.
5. Executive Director (Projects), GAIL Noida