

:: TANTRANSCO ::

From
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To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
PanagalMaaligai,
Saithapet,
Chennai 600 015.

Lr.No.SE/GCC/CBE/AEE/MONI/F.Parali 400/230 KV SS /D. 135/22, dt.25.04.2022

Sir,

Sub:TANTRANSCO - GCC / CBE–Establishment of 400/230 KV SS at
Parali in SF No.461 of NellithuraiVillage–Leased out land-Tree cutting
Permission- Filing I.A in WP (C) 202/1995-Approval- Requested
- Regarding.

- Ref :** 1. (Per)B.P. (FB) No.165 dated 22.12.2008.
2. GOI notification No.J-12011/62/2006-1A-1 DATED 08.05.2007
3. G.o. Ms. No: 149, Environment and Forest (FR-10)
Department dt.28.09.2013.
4. (Per) FB.TANTRANSCO Proceedings No:21 dated 05.03.2019.
5.PCCF/Chennai's Letter No.C.No.TS3/43555/2021.Dt 08.12.2021.
6. PCCF/Chennai's Letter No.C.No.TS3/43555/2021.Dt 21.04.2022.

The TANGEDCO has approved the Establishment of Kundha Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project (KPSHEP) (4x125 MW) at Kattukupai village, Nilgiris District vide cited reference (1). Ministry of environment & Forest (MOE&F), Government of India, New Delhi has accorded Environmental clearance to the above project vide cited reference (2). 30 Hectares of Forest land of the Nilgiris South Division, was already diverted to KPSHE Project under section 2 of Forest Conservation Act,1980 vide cited reference (3).The Honorable Supreme Court of India has ordered for felling of 120 nos of spontaneous trees for construction of approach road and pruning of 276 nos of spontaneous trees for right of way for transmission line for the above project vide I.A No.2019 in W.P.(C) 202/1995. The Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric project construction works are under progress and it has been programmed to commission the project in the year 2023.

The following transmission system was approved vide reference (4) to evacuate 500 MW power from the above KPSHE Project.

1. Erection of 230 KV MC feeders from KPSHE Project to Proposed 400 KV SS at Parali.
2. **Establishment of 400/230 KV Substation at Parali.**
3. Erection of 400 KV DC feeders from Proposed Parali 400 KV SS to existing Karamadai 400 KV SS.

Establishment of 400/230 kV Substation at Parali in Coimbatore District at an estimate cost of Rs.429.78 Crore.

Parali Substation is envisage as a system strengthening measure to evacuate 500 MW power from ongoing Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric project VII (1x125 MW, 3 X 125 MW) at Nilgiris District which is under nearing to completion and so as to distribute power in grid at Karamadai 400kV SS.

The land to an extent of 4.85 Hectare proposed out of 55 Hectare at Parali in SF. No.461 of Nellithurai village, Mettupalayam taluk, Coimbatore District which is under the possession on TANGEDCO since 1967 as staff camp with various types of dwelling quarters / office premises. This land at S.F. 461 (55.0 Hectare) was classified to the TNEB as revenue record (RSR&Adangal) based on the subdivision order as TK.8A / 4/97/ dt 10.11.1988.

The above scheme was approved by claiming the proposed land at SF. No.461 of Nellithurai village as TANGEDCO land based on the revenue records and the cost of land was taken on NIL value.

The entire substation works have been awarded to M/s. L&T / Chennai on turnkey basis and the site was handed over to the Contractor on 03.02.2021. The work could not be commenced due to approval from forest department of cutting 199 nos of trees available in the proposed 4.85 Hectare of land.

The Executive Engineer / PH-III / Parali has addressed letter to District Forest Officer / Coimbatore for approval of felling of trees on 18.09.2019, 21.05.20, 21.08.20, 04.09.20, 09.12.20 & 21.01.21 and Executive Engineer / TLC / Mettupalayam has also addressed letter to District Forest Officer / Coimbatore for approval of felling of trees on 05.07.2021 and 17.07. 2021. Further, the Superintending Engineer / Generation Circle / Kundah and the Superintending Engineer / General Construction Circle / Coimbatore have addressed letter to the District Collector / Coimbatore on 23.09.2021 & 07.10.2021 respectively for approval of felling trees at Parali.

The above three transmission system has to be completed before in the year 2023 so as to enable for commissioning of the KPSHE Project. Based on the approval of transmission system, a 400/230 KV Substation at Parali has to be established by TANTRANSCO.

During discussion with DFO / Coimbatore on 25.08.2021, 08.10.2021, 09.11.2021, it was informed by DFO / Coimbatore that, the tree cutting permission along with diversion of forest Land has to be applied in online PARIVASH Portal by considering that the status of land is Forest land.

Meanwhile, the preliminary work was commenced in the vacant land without distributing the trees on 08.11.2021 by M/s. L&T Ltd., Chennai. But the works were stopped by Forest Department stating that no work shall be proceeded without prior approval from Forest Department.

As part of scheme that the work of construction of 50 Nos Quarters in the above land SF.No: 461 were already completed without any objection from Forest Department, the action of stopping the balance scheme in vacant land without cutting of the trees may leads to loss to the Board. Such cost implications may be loaded as the Tariff hike over public.

The Chairman cum Managing Director TANGEDCO has also written an D.O letters to the District Collector / Coimbatore on 12.11.2021 requesting tree cutting permission by considering status of land as TNEB land based on the Revenue Records.

In order to avoid delay in ensuring the status of land, the Forest clearance for diversion of 4.85 Hectare land under section 2 of forest Conservation act 1980 as informed by DFO/Coimbatore was applied in online PARIVESH Portal vide FP/TN/Substation / 149440/2021.

In this regard the Principle Chief Conservator of Forest has returned the proposal and requested to attend the defects / short falls and resubmit the proposal. Consequently, the PCCF / Chennai has returned the proposal with 17 nos defects / short falls. These defects / short falls were attended by this office and resubmitted in Parivesh Portal on 01.04.2021.

Further, the Principle Chief Conservator of Forest has returned the proposal on 21.04.2022 and requested to attend the defects / short falls in lieu of leased out particulars and resubmit the proposal. The EDS mentioned in Lr.Dated 21.04.2022 on par with leased out land are now attended and the proposal is resubmitted.

Erection of Parali 400/230 KV SS is most essential to evacuate power Generated from Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric project VII and without the erection of Parali 400/230 KV SS, the entire Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project VII to an amount about Rs. 1800 Crore may become idle.

In the land proposed for 400 KV Substation area to extent of 4.85 Hectare, 81Nos of planted trees and 119 Nos spontaneous trees are identified with assistance of forest department inside the proposed land which under the possession of TNEB since 1965. These trees have to be removed to progress the construction activity.

It is learnt that felling of spontaneous trees is completely banned by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Interim Judgement of WP (C) No: 202/95 dated 12.12.96. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India general directions are given to all the States, have also issued specific directions to various States. In the direction for the State of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India have issued following orders along with other directions.

There will be a complete ban on felling of trees in all 'forest areas'. This will however not apply to:

- a) Trees which have been planted and grown, and are not spontaneous growth and
- b) Are in area which were not forests earlier, but were cleared for any reasons.

According to the above judgment, approval from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for the felling of 118 nos of spontaneous trees is mandatory. In this regard a separate I.A has to be filled before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The ongoing Kundah Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project is nearing to completion by investing Rs 1800 Crores for which the forest permission was already obtained. The delay in completion of Evacuation line may leads to idle investment of huge expenditure apart from generation loss. On completion of the project in time, the general public of Tamil Nadu will be getting benefit to large extent through 500 MW power so as to solve power crisis problem.

Hence, it is requested that the land for the establishment of 400/230 kV Substation at Parali is being already leased to Tamilnadu Electricity Board so that permission may be granted to file I.A in WP (C) No: 202 / 95 for felling of 118 nos of spontaneous trees at Parli EB camp please.

Yours faithfully,



**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ,
GCC/ COIMBATORE.**

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer / TP II / Trichy

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer / Civil/ Transmission / Chennai

Copy to the Executive Engineer / TLC /Mettupalayam