

F. No. 8-63/2013-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 31st December, 2014

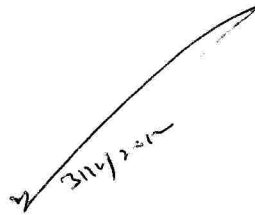
To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Sub: Diversion of 204.356 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV Vindhyaachal Poling Station to Satna Circuit -I and Circuit-II Transmission line in Satna, Singrauli, Katni and Sahdol districts, Madhya Pradesh.

Sir,
I am directed to refer to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (land management) and Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-4/ 11/ 37/ 2013/ 10-11/ Vidhyut/ 2543 dated 1st August 2013 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 204.356 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV Vindhyaachal Poling Station to Satna Circuit -I and Circuit-II Transmission line in Satna, Singrauli, Katni and Sahdol districts, Madhya Pradesh, was sought, in accordance with section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, Stage-I approval for the said proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 10th July 2014 and corrigendum of even number dated 31st December, 2014, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and the Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No. F-4/11/37/2013/10-11/Vidhyut/2782 dated 20th October 2014 approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 204.356 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV Vindhyaachal Poling Station to Satna Circuit -I and Circuit-II Transmission line in Satna, Singrauli, Katni and Sahdol districts, Madhya Pradesh, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds realised from the user agency compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land being diverted (i.e. $2 \times 204.356 = 408.712$ hectare of degraded forest land) shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency;


31/12/2014

- (iii) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department;
- (iv) The State Government shall realize the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the Ad-hoc CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- (v) The user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (vi) In case of transmission lines passing through elephant reserves/corridors, additional clearances of at least 6 m shall be provided over and above minimum clearance (as stipulated under Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to safety & Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2010) above the ground from the lowest conductor of the transmission lines;
- (vii) Sagging of conductors shall be regularly monitored so as to ensure that height of conductors in forest areas at any time is not less than the minimum height stipulated in guidelines issued under the FC Act;
- (viii) No new road shall be constructed in the forest areas for transportation of materials and machines, etc.;
- (ix) The user agency shall organize environment awareness programs to create awareness among the employees as well as residents of adjoining areas on the need for better environmental management and its safeguards;
- (x) The user agency shall take adequate measures to prevent soil erosion in the area identified for erection of transmission towers;
- (xi) To minimize the felling of for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - (a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 7 mts. would be permitted for taking the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - (b) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
 - (c) In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum clearance, as may be stipulated by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
 - (d) State Forest Department shall create and maintain plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line from funds realised from the user agency;

2/11/2012

- (e) In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut.
- (xii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xiii) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- (xiv) The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- (xv) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xvi) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xvii) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xviii) User agency shall submit annual report on compliance to conditions stipulated in this approval to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry;
- (xix) Any other condition that this Ministry and its Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.

Yours faithfully,

57

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of forests Central), Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
- ✓ 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

8/11/2017
(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director