

F. No. 11-596/2012-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110510.
Dated: 27th December, 2012

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Sub: Clarification on applicability of clearance from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for Transmission line projects passing through the forest area falling in with 10 km radius of the National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary -regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your office letter no. 1182 dated 05.11.2012 on above subject seeking clarification on applicability of clearance from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for Transmission Line Projects passing through the forest area falling in with 10 km radius of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and to say that this Ministry vide its OM No. Z-11012/5/2012-IA.II(T) dated 02.07.2012 has clarified that projects falling in eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, which are not covered under the EIA Notification, 2006 and which do not require environmental clearance, would also not require prior approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. You may like to peruse the EC Notification for this purpose. The same is available in the public domain.

Yours faithfully,

(Shiv Pal Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
- ✓ 4. User Agency (M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon 122 001).
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Section
6. Guard File.

(Shiv Pal Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests



13, CHAKRABARTY ROAD
HYDRABAD - 500 004

निधरसिंह चटर्जी
Dr. Tishya Chatterjee



सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन संचालय

Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests

D.O.No.Z-11012/5/2012-IA.II(T)
02nd July, 2012

Dear

This relates to setting up of Solar Power Projects within 10 km radius of National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries.

2 You may be aware that vide an Order dated 04th December 2006 in Writ Petition No 460/2004 (Goa Foundation & Ors), the Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed inter alia, that for all activities within the eco-sensitive zones of a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary, environmental clearance would be granted after prior clearance of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. Ministry has notified guidelines for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

3 It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) that some States are not allowing setting up of solar power projects within 10 km of National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries without prior clearance of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

4 The matter has been examined. Ministry of Environment & Forests vide OM No J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 13.05.2011 and 30.06.2011 has clarified that solar photo voltaic power projects and solar thermal power projects are not covered by the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 (copies enclosed). Solar photo voltaic power projects and solar thermal power projects do not, therefore, require environmental clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006. Such projects need not, therefore, be referred to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife for the purpose of environment clearance.



5 It is requested that you may kindly advise the Departments of Environment and Forests in your State suitably in order to ensure that the Supreme Court's Order dated 04.2.2006 and the guidelines for declaration of eco-sensitive zone around National and Wildlife Sanctuaries issued by the Ministry implemented in letter and spirit. **Projects falling in such ESZs which are not covered under the EIA Notification and which do not require environmental clearance would also not require prior approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.**

With regards

Yours sincerely,



(T. Chatterjee)

Encls. As above

To

Chief Secretaries as per list enclosed

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS WILDLIFE
ASSAM, GUWAHATI-29

No. WF 10/35 Proposal for diversion of 32.0253 Ha. of forest land
Mariani-Mokakchung

14.1.8.2012

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer,
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force, Assam,
Rehabar, Guwahati-8

Subj: Proposal for diversion of 32.0253 hac. of forest land for 220 KV Mariani Mokakchung
transmission line under Disoi Valley Reserve Forest.

Ref: Your letter No. F.C.2 Nodal Proposal Power Grid dtd. 16.5.2012

In inviting a reference to the above I am to inform you that the proposal has been examined in the light of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India vide their letter No 6-10.2011 WF dtd. 15.3.2011 for taking up non forestry activities in an area located within the eco sensitive zone or 10 Kms in absence of delineation of such a zone from the boundaries of National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries etc. The matter has also been discussed with the MoF, Govt. of India and he has stated that only those proposals which require environmental clearance and fall within eco-sensitive zone or 10 Kms boundary of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries need clearance of the standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife as per para 1.4 & 3.1 of the said guidelines. Since the proposed proposal is for the 220 KV transmission line which does not require environmental clearance as per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of the MoF, Govt. of India, it does not require recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife and subsequent clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife as per the Govt. of India's guidelines quoted above.

The DFO, Jorhat Divn who is the Protected Area Manager for Hollongapar-Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary has inspected the area and has reported that the proposed area is within the Disoi R.F. and there are no critical/intensive wildlife habitats there. He has also mentioned that the minimum clearance of the electric conductor of 7.015 mt. is sufficient and safe for the movement of the large mammals like elephant etc. Copy of the DFO's report is enclosed herewith wherein he has recommended the said project. I also endorse his recommendation. Copy of the project proposal sent vide your letter under reference is returned herewith as desired.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Encl: As above

Copy to :-

- ✓ (1) DFO, Jorhat Divn, Jorhat
(2) Chief Manager, Power Grid, Mariani
for their information.

Sd/-
PCCF, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam


PCCF, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam