

No: Jio/2018/721

Date: 08/10/2018

To,

The Forest Secretary  
Government of Uttarakhand

Copy to: ACS, Dr Ranvir Singh, Secretariat, Dehradun

Dear Sir,

Reference MOEF's Circular dated 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2015 on General Approval for laying of underground Optical Fibre cables within existing right of way of roads.

A: We have applied for Forest approval under Linear projects for laying of OFC in existing ROW widths allotted to Road authorities – for a lease period of 30 years

MOEF has accorded the General Approval for laying of underground OFCs along the roads within existing right of way not falling in National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries, without felling of trees, where the maximum trench size is not more than 2meter depth & 1meter width. In such cases the user agency will seek permission from State Forest Department under local act / rules.

In addition to this the State Govt shall realise Net Present Value (NPV) of such forest land except for OFC laying (where no tree cutting is involved) which have specifically exempted from payment of NPV by the Hon'ble SC (MOEF Circular dated 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009).

Kindly find attached the G. O.s pertaining to the levied NPVs to such projects.

1. F.No.11-09/98-FC, MOEF, Director, Forest Conservation Division, dated 7 Sep 2015, under para 9 clarifies that Linear projects such as OFC that do not incur felling of trees and do not fall in National Parks are exempted from payment of NPV by Hon Supreme Court.
2. F. No. 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, Govt. of India, IG Forests, - specifying the norms of NPV guidelines as per the guidelines of the Hon Supreme Court. Classification 4 of the Projects under exemptions – states that laying of OFC is exempted if there is no felling of trees and the said route falls outside of National Park / Sanctuary.

Hence it is humbly concurred that no lease amount is applicable to OFC linear projects.

Please find attached the GOs for your reference.

Thanks and regards,

Deepak Pal Singh  
SCO, Uttarakhand Circle.