

REF: NBBG-SPTL-Forest-02

Date: 20th Sept 2022

To,
The Divisional Forest Officer
Aie Valley Forest Division
Bongaigaon, Assam

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 61.1 ha (Only 19.187 ha is in Aie Valley Forest Division) forest area for construction of 400 kV D/C Bongaigaon-Nangalbibra Transmission line vide proposal No. FP/AS/TRANS/152968/2022.

Ref: Your letter No. A/AVD/400KV/ 3393-96 dated 19th Sept 2022.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above, this is to inform you that the proposed route of 400 kV D/C Bongaigaon-Nangalbibra Transmission line was finalized as per guidelines of the Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, Govt of India of only and after assessment of all possible alternatives to locate the transmission line with minimum involvement of forest areas and keeping in view safety & hazard concerns associated with 400 kV Transmission line and complying to all required technical specifications thereof. The Transmission line routing has been done with a goal to avoid the forest areas to maximum possible extent. However, due to technical constraints and safety concerns, crossing of few forest stretches was unavoidable, however utmost care with proper available mitigation measures has been kept crossing unavoidable forest area, with minimum feasible corridor.

We would like to bring your kind attention towards below mentioned facts:

- Three alternative route corridors were studied largely by maximizing linear sighting opportunities, such as following existing roadways and power line corridors, negotiation with river, railway, road, electric power, and telephone line crossing and least crossing of notified/protected/ reserved forest areas.
- Every effort has been made to avoid forest area and the alignment with minimum crossing of the forest area and least impact, was selected as the proposed alignment.
- The alignment cannot be shifted towards right side (north-eastern direction) due to technical reasons, as it will encounter more Forest area and impact will increased, hence already avoided.
- The possibility to re-route the alignment towards left side (South-western direction) of proposed alignment have been explored before route finalization. However, we could not find the required corridor due to scattered human settlement and technical constraints.
- The proposed line is passing through edge of the Bhairab PRF having minimum impact on flora & fauna.
- Tower spotting has been planned on elevated locations to achieve maximum ground clearance and to minimize tree felling. It is noteworthy, that as per provision of relevant IS codes and Govt Guidelines, 9 mtr ground clearance needs to maintain in 400 KV transmission line (i.e., minimum distance of the lowest conductor from the ground level at null point). However, the said ground clearance has already been extended by providing additional 6

meters clearance in Bhairab PRF (i.e., minimum 15 mtr ground clearance in place of 9 mtr), in order to ensure safe movement of wild animals.

- It is also to confirm that the proposed transmission line will not bifurcate forest landscapes as it is overhead in nature and has long span of cable stringing (around 400 meters) connecting the towers, with additional ground clearance/ space beneath tower and conductors.
- To ensure safeguard of wild animals, specialized anti-climbing guards & anti-climbing canopy shall also be installed in the towers to be placed in Bhairab PRF area which will restrict any arboreal animals from climbing on towers and protect from electrocution.
- Total 2329 trees have been enumerated in the entire transmission line corridor (46 meters width) in Bhairab PRF as per guideline of MoEFCC for processing forest diversion proposal, however same is not required to fell in totality. Only 30 to 35 % tree felling shall be required for placement of towers and to maintain electrical clearance only.
- The proposed transmission route is best possible route involving forest area which is unavoidable and barest minimum required for the project.

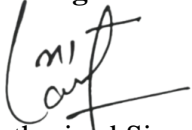
This may be noted that the existing 400 kV transmission line (Byrnihat-Bongaigaon line) passing through Bhairab PRF has been provided with anti-climbing canopy (one of the proposed mitigation measures) on towers and no such incident has been reported till date.

In addition to the above, we are committed and are already in process to carry out the ESIA study with the help of reputed agency. All suggested mitigation measures of the ESIA study shall be implemented to save flora and fauna. We are hereby proposing two anti-climbing designs which are proven and being adopted for your review which shall be adopted for installation as per recommendation received from your good office. Any additional suggestion/ mitigation plan to further minimize the impact on flora and fauna shall be appreciated.

In view of the above, you are requested to process the Part-II of the forest diversion proposal for further necessary action at the earliest.

Thanking You,

For **Nangalbibra-Bongaigaon Transmission Ltd**



(Authorized Signatory)

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Lower Assam Zone for kind information please.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer (FC Act, 1980), Assam for kind information please.
3. The Conservator of forests, Lower Assam Social Forestry Circle, Bongaigaon for kind information please.

NANGALBIBRA-BONGAIGAON TRANSMISSION LIMITED

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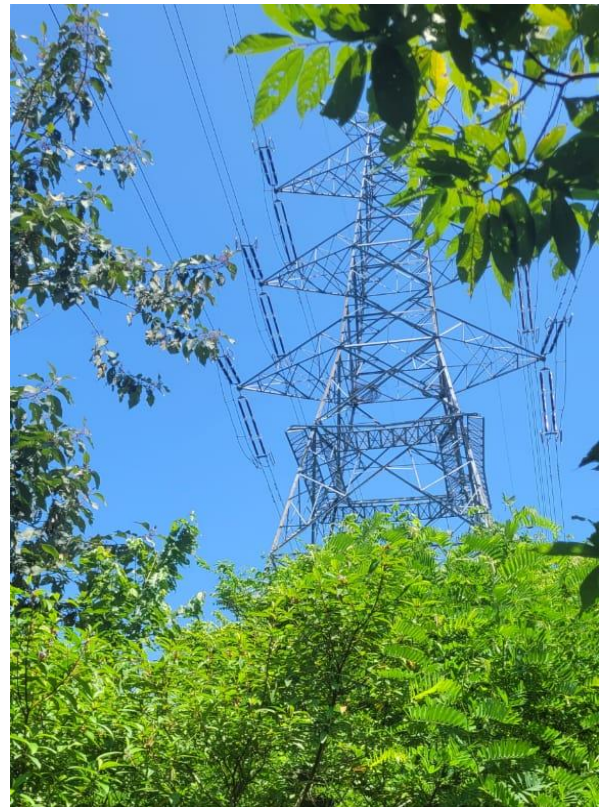




(Anti-climbing Guard)

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(Anti-climbing canopy)