

F.No.7-25/2012-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
 Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
 New Delhi - 110 003
 Dated: 24th October, 2016

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
 All States/ Union Territories.

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas - *reg.*

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter of even number dated 5th May 2016 on the above-mentioned subject where under this Ministry sent a copy of revised guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas, I am directed to say as below:

- (i) The norms/ standard for laying underground insulated cables through forest areas shall be as below:

Line voltage	Trench width	Trench depth
33 KV	600 mm	1200 mm
11 KV	300 mm	900 mm

- (ii) For laying double circuit (D/C) underground cables through forest areas trench width shall be twice the afore-mentioned width stipulated for the single circuit cable.
- (iii) The following shall be ensured while laying and maintenance of 11 KV and 33 KV transmission and distribution lines in areas critical from wildlife point of view:
- Laying/maintenance of lines shall conform to IS 5613, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) Construction Standards and applicable guidelines of Central Board of Irrigation and Power;
 - Suitable guard spikes may be provided on 400 Volts, 11 KV and 33 KV poles at height of 4 ft. and 7 ft. toward off animals coming close to poles and likely to damage it by rubbing against them;
 - Tower accessories as stipulated in Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 shall be provided on all the towers;
 - Concerned Electricity Department should undertake rigorous exercise to inspect the lines so as to ensure that mandatory ground clearances are not

violated as stipulated in the Indian Electricity Rules, 1956. Lines should be inspected periodically, say, at least once in a year by electricity Department officials and corrective actions shall be taken in this regard. Maintenance of the minimum ground clearance and periodical inspection should be certified by an officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer;

- (e) Joint inspection of every transmission/distribution line by officials of Electricity Department and Forest Department may be undertaken twice in a year, say, once before onset of monsoon and once after monsoon so as to identify any need for lopping of trees and ensuring necessary action in this regard;
 - (f) Every tripping of an Electric line should be investigated by the owners of such line and they should take suitable measures to avoid recurrence of the same;
 - (g) Forest Department shall inform the concerned power supplier/line owner of the area about every electrical accident occurring in and around forest area involving human/animals which in turn shall submit an accident report in Performa as given at Annexure-XIII of Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 duly completed in all respects to Electrical Inspector of the State. All electrical accidents should be investigated by Electrical Inspector and suitable measures should be taken as proposed in the investigation report.
- (iv) In case of the demand for **reduction in the width of right of way (RoW) of transmission lines in forest areas in the cases where ABC cables are used in place of overhead lines**, it is clarified that as per definitions in Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply, Regulations, 2010, conductor is defined as bare or insulated and as such the vertical & horizontal clearance specified in Regulation 61 have to be maintained for both bare and insulated conductors like ABC etc.
- (v) To prevent death of animals like elephant etc. in the forest areas due to electrocution by the distribution lines, in the forest area the distribution companies shall preferably use ABC or underground cable. In case of the overhead lines, the clearance above ground of the lower conductor of 11 KV and 33 KV overhead lines should be as per the CEA regulation 58(3) and 58(4) or above maximum trunk height of the elephant, whichever higher.

Yours faithfully,

(Nisheet Saxena)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (**Kind attn.:** Shri Ajeet Kumar, Deputy Secretary), South Block, New Delhi.