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पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
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F.No. FC-III/CH-27/2018-NGP/ 1044

Date: 17/11/2022

To,

✓ Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Forest Department, Mantralaya,
Mahanadi Bhavan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG).

Sub: Diversion of 111.456 ha of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, EHT (Constn.) Division, CSPTCL, Gudhiyari, Raipur for Construction of 132 KV DCSS Nagri-Indagaon, Transmission Line under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Dhamtari and Gariaband Districts in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Sir,

Kindly refer letter no. F-5-04/2018/10-2 dated 03.03.2018 of the State Government of Chhattisgarh on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is to say that after examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'In-Principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 06.06.2018. Now, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/ F-5-04/2018/10-2 dated 28.05.2021 and the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter क्र./भू-प्रबंध/विद्युत/479-158/786 dated 16.03.2021, received in this office on 28.10.2022, has submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'In-Principle' approval and requested the Central Government to grant final approval of the proposal.

In this connection, it is informed that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the State Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter no. krmank/ F-5-04/2018/10-2 dated 28.05.2021, the Central Government hereby accords Final Approval under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 111.456 ha of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, EHT (Constn.) Division, CSPTCL, Gudhiyari, Raipur for Construction of 132 KV DCSS Nagri- Indagaon Transmission Line under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Dhamtari and Gariaband Districts in the State of Chhattisgarh subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory afforestation
 - a) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 223 Ha. degraded forest land (Compartment no. RF-55 area 50.00 Ha. , RF-62 area 40.00 Ha. PF-101 area 49.00 Ha. RF-103 area 35.00 Ha., and PF-108 area 49 Ha. in Balouda Range, Sharital (Udaypur), Dahkoni, Gatva, and Dahkoni Janjgir-

Champa Forest Division, District- Jajgir- Champa) at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.

- iii. Compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, shall be raised by the State Forest Department in accordance with the CA scheme. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- iv. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- v. No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path.
- vi. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- vii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- viii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- ix. Width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 27m;
- x. 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;
- xi. The User Agency will strictly adhere to conditions as recommended by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Standing Committee of the NBWL which are as below:
 1. In compliance with MoEF&CC's Guidelines, no clearance of vegetation shall be allowed for open areas with sparse vegetation (such as grasslands, wetlands, etc.). A 5.8 meters vertical clearance above the ground, 2.5 meters vertical clearance from the vegetation and 1.2 meter horizontal clearance from vegetation could be permitted in other areas of the transmission line, These dimensions are based on clearance requirements for power lines under Electricity Rules, 1956 (As amended upto 25 November. 2000) and local forest officers should monitor strict implementation of this on ground.
 2. The User Agency should design the power pole configuration in accordance with the guidelines "provided in eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife" documented by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun in order to prevent the instances of collision of migratory birds with transmission lines. To minimize the bird and bat collisions and electrocution, the following preventive measures/safeguards need to be adopted by the User Agency. Marking of the power lines, wires and earth wires with reflectors or other items that will prevent bird collision and death need to be adopted. Marker devices are available

in several colours and are visible to birds from a long distance. Many types of marker devices available in the form of spheres, swinging plates, spiral vibrations, dampers, strips, light diverters, bird's flappers, ribbons, tapes, flags, and cross bands may be used to prevent death of birds.


3. The user agency should adhere to the Guidelines issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its Judgment in Jan Jagaran Samithi vs. Union of India and Others (Appeal No. 10 of 2012) related to transmission line passing through the forest in Western Ghats.
4. Forest clearance Division of the MoEF&CC, in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, had also issued guidelines pertaining to transmission line passing through forest. The User Agency should follow these guidelines while constructing the power line.
5. No construction/maintenance work shall be permitted in between 6 PM to 7 AM.
6. Labour camp should be away from the boundaries of the Protected Areas/Reserved Forests/Protected Forests along the entire length of the proposed transmission line.
7. No construction materials (including soil, stones, etc.,) should be collected from the forest.
8. The topsoil to a depth of 30 cm should be first gathered, piled aside and covered with a tarpaulin or suitable other material. Top soil should be re-spread as early as possible over the disturbed or excavated area after completion of the work to a depth of 30 cm.
9. Construction debris should not be dumped inside the forest area and they should be transported by the User Agency to suitable dumping sites outside the forest.
10. Movement of vehicle should be strictly restricted to existing roads and tracks and creation of new roads and tracks or off-roading shall be prohibited. All vehicles delivering loose construction material and any such material gathered at the site must be covered by appropriate material such as tarpaulin to prevent dust spreading, pollution, or wastage.
11. Movement of vehicles and use of heavy machineries from riverine areas and water course along the entire length of the proposed transmission line should also be kept minimal.
12. Clear felled areas should be annually cleaned on the line of and coinciding with the schedule of fire line preparation. The clear felled area and transmission line should be jointly patrolled regularly by User Agency and Forest Department.
13. Erection, repair and maintenance work will be carried out under intimation to Forest Department.
14. Existing sub-subsidiary electricity line providing electricity to the villages in core and buffer areas will be insulated and re-aligned along the road to check the possible electrocution.
15. The User Agency may de-commission other power line and distribution facilities, preferably in the area or in the other afforested parts of the State, which have become obsolete, defunct or damaged. De-commissioning activities may include demolition and removal of the installed infrastructure (e.g. transmission towers, substations, above ground and underground utilities and access/approach road

decommissioning) and reclamation of the project site, including the ground stabilization and re-vegetation with the native species typical to the natural vegetation of the area.

- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xiii. The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xiv. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- xv. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
- xvi. No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path;
- xvii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- xviii. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- xix. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xx. To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - (a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 meters would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - (b) One outer strip may 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 CSPTCL is agreed for the compliance of condition mention 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 4.0 meter clearance 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) User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall implement approved scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, from funds already provided for the purpose; and
 - (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;


- xxi. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- xxii. The User Agency shall submit six monthly self-compliance reports as on 1st January and 1st July of every year to this office as well as to the Nodal Officer of the State;
- xxiii. The State Government shall monitor compliance of conditions of Forest Clearance and shall submit in this regard yearly report as on 31st December of every year;
- xxiv. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xxv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xxvi. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxvii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

Yours faithfully,


Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS
Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
3. User Agency.
4. Guard File.


Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS
Inspector General of Forests