

Sub:- Forest Land-Dhule

Additional Diversion of 21.466 ha. forest land for Khargone Transmission Ltd required due to proposed Dam (Sulwade Jamfal Kanoli Lift Irrigation Scheme) falling in existing route alignment of 765 KV D/C Hexa Khandwa-Dhule Transmission line in Dhule District.

PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary Incharge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the
State Government**

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No. FLD-1620/C.R.92/F-10
Dated: 15/01/2021

15/01/2021

**(Arvind Apte)
Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)**

Arvind Apte
Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)
Revenue and Forests Department
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032

Place: Mumbai

Date: 15/01/2021

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-1620/ C.R.92/ F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Room No.456/461 Annex, Hutatma Rajguru
Chowk, Madam Cama Marg,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032
Date:- 15/01/2021

To,
Regional Officer (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,
Nagpur-440 001.

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The Project Head, Khargone Transmission Ltd, Solank Colony Sanawad, Distt-Khargone has submitted the proposal for additional diversion of 21.466 ha. Reserved forest land for 765 KV D/C Hexa Khandwa-Dhule Transmission line in Dhule district in the state of Maharashtra. Total 22.928 Ha. Non forest land is involved in the project. The details of the forest land proposed for diversion is as under:-

Purpose	Village	Taluka	District	Suy. No.	Length in KMs	Area in Ha.	Legal Status of Land
Additional Forest land for 765 KV D/C Hexa Khandwa - Dhule Transmission Line	Vaipur	Shindkheda	Dhule	450	0.340	2.277	Reserved Forest
	Vaipur	Shindkheda	Dhule	451	0.466	3.12	
	Sondale	Shindkheda	Dhule	140	2.241	15.013	
	Sondale	Shindkheda	Dhule	116	0.158	1.056	
Total Area in Ha.						21.466	

2. The User Agency has highlighted that Government of India, Ministry of Power, New Delhi through REC Transmission Projects Company Ltd (A Wholly owned subsidiary of REC Ltd, A Govt Undertaking) conveyed the prior approval of the Central Government vide their letter No RECTPCL/P-24/Khargone/2016-17/98 dated 26/05/2016 for establishment of Transmission system for "Transmission System Strengthening in WR associated with Khargone TPP (1320 MW)" for this

proposal of 765 KV D/C Khandwa-Dhule Transmission line in favour of Khargone Transmission Limited.

3. Power generated at Khargone TPP (1320MW) will be evacuated through 400 KV D/C transmission Line to Khandwa 756/400 KV substation. Further from Khandwa substation power will be evacuated through 765 KV D/C Khandwa-Dhule to Dhule Substation & 765 KV D/C Khandwa-Indore Transmission line to Devas substation. The 765 KV DC Khandwa –Dhule Transimission line passing partly through Dhule Forest Division in Dhule District of Maharashtra. The line is passing thorough Shirpur and Sindkhede Taluka of Dhule District. The Transmission line is highly important in the interest of Nation and Public.

Earlier the User Agency has submitted the proposal for diversion of 119.689 ha forest land for 765 KV D/C Hexa Khandwa –Dhule Transmission line. GOI accorded in principal approval for the said proposal vide letter dated 09/02/2018. Working permission has been issued on 08/05/2018. During the construction of towers by User Agency in diverted forest land an objection was raised by Irrigation Department. It was found that a part of the diverted area was of Lift Irrigation Scheme-Sulwade for which GOI accorded final approval vide letter dated 23/07/2002 in favour of Irrigation Department. As the proposed dam was not under construction then the overlapping of the area was not noticed.

4. A meeting under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State Defense was held and due to importance of both project it was decided to divert the transmission line from the submerged area of the then proposed Sulwade Dam and find new alternative for the co-existence of both the projects. Therefore User Agency has submitted the proposal for additional diversion of 21.466 ha forest land under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

5. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Dhule has certified that:-

- i. No suitable alternate non forest land is available for the proposed project and demand for the forest land is barest minimum.
- ii. District Collector, Dhule has certified that no suitable alternate non forest area is available in Dhule District required for the proposed project.
- iii. Provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines under it, have not been violated by user agency.
- iv. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dhule Forest Division, Dhule has submitted Site Inspection Report dated 03/11/2019.
- v. 44.00 Ha. Degraded forest land (Reserve Forest) of Survey No 387/411 at vill-Nagaon in Round-Songir, Range-Shindkheda, is suitable for Compensatory afforestation and it is free from encroachment and any encumbrances. CA Scheme for 10 years submitted.
- vi. Area proposed for project is not included in the area of any National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuary.
- vii. Proposed area is beyond 10 Kms of the boundary of the Protected Area.
- viii. The proposed area is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural, historical religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- ix. The non-forest land covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927,

and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "Forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.

- x. There are 33 trees affected in the project.
- xi. The proposed area belongs Eco Value Class -III, having density below 0.4.
- xii. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dhule Forest Division, Dhule certified that 03 alternatives have been examined and have to conclusion that the route No. 1 bears the minimum area of forest required i.e. 21.466 ha.

6. User Agency has submitted the following undertaking/documents:-

- i. Agreed to bear the cost of Compensatory afforestation
- ii. To bear the cost of Net Present Value
- iii. Agrees to bear the cost of Dwarf/Medicinal Plantation
- iv. The User Agency has submitted Cost Benefit Analysis report.
- v. User Agency has submitted the FRA-2006 certificate issued by District Collector Dhule dated 27/12/2019 for 21.466 ha in form-1.
- vi. The User Agency has submitted the copy of prior approval letter dated 02/02/2016 issued by GOI, Ministry of Power, New Delhi.
- vii. The User Agency has submitted that the Environmental Clearance is not required for the instant proposal.

7. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dhule Forest Division, Dhule has recommended the proposal for approval as the transmission line is highly important in the interest of Nation and Public.

8. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Dhule recommended the proposal.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

10. In the circumstances explained in above paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted for the non-forestry use on the conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur. The matter may kindly be placed before Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the same may please be obtained and communicated to this Government at earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Arvind Apte
15/01/2024

(Arvind Apte)

Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)

Arvind Apte

**Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)
Revenue and Forests Department
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032**

Encl:-

A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules
2. Certificate regarding minimum demand for forest land for the project
3. Area Statement
4. Index map of suitable scale
5. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of exploitation as well as cost of compensatory plantation
6. User Agency has given an undertaking of Net Present Value
7. Brief note of the project from the project authority
8. Map of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation
9. Site Inspection Report
10. Certificate that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
11. Certificate in Part-V

Copy to:-

1. Principal Secretary (Energy), Industry, Energy and Labour Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. Secretary (Tribal), Tribal Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
4. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CAMPA), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Dhule.
6. Collector, Dhule.
7. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dhule.
8. Project Head, Khargaon Transmission Ltd, Solank Colony Sanawad, Dist- Khargone, 451111.
(Email-ss.shirur@sterlite.com)
9. Select File F-10.