



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय  
Integrated Regional Office  
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No. 3- SK B 035/2018-SHI/38

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

To

The Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF,  
Forest and Environment Department  
Forest Secretariat, Deorali,  
Gangtok-737102

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1.8288 ha of forest land for construction of 66 KV Single Circuit Transmission Line from 132/66 KV switch yard at Ravangla to Central University with 66/11, 2 x MVA Sub-Station at Yangang in South Sikkim by Energy & Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim reg.**

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government. letter No. 1744/FCA/FE&ED/1008 dated 26.02.2021 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys ***'In-principle / Stage-I'*** approval for diversion of 1.8288 ha of forest land in favour of Energy & Power Department for construction of 66 KV Single Circuit Transmission Line from 132/66 KV switch yard at Ravangla to Central University with 66/11, 2 x MVA Sub-Station at Yangang in South Sikkim, subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions.

**A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.**

- (1) The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009. The requisite funds shall be


**B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:**

- (1) Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (2) Compensatory afforestation shall be raised over double the area diverted i.e. 3.60 ha degraded forest land identified at Sangmoo RF under Rabong (T) Range, South Sikkim at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local native species shall be planted and monoculture of any species, especially non-native species should be avoided.
- (3) 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 also be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- (4) The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- (5) The User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line of execution of the said scheme by the State Forest Department.
- (6) The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
- (7) The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for lying transmission through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter no. 7-25/2012 FC dated 05/05/2014.
- (8) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- (9) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- (10) (a) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.

- (b) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- (11) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (12) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or project life, whichever is less.
- (13) (a) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.  
(b) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of Central Government.
- (14) Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forest & wildlife.

3. After receipt of the compliance report regarding fulfillment of the conditions as stipulated above, from the State Government, formal approval will be issued in this regard under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be given effect to by the State Government till formal order approving diversion of forest land is issued by the Central Government

Yours faithfully,



(Subrat Mohapatra)

Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:

1. The Director, ROHQ, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, India, Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block, Alingang, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110003.
2. Additional Chief Secretary-cum-PCCF, Forest and Environment Department, Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok-737102.
3. The PCE-cum-Secretary, Energy and Power Deptt., Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, 737101
4. Guard file