



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
एकीकृतक्षेत्रीयकार्यालय
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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No. 3-MG C 006/2023-SHI/ 3450-8/

17th March, 2023

सेवामे,

आयुक्त और सचिव/ Commissioner & Secretary,
मेघालय सरकार / Govt of Meghalaya,
वन और पर्यावरण विभाग / Forests & Environment Department,
शिलांग / Shillong.

Sub : Proposal for diversion of 31.588 ha of forest land for constructions of 400 KV D/C Bongaigaon Nangalbibra Transmission line under East Garo Hills & North Garo Hills District, Meghalaya by Nangalbibra-Bongaigaon Transmission Limited.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government of Meghalaya letter No. FOR.39/2022/213 dated 20th January, 2023 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful examination of the proposal and the additional information submitted vide their letter No. FOR.39/2022/255 dated 1st March, 2023 and the recommendation of REC held on 30th January, 2023, the **In-principle / Stage-I approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion Proposal for diversion of **31.588 ha** of forest land for constructions of 400 KV D/C Bongaigaon Nangalbibra Transmission line under East Garo Hills & North Garo Hills District, Meghalaya by Nangalbibra-Bongaigaon Transmission Limited, subject to 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, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal as per the latest guidelines of MoEF & CC dated 19.01.2022;
2. The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
3. The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising dwarf plantation with the State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA;
4. The User Agency shall transfer the cost for the wildlife mitigation measures against the forest land diversion at Rs. 35.0 lakhs to the State Forest Department.
5. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
6. The charges for felling, logging and transportation of project affected trees should be collected from the User Agency at the rates approved by the State Govt and deposited with DFO concerned for utilization immediately following the diversion of forest land;
7. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;

8. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the District Collector;
9. Ground clearance shall be minimum of 15 meters as proposed by the User Agency;
10. Three-layer protection measures are proposed to be adopted. Three-layer protection measures will be adopted to ensure complete safety and minimum interference with fauna. The measures include barbed fencing of tower area, Special tower design having soft material anti-climbing guards & anti-climbing canopy which will restrict any arboreal animals from climbing on towers;
11. The user agency shall ensure that any tree felling shall be resorted only at proposed tower locations only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department; special care should be taken when felling in valley portion of the ROW/corridor to ensure that trees in such depression not interfering with the line should not be cleared except for stringing purpose;
12. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-Fc dated 28.03.2019;
13. The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal before issue of final approval by the State Government;
14. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

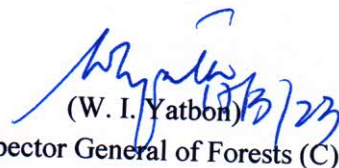
B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over an area of 32.0 ha non-forest land identified at Koknal A'king, Darugiri in Compartment No. 6, 7 & 8;
3. All other clearances / NOCs under different rules / regulations / local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No. 11-9/98-FC(Pt) dated 05.02.2013 shall be complied with;
4. 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;
5. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter no. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014;
6. The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
7. The lay out of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
8. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land;
9. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternative fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternative fuel;
10. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
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 the project life, whichever is less;
13. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
14. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project;

15. The User Agency will have to obtain the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 clearance for removal, if any, of stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land;
16. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
3. After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, final approval will be issued in this regard. Formal transfer of forest land shall not be effected by the State Govt till final approval is granted by the Central Government.

This is issued with approval of Deputy Director General of Forests (C).

भवदीय,


(W. I. Yatbon)

उपवनमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)/ Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Govt of Meghalaya, Department of Forests & Environment, Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong- 793001.

उपवनमहानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)/ Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)



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