SITE INSPECTION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED LAYING OF OPTICAL FIBRE CABLES THROUGH DIBRUHILLS RESERVED FOREST.

Reliance-Jio Infocomm Ltd has proposed to lay two numbers of HDPE Ducts of 40mm diameter along the roadside berm at a depth of 1.65 m below ground level and to lay 48 fibre cables one of the ducts and 3 nos of NP2 manhole chamber of 1200mm height x 1000mm dia underground at 500mm along Tikritilla-Singimari Road. The method to be employed for laying the optical fibres in the HDPE Ducts of 40 mm dia is HDD- Horizontal Directional Drilling to drill pits of size 1mx1mx1.2m depth at 100m interval enroute. For this boring is to be done along the roadside berm of the PWD NEC Road for which the user agency has already taken necessary permission from the State PWD. The only available utility corridor in this region is the PWD NEC Road; the project has to be carried out alongside this road which passes through the Dibru-Hills Reserved Forest, West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya.

Since the transmission line is passing through the Dibru-hills Reserved Forest, undersigned conducted the site inspection on 11.06.2017. The total stretch through the Reserved Forest is 3.866 km which is in the following two sections —

- From Hollaidanga to Williampur for a distance of 1.394 km (25.94252N, 90.12940E to 25.94570N to 90.14215E) requiring diversion of 0.075 ha of forest land and
- From Paham to Gaptoli for a distance of 2.472 km (25.88775N, 90.11349E to 25.90635N, 90.11763E) requiring diversion of 0.13 ha of forest land.

The proposed project involves no felling of trees as it is along the existing ROW of the PWD NEC Road.

Recommendation: The laying of OFC line is of utmost importance for enhancing the connectivity which assumes greater significance in the North-Eastern States. Moreover as the OFC is to be laid underground alongside the existing PWD NEC road and involves no felling of trees, no adverse effect to the forest and environment is envisaged due to the proposed project. It is hence recommended that Forest Clearance for diversion of the forest land measuring 0.2052 ha may kindly be granted.

Dated Tura 16.06.2017 Divisional Forest Officer(T)
West, South & South-West Garo Hills (T) Division, Tura.