

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

No.FRS.7/2022/69

Dated Dispur, the 21st February, 2022

From : Sri I. Kalita, ACS
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department

To : The Inspector General of Forest (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office, 4th Floor, Housefed Building,
G.S Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-781022

Sub : Diversion of 9.2755 hectares of forest land for laying of 18" (Carbon Steel)
Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable from Guwahati to Panisagar
Pipeline Project in Tilbhumi Reserved Forest under Karimganj Division in
favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd.

Case No. : Provide state serial No. FP/AS/Pipeline/49586/2020.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to furnish herewith a proposal received from the PCCF & HoFF, Assam, for laying of 18" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable from Guwahati to Panisagar Pipeline Project in Tilbhumi Reserved Forest under Karimganj Division for diversion of 9.2755 hectare of forest land, submitted by Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd for seeking diversion of forest land under section 2 (ii) of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

1. Brief Description:-

This proposal seeks diversion of 9.2755 Ha. forest land for laying of 18" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable from Guwahati to Panisagar Pipeline Project in Tilbhumi Reserved Forest under Karimganj Division in favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. The details of the project proponent, year of incorporation, past track record, areas of business operation along with project cost enclosed in the part-I submitted by User Agency.

2. Details of forest land proposed for diversion :-

The total land involved in the project is 9.2755Ha. out of this, the forest land in the State of Assam is as follows:-

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| a) R.F | 9.2755 Ha. | a) Revenue forest | Ha. |
| b) P.R.F |Ha. | b) Panchayat forest | Ha. |
| c) Un-classed |Ha. | c) Area recorded |Ha. |
| d) Village forests | Ha. | d) Area defined as forests in dictionary meaning | Ha. |
| | | e) Private forest | Ha. |
| Total | 9.2755 Ha. | Total | Ha. |

3. Maps enclosed:-

The user agency has furnished the following maps duly countersigned by the Divisional Forest Officer,

- (i) Map showing the proposed site for Compensatory Afforestation (scale 1:50,000 for forest areas and scale 1:15,000 for CA on double degraded forests).
- (ii) Geo-reference Map showing the location of proposed Compensatory Afforestation area

Total forest area involved 9.2755Ha.

Contd/-

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4. Assessment of stock:-

The forest area is situated in the DFO Karimganj Division (s) of the State. The stock assessment is as per the enumeration list enclosed to Part-II (DFO's report). The proposed diversion area as follow:-

| Category | Area | Class as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order |
|--------------|------------|--|
| Open Forest | 2.0125 Ha. | Eco Class- I |
| Dense Forest | 7.263 Ha. | Eco Class-I |

5. Flora and Fauna and archaeological importance:-

The area does not form/form a part of National Park/Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve, sample or preservation plot. Moreover, the area does not have/possess importance from archaeological view point.

6. Compensatory Afforestation:-

The forest land to be diverted for the above project is 9.2755 Ha. The diverted area i.e 19 Ha. has been identified in degraded forest area for Compensatory Afforestation as given below in the table:-

Forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation

| District | Division | Range | Block | Compartm ent No.(s) | Area | Working Circles (s) | Felling Treatmen t Series |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Karimganj | Karimganj | Patharkandi | 1 No. | | 19 Ha. | | |

The map showing the above identified land has been enclosed with the diversion proposal.

The above area is proposed to be covered under plantation. The Divisional Forest Office, Karimganj Division has drawn-up compensatory afforestation scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 90,46,385/- The Compensatory Afforestation Scheme has been technically approved by the Conservator of Forests, Southern Assam Circle, Silchar.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Karimganj Division has given certificate regarding suitability of the lands for Compensatory Afforestation 19 Ha. The user agency has furnished undertaking to deposit the amount of Compensatory Afforestation scheme after Stage I clearance.

7. Displacement of human population:-

No human population is being displaced owing to the project. No Schedule Cast/ Schedule Tribe families are being displace.

8. Environment Clearance:-

The environmental clearance against the project is not required.

9. Cost- benefit analysis:-

Not applicable as proposal involves forest land less than 20 Ha.

10. Violation of Forest Conservation Act/Indian Forest Act :-

No violation.

Contd/-

11. Recommendations of the State Government:-

The PCCF & HoFF, Assam/ Nodal officer, has recommended the proposal. The Assessment officers and concerned senior officers without any adverse note, have commented in favour of the same. The proposed diversion site is not a part of National Park/Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve, Sample plot, preservation plot or ecologically fragile zone. The proposed diversion of forest land under Tilbhumi Reserved Forests for laying of 18" dia underground gas pipeline by Indradanush Gas Grid Limited under Karimganj Division would not cause major damage of the forest and environment provided mitigated measures are implemented by the User Agency as per guideline of F.C.Act,1980. As the forest area proposed for diversion is unavoidable and barest minimum required for the project, therefore, the diversion of the forest land as above is recommended for acceptance subject to fulfillment of the terms and conditions of F.C. ACT, 1980 and will not adversely affect on supply of daily needs to the rural masses.

I would, therefore, request you to kindly convey the approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land in question in favour of leasing the same to Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd.

Yours faithfully

(Signature) 21/02/2022

Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

Dated Dispur, the 21st February, 2022

Memo No FRS.7/2022/69-A

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37.
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Territorial ~~Laser~~ Assam Zone, Jorhat.
3. The CCF & Nodal Officer, (F.C Act) O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Assam, Panjabari, Ghy-37.
4. The Conservator of Forests, ~~Southern~~ Assam Circle, ~~Silchar~~
5. The Divisional Forest Officer, ~~Karimganj~~ Division, ~~Karimganj~~.
6. User Agency, 164 E.

(Signature) 21/02/2022
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

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