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**ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(FR.10)  
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT,  
CHENNAI 9.**

**Letter No.9774/FR.10/2018-1, Dated. 21.05.2018**

From  
Thiru. Md. Nasimuddin, I.A.S.,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

To  
✓ The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),  
1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HEPC Building,  
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.(w.e.).

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Dharmapuri and Vellore Forest Division –  
Diversion of 9.12 ha. of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha.)  
and Vellore (2.76 ha.) Forest Division forest areas for  
construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from  
Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Power Grid Corporation of  
India Ltd., Bangalore – Online Proposal under Forest  
(Conservation) Act, 1980 – Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter  
No.TS3/16613/2017, dated 18.05.2018.

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I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has sent a proposal for diversion of 9.12 ha. of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha.) and Vellore (2.76 ha.) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Assistant General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The User Agency (i.e.) Assistant General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka has proposed establishment of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh (Chattishgarh) to Pugalur (Tamil Nadu). This project is envisaged to enhance the power scenario of the Southern States and further strengthen



the national grid. The proposed transmission line passes through forest areas in two forest divisions, namely Vellore Forest Division in Vellore District and Dharmapuri Forest Division in Dharmapuri District. 2.76 ha. of forest area in Kallapadi Reserve Forests of Vellore Forest Division and 6.36 ha. of forest area in Kalappampadi Reserve Forests of Dharmapuri Division areas are required for this transmission line. He has requested diversion of forest area for a period of 35 years. He has also furnished necessary certificates, undertakings / documents.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the User Agency has uploaded necessary Certificate from the District Collectors, Dharmapuri and Vellore, certified that there is no suitable and technically approved alternate non-forest land available for the project and also the Certificate that the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is initiated and completed on the forest land proposed to be diverted in compliance of Government of India's guidelines dated 03.08.2009.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further stated that after getting additional essential details from the User Agency, the proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officers of Vellore and Dharmapuri Divisions. After field inspection, the District Forest Officers, Vellore and Salem Divisions and Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore and Salem Circle respectively have forwarded the proposal. During field inspection, it was found that the proposed tower line erection in forest areas falls in Paradharami Reserve Forests of Vellore Forest Division (not in Kallapadi Reserve Forests mentioned by the User Agency and Kalappampadi Reserve Forests of Dharmapuri Forest Division).

5. The District Forest Officers have furnished the following particulars along with the proposal :-

i) The District Forest Officers have reported that, density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class three in forest area.

ii) The proposed forest diversion area is already eroded and further no soil is to be eroded now, due to this project.

iii) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

iv) There is no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. There is no specific wildlife found in that locality.

v) There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.



vi) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

vii) (a) The District Forest Officer Vellore has reported that, 282 number of spontaneous growth of miscellaneous species have to be felled in the area to be diverted transmission lines apart from 204 number of planted trees, where transmission towers have located and for felling of spontaneous tree growth, the User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission.

vii) (b) The District Forest Officer Dharmapuri has reported that, 176 number of spontaneous growth of miscellaneous species have to be felled in the area to be diverted transmission lines, where transmission towers have located and for felling of spontaneous tree growth, the User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission.

viii) (a) The District Forest Officer, Vellore Division has proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs. 25,98,865/- over an extent of 5.52 ha. in the degraded forest area of Paradharami RF, where forest area diversion has been proposed This amount includes raising of plantation, chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure and maintenance of plantation for 7 years.

viii) (b) The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs. 62,78,000. over an extent of 12.72 ha, in the degraded forest area of Kalappampadi RF, where forest area diversion has been proposed This amount includes raising of plantation, chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure and maintenance of plantation for 7 years.

ix) As against the diversion of 9.12 ha of forest land in two forest divisions, compensatory afforestation scheme has been proposed for double the extent of 18.24 ha (12.72 ha in Dharmapuri Forest Division and 5.52 ha in Vellore Forest Division).

x) As per Forest Conservation Act, 1980 guidelines, Central Government Agencies were exempted for providing non-forest CA land, hence, CA scheme has been proposed in the degraded forest area double in extent.

6. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has inspected the proposed forest area diversion site on 31.03.2018 and by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division on 17.05.2018. In the specific recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officers have stated that, considering the importance of the developmental scheme, the forest area diversion has been recommended. The District Forest Officers have recommended the period of diversion for thirty five years.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further reported that by providing this 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur, people of Tamil



Nadu and Karnataka State will be benefitted, hence the Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore and Dharmapuri have recommended this forest area diversion.

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officers and Chief Conservator of Forests, subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c) The User Agency has to pay the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation, protection of plantation, etc., as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.
- d) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- e) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
- f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- g) The User Agency has to obtain Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission for felling of trees of Spontaneous origin.
- h) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees in the proposed forest diversion area.
- i) Period of lease can be thirty five (35) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before six months of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has, therefore, recommended the proposal and requested the Government to obtain the approval of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for diversion of 9.12 ha. of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha.) and Vellore (2.76 ha.) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Assistant General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore for a period of 35 years.



10. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) for diversion of 9.12 ha. of forest land in Dharmapuri (6.36 ha.) and Vellore (2.76 ha.) Forest Division forest areas for construction of 800 KV HVDC transmission line from Raigarh to Pugalur in favour of Assistant General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore for a period of 35 years under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

*P. Santhi*

for Principal Secretary to Government

**Copy to:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai-15.  
The Assistant General Manager,  
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited,  
SRTS-II, RHQ,  
Singanayakanahalli,  
Yelahanka,  
Bangalore,  
Karnataka-560 064.

PART - V

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

18. Recommendation of the State Government

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part - C or Part - D above should be specifically commented upon)

— Recommended —

Date : 21.5.2018  
Place : Chennai.

  
Signature

Name & Designation  
(Official Seal)

A. SIVAPRASADARAY  
UNDER SECRETARY

TO GOVT.  
Under Secretary to Government  
Environment and Forests Department