



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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F. No. 3 MG C 023/2022SHI / 1526-27

22.08.2022

सेवामे,

आयुक्त और सचिव / Commissioner & Secretary,
मेघालयसरकार / Govt of Meghalaya,
वनऔरपर्यावरणविभाग / Forests & Environment Department,
शिलॉंग / Shillong.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 5.775 Ha of Forest Land for proposed 18" & 12" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with OFC conduit in Khasi Hills in Meghalaya by Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government of Meghalaya letter No. FOR.25/2022/78 dated 15th June, 2022 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 of the State Government of Meghalaya and additional information submitted vide letter No. FOR.25/2022/158 dated 4th August, 2022 and recommendation of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) held on 27.06.2022, the **In-principle / Stage-I approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of **5.775 Ha** of Forest Land for proposed 18" & 12" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with OFC conduit in Khasi Hills in Meghalaya by Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited, Assam, 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 06.01.2022 & 19.01.2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into CAMPA account of the State concerned;
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 for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
3. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA account only though e-portal(<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
4. The User Agency shall deposit with the State Government the cost towards Mitigation Plan proposed by the State Govt for 'Nature Conservation Plan and Interpretation Centre on Birds in Umiam-Riat Khwan Important Birds Area (IBA)' at the cost of Rs. 1, 24,43,000.000.
5. The User Agency shall submit an undertaking to take precautionary measures to ensure minimal disturbance during construction phase and appropriate measures to be taken to prevent soil erosion.
6. The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before issuing working permission by the State Government.
7. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the District Collector;

o/c

8. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
9. 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;
10. 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;
11. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
12. **The pipeline shall be laid down 1.5 meters below the ground and after laying down of pipe line the ground will be leveled.**
13. As per Ministry's letter No. 11-30/96-FC(Pt)dt. 14.9.2001, if the compliance of stipulated conditions is awaited from the State Govt for more than 5 (five) years, the in-principle approval would summarily be revoked considering that the user agency is no longer interested in the project.

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 and maintained by the State Forest Department over double degraded forest land i.e. **12.0 ha** identified in Compartment No. 9, Saipung Range, East Jaintia District. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
3. Permanent demarcation of forest land for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the User Agency;
4. The user agency shall obtain the mandatory Environment Clearance as per the provision of Environment (Protection) Act 1986, if required;
5. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
6. The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
7. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
8. 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;
9. The User Agency shall not expand its occupation or use surrounding forest/forest land in any manner otherwise expressed in this clearance;
10. Land so diverted shall revert back to the Forest Department in case it is not needed for the above use after due restoration to its original status (as far as possible and to the satisfaction of state Forest Deptt.);
11. The User Agency shall take all possible precautions & care all the time not to impact adversely the surrounding forests and forest land by their actions/activities;
12. Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any, shall be done under the supervision of the Forest Department;

13. The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 14. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
 15. 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;
 16. 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;
 17. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
 18. All other clearance/NOCs under different applicable rules/regulations /local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No.11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 03.08.2009 shall be complied with;
 19. This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval are not complied to the satisfaction of the Integrated Regional Office, Shillong;
 20. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, IRO, Shillong may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions;
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)

उप वन महानिरीक्षक (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.


उप वन महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C)

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