



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
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No. 3-MG B 041/2015-SHI 2993-44

25th January, 2016

To

The Principal Secretary
Forests & Environment Department
Government of Meghalaya
Shillong

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.9256 ha of forest land for construction of the 33 KV transmission line from Williamnagar to Samanda village under RGGVY.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government's letter No. FOR.62/2015/97 dated 04.08.2015, on the subject mentioned above, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am to inform that the Central Government hereby conveys its **In-Principle Approval** for diversion of 4.9256 ha of forest land for construction of the 33 KV transmission line from Williamnagar to Samanda village under RGGVY subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of compensatory afforestation over double degraded forest land of 9.86 ha identified in Samanda Block, Compartment No.5, Chisobibra village, East Garo Hills district of Meghalaya to Adhoc CAMPA account through State Forest Deptt.
- (ii) The Divisional Forest Officer(T) Garo Hills Forest Division must ensure that the area for compensatory afforestation is free from any type of encroachment and legal litigations.
- (iii) The Sate Govt shall provide the compartment No for diversion of 4.9256 ha of forest land for construction of the 33 KV transmission line from Williamnagar to Samanda village under RGGVY.
- (iv) The Compensatory afforestation in 9.86 ha shall be raised comprising of indigenous species with 20 %.
- (v) The State Govt shall charge the Net Present Value of the forest land diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

dated 28.03.2008 & 09.05.2008 in IA No.566 in WP (C) No.202/1995 and as per the guideline issued by this Ministry vide letter No. 5-3/2001-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard.

- (vi) The above funds received from the User Agency as mentioned at Sl. No (i), and (v) under the project shall be transferred to the Ad-hoc CAMPA Fund (CAF in New SB account No. SB01025217 of Corporation Bank, CGO Complex, Phase-I, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003).
- (vii) The User Agency shall bear and deposit the amount of the cost of transportation of the felled trees directly to the Divisional Forest Officer, Garo Hills Territorial Division.
- (viii) The certificates for the payment in respect to Sl. No. (vii) and (xix) shall be furnished to this office by the user agency.
- (ix) The additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of rates by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India during the Validity period /tenure of forest diversion, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect. Every care should be taken not to disturb the natural vegetation of the area.
- (x) Where routing of transmission lines through the forest area cannot be avoided, these should be aligned in such a way that it involves the least amount of tree cutting.
- (xi) As far as possible, the routing alignment through forest area should not have any line deviation.
- (xii) The maximum width of the right of way for the transmission lines on forest land in the instant proposal shall be 15 meters.
- (xiii) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 metres would be permitted for taking the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
- (xiv) The felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance.
- (xv) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line.
- (xvi) The trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 2.8 meters clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance.

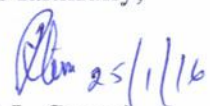
(xvii) The user agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall prepare a detail scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species(preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under transmission line and shall be approved by Regional Office, Shillong. The fund for plantation of the dwarf species shall be deposited in State wise accounts operated by Ad-hoc CAMPA as per letter No. 1-24/2012-CAMPA dated 02.12.2015 of Ad-hoc CAMPA, New Delhi. The species of indigenous medicinal plants herbs should be given preference.

(xviii) State Forest Department and the project proponent should try to reduce felling of number of trees and bamboo culms.

(xix) The User Agency shall bear and deposit the amount of the cost of demarcation of the land proposed for diversion to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The Divisional Forest Officer shall demarcate the land proposed for diversion on the ground by erecting at least 4' high cement-concrete pillars duly numbered, forward and backward bearing and distance from pillar to pillar written on the pillars and compliance report to be sub mitted along with the photographs.

After receipt of the compliance report from the State Government on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, formal approval will be issued in this regard. Formal transfer of forest land shall not be effected by the State Govt till final approval orders approving the diversion of forest land are issued by the Central Government.

Yours faithfully,

 25/1/16

(R.L. Sanga)

Conservator of Forests(C)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator Forests & HoFF, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.



(R.L. Sanga)

Conservator of Forests(C)

