

From

The Special Chief Secretary to Government  
EFS&T Department,  
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,  
Amaravati-522503.

To

The Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
Green House Complex,  
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 1.01 ha forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam – Forest Clearance under Section-2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr. Rc.no.EFS02-15026/13/2018/FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated 29.06.2023.

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I am to inform that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., has furnished statutory proforma proposal and online application No. FP/AP/OFC/36007/2018, seeking prior approval of the GoI, MoEF&CC for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

2. In this regard, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that the Authorized Signatory, M/s. Jio Digital Fiber Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam (User Agency) has submitted proposal for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along roads under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has submitted the proposal as per the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the proposal are as follows:

i. The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- Forest area to an extent of 1.01 ha is required for laying optical fiber cable along the road in Nellore Division by M/s. Jio Digital Fiber Private Ltd., Visakhapatnam .
- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.8.41 lakh.
- The User Agency has justified that, the area required for laying of the OFC is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also considering the safety of cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defense and strategic establishments, and from the differential industrial organizations apart from the general public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conservation so made it not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties.
- The User Agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, Addl. NPV, CA, tree extraction charges etc.
- The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to submit RoFR Certificate under RoFR Act, 2006, before Stage-II approval.
- The area proposed for diversion is 1.01 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.

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- No human displacement is involved in this project.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 64715 man days approximately will be generated.
- The User Agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.
- The User Agency in his letter dated:26.06.2023 has stated that, the area authenticated in Bit -3 (0.08 ha) in Venkatagiri Range is no longer required and the total area required in Venkatagiri Range is reduced from 0.56 to 0.45 ha. Hence, the total area required for this project is 1.01 ha.

ii) The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest land to an extent of 1.01 ha is required for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the existing road in RF Areas in Nellore Division in favour of M/s Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Visakhapatnam. The existing road is formed prior to 1980 as per Gazette Notification.
- Legal Status of the forest is Reserved Forest.
- The area proposed for laying Optical Fiber Cable is passing the following RFs. The details are as follows.

Sl. no.	Name of the RF	Area required (in ha)
1	Pothukonda and Pothukonda Extn.	0.23
2	Cherlopalli	0.12
3	Marlapudi Extn & chaganam	0.10
4	Marupuru and Toderu	0.16
5	South Mopuru Extn.	0.08
6	Amencherla (E), Nellore RF & Ambapuram	0.32
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.01</b>

- The density of vegetation is less than 0.10.
- No tree felling is required for laying OFC.
- The area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The proposed Optical Fiber Cable by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm .Ltd., is proposed along the existing road.
- The area proposed for diversion is not a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc. However, an extent of 0.23 ha in Pothukonda and Pothukonda Extn. RF falls in Eco-sensitive Zone of Sri Penusila Narasimha Wildlife Sanctuary.
- No are/ endangered/unique species of fauna found in the proposed area.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is un- avoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The User Agency has not violated the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified to an extent of 2.64 ha in compartment no.19, Rudrakota RF, Kavali Range, Nellore Division which is double the extent of RF proposed for diversion (1.01 ha). The District Forest officer, SPSR Nellore has prepared CA scheme to an extent of 2.10 ha for raising Compensatory Afforestation with a financial outlay of 33.70 lakh for a period of 12 years including Advance operations, Maintenance of Nurseries and Raising of Plantations commencement from 2024-25 to 2035-36. The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps of degraded forest area are enclosed with the proposal.

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4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has further stated that the District Forest officer, SPSR Nellore has recommended the proposal in Part -II. In part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest officer, SPSR Nellore and Recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land. In Part -IV, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal officer (FCA), O/o PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Mangalagiri has agreed with the information furnished by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and Recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.

5. I enclose herewith the statutory proforma proposal furnished by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force duly recommending in Part-V and request you to obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing roads under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam under section-2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

  
for Special Chief Secretary to Government

**Copy to:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,  
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.  
The Authorized Signatory, M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.,  
Visakhapatnam.  
SF/SC.

PART-V

Proposal for diversion of 1.01 ha of forest land for laying of OFC along existing roads under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature



Name & Designation

Dr. P.V. CHALAPATHI RAO, I.F.S.,  
Official Seal  
Secretary to Government  
Environment, Forests, Science  
and Technology Department  
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522238.

Date: 26-07-2023

Pleas: Amaravati.