

I/547785/2023

Government of Punjab
Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation
O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)
Forest Complex, Sector-68, SAS Nagar.
(FCA Branch)

Dated:20/04/2023

To

Divisional Forest Officer,
Bathinda, Punjab.

Sub: - Diversion of 0.8046 ha of forest land permission for laying Optical fibre cable along the (1) Bathinda Cantt. Gate Bibiwala road to Gobindpura L/s 6500Mtr. (2) Central Jail road L/s 1000 Mtr (3) Deon Minor road R/s 500 mtr (4) Bathinda-Amritsar road KM 265/700 to 275/380 L/s (Total length 17680 Mtr Width 0.45 Mtrs, Depth 1.65 Mtrs) Bathinda to Nathewala (Link ID 2.3.09) for Army Project ASCON PH-IV falling under Under Forest Division Bathinda, Punjab FP/PB/OFC/154686/2022

The Stage-I approval was accorded to the proposal vide letter No **FOREST-FCA0FC1B/15/2022-FCA/I/446539/2022** dated **19.10.2022**. Divisional Forest Officer, Bathinda has reported vide letter no. **594 dated 23.11.2022**. Government of India has accorded general approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide letter No. 11-9/98-FC dated 08-04-2009 dated 02.02.2015 in the cases of laying of Underground Telephone Lines, Optical Fiber Cable/Underground Laying of Drinking Water Supply Pipeline.

The Nodal Officer FCA has been authorized by the State Government to issue Final Approval vide e-office file no. 38957. After careful examination of the proposal under General Approvals issued by Govt. of India vide letter No. F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019, **"Stage-II approval"** is hereby conveyed for diversion of **0.8046 ha.** of forest land for digging of trenches measuring **17680 mtrs long, 0.45 mtrs wide and 1.65 mtrs depth** along the road for laying of optical fiber cable under Forest Division Bathinda of forest land subject to the following

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conditions :-

1. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
2. The forest land will not be used for any other purpose.
3. No tree will be felled by the user agency.
4. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 28-3-08 in I.A No. 826 in 566 in W.P.(C) 202 of 1995 has fully exempted NPV provided: (a) no felling of trees is involved; and (b) the areas fall outside National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. User Agency has given Bank Guarantee of Rs. 4,42,000/- to DFO, Bathinda.
6. The Optical Fiber Cable will be laid along the road within the existing right of way and close to the outermost edge of the forest land. The dug out land shall be restored by the User Agency and the same shall be made good immediately after the approved operation.
7. User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance under prevailing Acts/Rules/Guidelines, if applicable.
8. This approval is subject to the clearance of the proposal under relevant local Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions etc. as applicable.
9. The User Agency shall seek prior permission from the DFO, Bathinda for carrying out any maintenance operation.
10. The User Agency shall abide by any other condition (s) that may be imposed by this Department in the interest of afforestation and protection of environment.
11. The State Forest Department may revoke/suspend this approval, if any of the above conditions is not satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.
12. An undertaking is signed by the User Agency for abiding by all the aforesaid conditions.
13. If any other NOC is necessary under any Act/Rules/Guidelines etc. from other Departments, the user agency should obtain the same before the commencement of laying of Cable.
14. CF, Ferozepur Circle, Ferozepur /DFO Bathinda shall ensure fulfillment of the above conditions.
15. This approval is granted subject to the condition that there is no court case pending in any court pertaining to the land or trees in the present FCA case. Any legal liability arising out of such case; if any, will be the sole responsibility of the land owning Department.

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Basanta Raj Kumar
NODAL OFFICER (FCA)
20/04/2023

CC:-

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Chandigarh.
2. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.
3. Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Nabha Road, Patiala.
4. Member Secretary SEIAA, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab, Directorate of Environment, Science & Technology, MGSIPA, sector-26, Chandigarh.
5. Conservator of Forests, Ferozepur Circle, Ferozepur.
6. ITI Bhawan, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka.