

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Name of the Proposal: - Diversion of 0.45 ha forest land in favour of EHV Project Division MSETCL, Amravati for construction of LILO on 132 KV Yavatmal-Yavatmal MIDC line for 132 KV Darwaha Sub-Station Transmission Line in Taluka-Darwaha, District Yavatmal in the State of Maharashtra-regarding. (Proposal No. FP/MH/TRANS/37560/2018)

Name of the Inspecting Officer- Shri Dayananda .N Technical Officer (Forestry),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Officials from the State Forest Department present during the inspection:

1. Shri Nilesh Sonwane ACF, Yavatmal
2. Shri Amar Sidam, RFO, Yavatmal

Officials from the User Agency present during the inspection:

1. Pavan kalhane Dy. Executive Engineer EHV project Division Amravati MSETCL

As the instant proposal involves violation of VSSA, 1980, as per the provisions of Sub Rule 10(4) of the VSS Rules, 2023 and as directed by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 23.12.2024, undersigned carried out site inspection of the forest area proposed for diversion on **25.01.2025** in presence of officials as mentioned above from the State Forest Department and the User Agency.

(I) Brief note on the project:

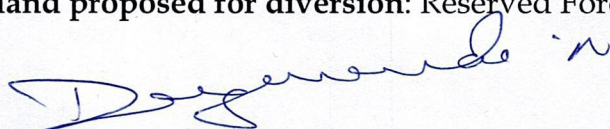
The subject proposal is for construction of LILO on 132 KV Yavatmal - Yavatmal MIDC line for 132 KV Darwaha Sub-Station Transmission Line in Yavatmal District in the State of Maharashtra. The project requires 0.45 ha of Reserved Forest and 98.1 ha of non-forest area.

(II) Justification for selection of the proposed site:

Maximum area required for the project is a non-forest area i.e. 98.10 ha, however, the transmission conductor line in one patch falls in the Reserved Forest. Hence, the User Agency submitted the instant proposal seeking approval under VSSA, 1980. However, the User Agency has already carried out stringing of transmission line without prior approval of the Central Government. Hence, justification for selection of the proposed site at this juncture may not require. During the field inspection it was noticed that a narrow patch of RF area falls within the transmission line alignment which is unavoidable.

(III) Details of the forest area proposed for diversion:

- (a) Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion: Reserved Forest**



(b) Wildlife: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any PAs. It was also reported that no wildlife present in the area proposed for diversion. However, during the field visit leopard pug mark was noticed. Since the proposed non forestry activity is for transmission line and as such no towers are laid in the forest area, impact on wild animals is negligible. **However, the specific condition may be imposed that the User Agency shall provide bird deflector.**

(c) Vegetation:

During field inspection it was noted that no tree presence and only bushes were seen.

(d) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

NA.

(e) Details of any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument located in the area, if any:

As reported, **no** protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

(f) Comment as to the reasonability of the extent of the forest land proposed for diversion:


Requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.

(g) Whether any work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the Act has been carried out

The State Government reported that. the User Agency carried out work in violation of V(S&S) Adhiniyam. 1980 over an extent of **0.45ha.**

As per the record furnished by the State Forest Department Officials during the inspection, the alleged work in violation of V(S&S) Adhiniyam. 1980 was carried out by the User agency over an area of 0.45 by stringing of transmission line. No breakup of the forest area was noticed, and transmission tower has not been constructed in the reserved forest;

(h) Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would



affect any other forest area by trans-locating outside in and around the said forest:

Not applicable

(i) **Reclamation Plan:**

Not applicable

- (j) **Cost Benefit Ratio:** Not applicable as the proposal involves less area against the area for which CB analysis is required.

(IV) **Compensatory afforestation:**

Since the User Agency already executed the work and only bushes were present beneath the conductor, CA cost may be levied as per rule 13 (5) of the VSS rule 2023. Accordingly, cost towards raising and maintenance of appropriate numbers of trees may be realised from the UA as per the Ministry Guidelines.

- (a) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other encumbrances:**

NA

- (b) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

NA

- (c) **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

NA

- (d) **Total financial outlay:**

To be realized by the DFO concerned.

- (k) **Detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

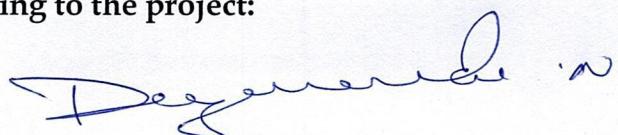
As stated under Sl No (1) above and as the forest area which is already under non forestry, alternative examination may not be required at this juncture.

- (l) **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:**

NIL

- (m) **Any other information relating to the project:**

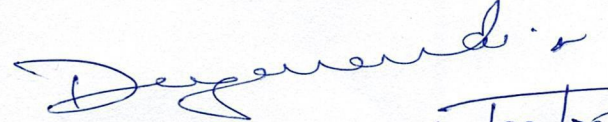
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Recommendation:

Considering all facts of the case and field observation, the UA proposed bare minimum of forest area for diversion, hence the proposal is recommended to consider under VSSA, 1980 subject to the following specific conditions;

- (i) CA cost may be levied as per rule 13 (5) of the VSS rule 2023.
- (ii) The User Agency shall provide bird deflector at the project cost.
- (iii) Penal action to be taken as per the provision of the VSSA, 1980 and rules / guidelines made there under.


(N. Dayananda) 19/02/25

Technical Officer (Forestry)
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

**Recommendations of the DDGF (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur
along with detailed reasons:**

I agree with the facts reported above. Based on the recommendation of the State Government, the proposal is recommended for consideration under the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The CA cost may be levied as per rule 13 (5) of the VSS rule 2023.
- (ii) The User Agency shall provide bird deflectors at the project cost.
- (iii) The State Government may initiate legal action as per the provisions of the VSSA, 1980, and the rules/guidelines framed thereunder for any violation of the VSSA, 1980.


(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar) 19/2/25

DDGF (Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur

Attachment:

(i) Field photos

