

I/500789/2023

**Government of Punjab**  
**Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation**  
**(Forest Branch)**

To

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)**  
**Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.**

**Subject: Diversion of 0.96 Ha of Protected Forest Land for laying of GAIL 4" Dia Pipeline of length 22.73 KM along with OFC to supply Natural Gas to M/s Vardhman Special Steel Limited in District Ludhiana passing under Forest Division Ludhiana, Punjab FP/PB/ Pipeline/ 153849/2022.**

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Government of India has accorded general approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide letter No. F.No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019 under para 4.2 for laying of Underground Telephone Lines, Optical Fiber Cable/Underground Laying of Drinking Water Supply Pipeline, CNG/PNG and slurry pipeline.

1. After careful consideration of the proposal submitted vide your letter under reference general approval of Govt. of India under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for "Stage-I Approval " for diversion of 0.96 ha. of forest land for digging of trenches measuring 16000 mtrs. long and 0.96 mtrs wide for for laying 4" Dia Pipeline of length 22.73 KM along with OFC to supply Natural Gas to M/s Vardhman Special Steel Limited in District Ludhiana passing under Forest Division Ludhiana is hereby conveyed subject to the following conditions:-

- i. 50% Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted for non-forestry purpose may be realized from the User Agency, as per Ministry's directions issued vide letters No. 5-3/2007FC dated 5th February 2009 and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's Order dated 30th October 2002, 28th March, 2008, 24th April, 2008 and 9th May 2008 and MoEF& CC Guidelines dated 28.03.2019.
- ii. As per the orders of the Government of India vide letter No. 5-2/2010 CAMPA 24.06.2011, The Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land and all other Charges shall be deposited through web portal of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
- iii. The User Agency shall provide certificate regarding Scheduled Tribes and

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Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 from the concerned Deputy Commissioner to Divisional Forest Officer.

2. The following conditions shall also be complied with after according final approval:-

1. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
2. The forest land to be diverted as per in-principle approval will not be used for any other purpose.
3. No tree will be felled by the User Agency in this case.
4. In this case Natural gas pipe line shall be laid by User Agency within existing ROW, close to the outermost edge of the forest land falling outside National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. User Agency has given Bank Guarantee of Rs. 4,00,000/- to DFO, Ludhiana.
6. It is Mandatory for the User Agency not to exceed the permissible trench limit of 0.6 meter in width, 2 meter in depth and 16000 meter in Length.
7. The dug out land shall be restored by the User Agency and the same shall be made good immediately after completion of the work /operation.
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, Ludhiana 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. If in future, any decision is taken by the Government of India regarding the exemption of CA/NPV then the User Agency shall comply the same.
13. An undertaking is signed by the User Agency for abiding by all the aforesaid conditions.
14. If any other NOC is necessary for the work under any Act/Rules/Guidelines etc. from other Departments, the User Agency shall obtain the same at its own before the commencement of laying of pipeline.
15. DFO, Ludhiana shall ensure fulfilment of the above conditions and CF, South

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Circle, Patiala will supervise it.

Manjit Kaur  
UNDER SECRETARY  
31/01/2023

Copy to:-

1. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.
2. Conservator of Forests, south Circle, Patiala/DFO Ludhiana.
3. GAIL (India) Limited, Registered office: GAIL Bhawan, 16 Bhikaiji Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi, India - 110066