

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI
Email: environmentforestassam@gmail.com

ECF No.278364/63

Dated Dispur, the 6th March, 2023

- To : The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37.
- Sub : Forest Diversion proposal of 0.96 ha forest land for lying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in Desso Valley Reserved Forest under Jorhat Division in favour of Telesonic Network Limited.

Sir,

This has got reference to the letter No.FG.27/FCA/Proposal/OFC/Jorhat Division dated 17.02.2023 of O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Assam on the subject mentioned above, seeking prior approval of the State Government in accordance with General Approval under section 2(ii) of FCA, 1980 and in terms of the **“Handbook of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarification), MoEF & CC, GoI, 2019”** mentioned under Chapter-4 (para 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.3.1).

After careful consideration of the proposal of the PCCF & HoFF, Assam, I am directed to inform that the Government of Assam hereby conveys its **“In- Principle Approval”** for diversion of 0.96 ha forest land for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in Desso Valley Reserved Forest under Jorhat Division in favour of Telesonic Network Limited subject to the following conditions:

- i. The forest area involved is not within a National Park and/or a Wild Life Sanctuary.
- ii. User Agency shall explore all feasible alternatives to minimize use of forest land.
- iii. Forest land to be used shall be restricted to the bare minimum and shall be used only when it is unavoidable.
- iv. The User Agency shall pay the applicable NPV in pursuance of the orders of the Hon’ble Supreme Court.
- v. The User Agency shall provide an undertaking for payment of additional NPV, if any.
- vi. In addition to monthly report of diversions of forest land under General Approval accorded by MoEF & CC, PCCF & HoFF, Assam shall submit half yearly reports for the period ending June 30 and December 31 containing details of all forest lands diverted under the General Approval along with the actual status of actual utilization of the forestlands so diverted for the stated purpose, to the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India and its concerned Regional Office with intimation to Government of Assam.

- vii. The diversions and compliance to the conditions will be monitored by the PCCF & HoFF, Assam.
- viii. No tree felling is involved for the proposed work.
- ix. After completion of the project the area under RoW should be reclaimed suitably.
- x. **The user agency shall deposit 2% of the total project cost for Human Elephant Conflict mitigation and Wildlife Conservation Purpose.**
- xi. User Agency agrees to make good any loss to Forest/Environment.
- xii. The User Agency will seek permission from the local Forest Official for carrying out any maintenance.
- xiii. In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, General Approval is to be obtained from the State Board for Wildlife.
- xiv. In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through Tiger Reserves, General Approval is to be obtained from the National Board for Wildlife/NTCA.

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

This has the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department.

Dated Dispur, the 6th March, 2023

Memo ECF No.- 278364/63-A

Copy to:

1. The Regional Officer, MoEF & CC, IRO, Guwahati, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, G.S. Road, Rukminigaon, Ghy-22.
2. P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
3. P.S. to the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, E & F Department
4. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, E & F Department
5. The Senior Manager, Telesonic Networks Ltd, Bharti House, Sixmile Khanapara, Guwahati- 781022.

(ESIGNED)

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department