



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण ,वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ **Regional Office**

1st Floor Additional Office Block for GPOA, Shastri Bhawan,
 Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai -600 006
e-mail: ro.moefccc@gov.in /roefccc@gmail.com



F.No. 4-TNB115/2023-CHN/1314

Date: 07th December, 2023

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
 Environment & Forests Department,
 Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 0.193 ha for Laying of underground OFC along Cumbam-Cumuli NH road from Lower camp to Kumuli through Suranganar RF in Theni Division, Theni District, in favour of Jio Digital Fibre, Pvt. Ltd., Chennai-Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government letter. No 19218/FR.10/2022-3 dated 15.11.2023 and online proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/116522/2020, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am hereby directed to convey the Central Government's **In-principle approval (Stage-I)** under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.193 ha for Laying of underground OFC along Cumbam-Cumuli NH road from Lower camp to Kumuli through Suranganar RF, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at the appropriate distance as decided by the DFO concerned, at the cost of User Agency;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carryout CA over an extent of 0.40 ha of DFL area identified in the Suranganur RF at the cost of the User Agency. **The CA shall be carried out as per the time line provided in the FC Rules 2022;**
- (iv) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest area from the User Agency as per the orders of

the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and Ministry's guideline No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 22.03.2022;

- (v) **As a part of the projects falls within the Tiger Corridor area of Mathikettan Chola National Park and Periyar National Park of Kerala State, the User Agency shall obtain approval from the competent authority under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The State Government shall ensure all approvals required for the project before issuing of working permission, as the case may be;**
- (vi) **The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 m depth, 6.44 km length and 0.30 m width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;**
- (vii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (viii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (ix) Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers & staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (x) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- (xi) **No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;**
- (xii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.193 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xiv) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xv) User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

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- (xvi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG, Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xvii) The State Government shall process and submit compliance report on the above conditions through online (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (xviii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980;

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by Karthikeyan

Karupiah

Date: 07-12-2023 15:22:01

Reason: Approved

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy ,Chennai - 32
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery, Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. IGF, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, New Delhi -110003 for information please
4. M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No.89 Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai Mylapore Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600004.
balsamy.thirunagalingam@ril.com
5. Guard file.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)