

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6.**

No.FRS.2/2022/57

Dated Dispur, the 18th January, 2022

From : Shri Indreswar Kalita, ACS,
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department.

To : The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37.

Sub : Forest diversion proposal of 0.915 Ha. forest land for Digboi-Duliajan NLD
Optical Route project in Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under
Digboi Division by Reliance Jio Information Ltd.

Madam,

This has got reference to the letter No.FG.27/FCA/Proposal/Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd./ Digboi Division dated 31.12.2021 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/Stage-I"** for diversion of 0.915 Ha. forest land for Digboi-Duliajan NLD Optical Route project in Upper Dehing Reserved Forest (West Block) under Digboi Division by Reliance Jio Information Ltd. 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. All funds received from the user agency (NPV, etc) under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to Compensatory Afforestation Fund of Assam State managed by the Ad-hoc CAMPA through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
- vii. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- viii. 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 forest lands so diverted for the stated purpose, to the MoEF&CC and its concerned Regional Office with intimation to Government of Assam.
- ix. The diversions and compliance to the conditions will be monitored by the PCCF & HoFF, Assam.
- x. No tree felling is involved for the proposed work.
- xi. After completion of the project the area under RoW should be reclaimed suitably.
- xii. User Agency agrees to make good any loss to Forest/Environment.
- xiii. The User Agency will seek permission from the local Forest Official for carrying out any maintenance.

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- xiv. In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, General Approval is subject to requisite permissions from the State Board for Wildlife shall be obtained.
- xv. In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through Tiger Reserves, General Approval is subject to requisite permissions from the National Board for Wildlife/NTCA shall be obtained.

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,

[Handwritten Signature]
18.01.2022

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

[Handwritten Initials]

Dated Dispur, the 18th January, 2022

Memo No.FRS.2/2022/57-A

Copy to:

1. The Inspector General of Forests (C), MoEF & CC, IRO, Guwahati, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, G.S. Road, Rukminigaon, Ghy-22.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Territorial), Upper Assam Zone, Jorhat.
3. The Conservator of Forests, Northern Assam Circle, Tezpur.
4. The Divisional Forest Officers, Digboi Division, Digboi.
5. The Asstt. Manager, Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd., Bijay Crescent Building, Rukmini Gaon, Guwahati-22.
6. P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
7. P.S. to the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment and Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
8. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment and Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06

[Handwritten Signature]
18.01.2022

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

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