



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
CHANGE



क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर/ Regional Office, Gandhinagar

ए वींग- 407 एवं 409, "अरण्य भवन", सी.एच.-3 सर्किल के समीप, सेक्टर-10ए, गांधीनगर-382010 / A wing- 407 & 409, "ARANYA BHAWAN", Near CH-3 Circle, Sector-10A, Gandhi Nagar-382010
Email: iro.gandhinagr-mefcc@gov.in

Dated: 19th दिसंबर, 2023

To

अपर मुख्य सचिव (वन)/The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)

गुजरात सरकार/Govt. of Gujarat

ब्लॉक नं. 14, आठवां तल, न्यू सचिवालय

Block No. 14, 8th Floor, New Sachivalaya

गांधीनगर, गुजरात/Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

(Online Proposal No: FP/GJ/TRANS/155387/2022)

Sub: Diversion of 109.1287 ha (online 109.689 ha) Protected/ Reserved Forest land for construction of 765 KV D/C transmission line in Navsari and Valsad District in favour of Chief Manager, Powergrid, Navsari, Gujarat.

Sir,

This refers to letter No. FED/FLP/e-file/6/2023/2916/F dated 17.11.2023 of the State Govt. of Gujarat on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under the Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The proposal was duly considered and approved by the **Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its 15th Meeting held on 11.12.2023** for issuance of In-Principle approval. Therefore, the undersigned, on the behalf of the Central Government, conveys **In-Principle/Stage-I approval** for diversion of **109.1287 ha (online 109.689 ha) Protected/ Reserved Forest land** for construction of 765 KV D/C transmission line in Navsari and Valsad District in favour of Chief Manager, Powergrid, Navsari, Gujarat with the following general, standard and specific conditions: -

A: Conditions which needs to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department:

1. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
2. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the **109.1287 ha (online 109.689 ha) forest area** to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated

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05/02/2009 and **revision of NPV vide Ministry letter No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-1) dated 06.01.2022** in this regard.

3. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
4. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
5. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the direction of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
6. The KML file of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details, before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
7. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal.

B: Conditions which needs to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Forest land will be handed over to the User Agency only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the User Agency.
3. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 100.00 ha in Gram Garadiya, Taluka Sanjeli, Range Sanjeli District Dahod and 120.00 ha in Gram Kharoda, Taluka Dahod, District Dahod on degraded forest land, Division-Baria, Reserved Forest Survey No. Garadiya 10pt, Kharoda 250pt of Gujarat at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided.
4. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 8460 trees/minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
5. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
6. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
7. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
8. 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.
9. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
10. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the

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11. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
12. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
13. The User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Gandhinagar by the end of March every year.
14. The User Agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
15. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
16. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
17. User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line for execution of the said scheme before working permission as in case of linear project.
18. User Agency shall be obtained Wildlife Clearance as per the provisions of the extant, rules and regulation. If required.
19. The User Agency shall comply with the guideline for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide Chapter 10 of FCA, 1980 Handbook 2019.
20. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble NGT order for transmission line dated 07.03.2012.
21. The user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
22. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable
23. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

Specific Conditions:


1. The minimum height of transmission tower shall not be less than 62 meters within the forest areas to avoid cutting of big trees.
2. The User Agency shall construct 6 feet high wall along the boundary of the proposed CA in both the patches.
3. The User Agency shall provide at its cost required number of Solar Pumps as given by the Forest Department for irrigating the CA plantation.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of all of the above conditions from the State Government, proposal will be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The User Agency shall take up the work as per the guidelines in force and after ensuring that all necessary clearances for the entire stretch are in place. Working permission, if any issued,

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shall be intimated to RO, Gandhinagar. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this **In-principle/Stage-I** approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this In-principle approval shall be revoked after two (02) years.


19/11/2023
(श्रवण कुमार वर्मा/Shrawan Kumar Verma)
क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी/ Regional Officer
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर/
Regional Office, Gandhinagar.

Copy to/ प्रतिलिपि:

1. The Inspector General of Forests (Central), ROHQ Division, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110003.
2. The APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Aranya Bhawan, Sector- 10A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division Baria, Gujarat.
4. The concerned User Agency.
5. Guard File.