

F. No. 8-47/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 24th September, 2018

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

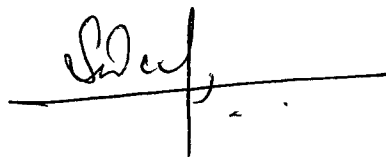
Sub: Proposal for prospecting (Research) for 121.83 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District – Hingoli by taking 150 Bore Holes in 0.375 ha forest area.

Sir,

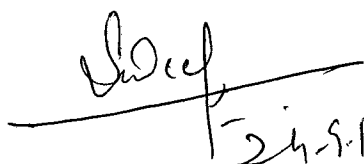
I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FLD-2018/CR.204/F-10 dated 28.06.2018 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government for prospecting (Research) for 121.83 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District – Hingoli by taking 150 Bore Holes in 0.375 ha forest area under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government of ~~Maharashtra~~ and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, ***In-principle*** approval is hereby granted for prospecting (Research) for 121.83 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District – Hingoli by taking 150 Bore Holes in 0.375 ha forest area under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 150 bore holes of 4" diameter over 121.83 ha of forest land.
- ii. **User agency shall prepare a soil and moisture conservation plan of the area duly approved by the state government and commensurate funds shall be deposited in the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA. The plan shall be submitted prior to stage II approval.**
- iii. The permission for prospecting is granted for 6 months from the date of work commencement on the field.
- iv. Construction of temporary dwelling/ hutments etc. for labourers will not be allowed in the forest areas.
- v. Adequate precautions shall be taken to safeguard the adjoining areas from explosives and it shall not be stored in the forest area.
- vi. The user Agency will not dump the overburden on the forest land.
- vii. The UA should clearly understand that this permission is being granted only for prospecting of 150 boreholes over 0.375 ha.



- viii. The proposal for road, building, beam tube and Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) will be considered independently later on merit. The permission for prospecting in the area do not confer any right to the user agency to claim forest land diversion in future for ancillary activities related to the project under section 2(ii) of FCA 1980. All such cases will be dealt on merits.
- ix. All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.
- x. State government shall calculate compensatory levies and NPV for the prospecting proposal as per MoEF&CC guidelines no 5-3/2007-FC dated 09/05/2018. The amount shall be deposited in Adhoc CAMPA account through e-payment prior to Stage II approval.
- xi. The amount of CA scheme shall be deposited online in the Adhoc CAMPA account.
- xii. User agency shall seek permission of DFO of concern Forest Division before entering into the forest area.
- xiii. User agency shall not sublease the prospecting work
- xiv. Each bore-hole shall be dug with prior permission of the DFO.
- xv. Proper plugging of boreholes shall be made after prospecting activities are complete.
- xvi. User agency shall report the progress of prospecting work to the DFO, and also furnish detailed report thereof on completion of the project.
- xvii. No tree felling shall be undertaken for prospecting activities. Project activities shall be restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches if any for the purpose of site preparation.
- xviii. Adequate measures shall be taken by the user agency to ensure that prospecting activities do not harm the wildlife in the area. Any damage done in this context, shall be compensated by the user agency as per assessment by the local DFO.
- xix. The user agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding. Any damage done in this regard shall be compensated by the user agency from the project cost as per assessment of the local DFO
- xx. DFO Hingoli, may impose any other condition for protection and conservation of the flora and fauna in the forest area.
- xxi. In case, rights over forest land proposed to be used for prospecting purpose, has already been settled in favour of eligible claimants as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the claimants shall either be compensated appropriately or location of boreholes be suitably re-located.
- xxii. No fire will be kindled inside and in the vicinity of the forest area.
- xxiii. User Agency shall provide a list of authorised officials/ workers engaged in prospecting to the forest department before commencing the work and also provide the Identity Cards/ Documents to each such official/ worker, to be produced when demanded by the forest department.
- xxiv. The samples collected during the prospecting shall be used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce purpose;
- xxv. The State Forest Department shall deploy adequate staff to supervise the activities to be undertaken by the user agency to prevent any damage to the flora (especially the fresh regeneration), fauna and also to prevent felling of trees during drilling of holes and movement of equipment;
- xxvi. After completion of the prospecting all bore holes shall be completely filled up and the ground restored back to its original position;
- xxvii. During transportation of Bore Drilling Machine / rigs, no new road / permanent path in the forest area will be constructed.


24.5.18

- xxviii. The State Government of Maharashtra and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the Regional Office, Nagpur of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- xxix. The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

After receipt of the report on the compliance to the conditions stipulated in the paragraph-2 above from the State Government of Odisha, final/stage-II approval for prospecting (Research) for 121.83 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District – Hingoli by taking 150 Bore Holes in 0.375 ha forest area under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be considered by this Ministry.

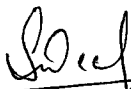
Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard File


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)