



भारत सरकार / Government of India

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Regional Office, Bhubaneswar

ए/३, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur

भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३ / Bhubaneswar - 751 023



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No.5-ORC548/2023-BHU

14th February, 2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001.

Sub:- Diversion of 6.1487 ha of forest area coming within jurisdiction of Angul, Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ghumsur (South), Berhampur and Parlakhemundi Forest Division for laying of underground natural gas pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) of Srikakulum-Angul Natural Gas Pipeline (SAPL) Odisha (Section) Project by GAIL (India) Ltd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0009-2023-1298/FE&CC dated 21.01.2023, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 6.1487 ha of forest area coming within jurisdiction of Angul, Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ghumsur (South), Berhampur and Parlakhemundi Forest Division for laying of underground natural gas pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) of Srikakulum-Angul Natural Gas Pipeline (SAPL) Odisha (Section) Project by GAIL (India) Ltd., was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 09.02.2023, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 17.02.2023, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.14440/9F (Pipeline)-390/2022 dated 23.07.2024, No.1928 dated 27.01.2025 and uploading of the compliance report by State Govt. in *Parivesh* web portal on 10.02.2025, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 6.1487 ha of forest area coming within jurisdiction of Angul, Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ghumsur (South), Berhampur and Parlakhemundi Forest Division for laying of underground natural gas pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) of Srikakulum-Angul Natural Gas Pipeline (SAPL) Odisha (Section) Project by GAIL (India) Ltd., subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.

- The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006 as applicable.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that NPV of the above proposal has been realized from user agency as per Ministry's direction from time to time.
- The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.

- iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency.
- v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall raise compensatory afforestation over 12.523 ha of degraded forest land identified in Kapilash RF under Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary area of Sadangi Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department, at the cost of user agency. The species to be planted in the CA scheme shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall implement intensive Soil & Moisture Conservation measures along both sides of the proposed gas pipeline corridor passing through forest area at project cost in consultation with DFO.
- iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall take all measures for protection and conservation of wildlife in the area.
- vi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall stop construction activities i.e. digging the trench and laying of pipeline during movement of wild elephant in the area. The user shall take precautionary measures not to disturb the wildlife, especially wild elephant in the area.
- vii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the pipeline shall be laid down 1.2 meter below the ground level and RoU width shall be 10 meter in forest area as proposed by the State Govt. and after laying down of pipe line, the ground will be levelled simultaneously.
- viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall take adequate safety measures for accidental leakage of gas pipeline.
- ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- x) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xiii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.

- xv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xviii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xx) Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
- xxi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxii) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.16 of Consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Rules, 2023 vide Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, JorBagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Chief Manager (Construction), GAIL (India) Limited, 612, Utkal Signature, Pahala, NH-5, Bhubaneswar-752101.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

