

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
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F.No. FC-II / IROCH-07/2021

1223

Dated:30/01/2023

To

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Forest Department, Mantralaya,
Mahanadi Bhavan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG).

Sub: Diversion of 9.589 ha of forest land in favour of CSPTCL for construction of 132 KV DCDS line to provide supply from 132/33 KV SS Kondatarai to M/s NTPC Ltd, Jurda in Raigarh district in the state of Chhattisgarh-regarding.

Sir,

Kindly refer letter no. F-5-04/2021/10-2 dated 25.05.2021 of the State Government of Chhattisgarh on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is to say that after examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'In-Principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 07.12.2021. Now, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/ F-5-04/2018/10-2 dated 10.11.2022 and the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter क्र.भू.प्रबंध/विद्युत/479-176/2321 dated 10.10.2022, received in this office on 23.11.2022, has submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'In-Principle' approval and requested the Central Government to grant final approval of the proposal.

In this connection, it is informed that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the State Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter no. krmank/ F-5-04/2021/10-2 dated 10.11.2022, the Central Government hereby accords **Final Approval** under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, provide supply from 132/33 KV SS Kondatarai to M/s NTPC Ltd, Jurda in Raigarh district in the state of Chhattisgarh, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory Afforestation:
 - a.) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 19.178 ha degraded forest land of Compartment No. OA 1029- 3.417 Ha, OA 1023- 8.076 Ha and OA 1021-7.685 Ha Village- Rengapali, Block- Pusaur at Raigarh District, in Raigarh Forest Division, at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
 - b.) The Orange Area which has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department for the purpose of compensatory afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest under Section-4 or Protected Forest under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the State Forest Act. The Nodal Officer Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may report compliance within a period of six (6) months from the date of grant of final approval and send a copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may be, to this office for information and record;

- iii. 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;
- iv. 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;
- v. Felling of trees shall be restricted to only 287 trees, throughout the length of the transmission line while remaining 1319 trees will be kept intact by the User Agency. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vi. No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path;
- vii. All recommendations as suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Chhattisgarh in the Wildlife Management Plan shall binding on the User Agency and the State Government shall ensure that all recommendations are complied by User Agency within the stipulated time. The same shall be submitted to this office for information and record;
- viii. User Agency shall prepare Avifauna management plan with consultation of State Forest Department. The State Government shall ensure that Avifauna management plan are complied by User Agency within the stipulated time. The Avifauna management plan shall be submitted to this office for information and record;
- ix. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- x. 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;
- xi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xiii. The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xiv. 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, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- xvi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- xvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xviii. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- xix. To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 mts. would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up;
 - b) One outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;

- c) In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 4.0 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
- d) 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, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department; and
- e) In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- xx. Height of transmission towers, in forest areas, wherever required, shall be increased to provide ground clearance to the extent maximum possible as per relevant permissible norms;
- xxi. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxii. The 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;
- xxiii. Grant of working permission to the extant proposal may be considered by the State Government in accordance with the provisions as contained in the MoEF&CC's Guidelines dated 7.01.2015; and
- xxiv. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

Yours faithfully,

Chubey
30/1/23

Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS
Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Director (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.
2. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Aranya Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nava Raipur.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o of the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Aranya Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nava Raipur.
4. User Agency.
5. Guard File.

Chubey
30/1/23

Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS
Inspector General of Forests