



No. 5-WBC093/2016-BHU

28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

To

The Principal Secretary,  
Forest Department (Forest Branch),  
Govt. of West Bengal,  
Aranya Bhawan, (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,  
KOLKATA – 700 098.

Sub:- Diversion of 12.288 ha of forest land in favour of Purulia – Kharagpur Transmission Company Ltd. (PKTCL) for construction of Purulia-Ranchi 400 KV/DC transmission line.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.1235-For/O/L/10T-08/2016 dated 13.05.2016, No.1656 dated 23.06.2016 and No.2164 dated 11.08.2016, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 12.288 ha of forest land in favour of Purulia – Kharagpur Transmission Company Ltd. (PKTCL) for construction of Purulia-Ranchi 400 KV/DC transmission line, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 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 08.09.2016, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 22.09.2016, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished 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 State Govt. vide their letter No.363-For/O/L/10T-08/16 dated 16.02.2018 and No.1339-For/O/L/10T-08/16 dated 17.07.2018, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 12.288 ha of forest land in favour of Purulia – Kharagpur Transmission Company Ltd. (PKTCL) for construction of Purulia-Ranchi 400 KV/DC transmission line, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) Additional amount of NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, shall be charged by State Govt. from the user agency.
- iii) Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over 26.00 ha of degraded forest land identified by State Govt. at Mouza-Ichahatu, R.S. Plot No.1, J.L. No.11, Beat-Kalma under Jhalda Range of Purulia Forest Division, against the area of forest land being diverted within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department at the cost of user agency. The C.A. plots have to be demarcated by raising 4 feet high RCC pillars at a distance of 50 meter with GPS readings noted on each pillar.

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- iv) The provision for "cutting back of root stock" existing on the ground added to the C.A. Scheme by the DFO shall also be implemented.
- v) State Govt./Forest Deptt. will focus on creation of water bodies by impounding nullahs and/or excavations at appropriate sites under the soil & moisture conservation works and shall ensure plantation of local tree & shrub and grass species.
- vi) The State Govt. shall implement the Regional Wildlife Management Plan at the cost of user agency.
- vii) Felling of the trees will be limited to maximum 1578 trees. However, to avoid any hazard, balance 1331 trees should not be lopped in general, rather if possible part of these may be lopped as and when it is absolutely essential under the supervision of local Forest Department.
- viii) The user agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 and 19.11.2014.
- ix) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall implement the scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species {preferably Zizyphus (Ber) & Annona (Sita phal) species} in right of way under the transmission line.
- x) The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar.
- xi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- xii) The user agency shall provide LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
- xiii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xiv) 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 user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xvi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xvii) 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.
- xviii) The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Eastern Regional Office of this Ministry.



- xix) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 05.02.2013, in support thereof.
- xx) Any other conditions that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxi) The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and National Green Tribunal Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxii) In case of non-compliance of any of the above conditions, the State Govt. shall report to this office as per procedure laid down in the clause 1.9 of guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Eastern Regional Office of MoEFCC may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,



(S. Mohapatra)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Director, ROHQ, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhawan, LA-10A, Sector-III, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 098.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhawan, LA-10A, Sector-III, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata –700 098.
4. Mr. T.A.N. Reddy, Vice President (Corporate Affairs & BD), Purulia & Kharagpur Transmission Company Ltd, Flat No.601, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vinayaka Apartment, Near Kadru Bridge, Kadru, Ranchi-834 002, Jharkhand.
5. Guard file.



Conservator of Forests (Central)