



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Integrated Regional Office
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F.No.4-TNB052/2020-CHN/
Date; 31st October, 2022

1143

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

Subject: Diversion of 3.9375 ha forest area in Sonalur Reserved Forests for erection of 230 KV DC Transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Chennai - Reg

Madam,

Please refer to the State Government letter No. 20624/FR.10/2019-1 dated 24.1.2020, 20624/FR.10/2019-5 dated 25.02.2021 and online application No. FP/TN/TRANS/15163/2015 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter dated 06.05.2021. The State Government have reported compliance vide letter dated 13.10.2022 (received on 15.10.2022) to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval;

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-II*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **3.9375 ha** forest area in Sonalur Reserved Forests for erection of 230 KV DC Transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Chennai, for a period of 30 years, subject to the following conditions:

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and its maintenance in identified degraded forest area to an extent of **7.874 ha**

in Sonalur RF from the amount which was already realized from the User Agency;

3. The degraded forest land identified for CA and CA scheme shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government. **In case, fencing or any other appropriate measure, if any, is necessary to protect the plantation from cattle grazing and local biotic pressure, same may be included in the CA scheme and such revised CA scheme may be submitted to this office for approval;**
4. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
5. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
6. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
7. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
8. No additional or new path shall be constructed inside the forest area for the transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
9. **The User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the right of way under the transmission line and implement the same, at the cost of the project;**
10. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 35 mtrs;
11. In case the portion of the transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;

12. The user agency at the project cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;
13. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
14. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the **35 meters** width of the strips whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer;
15. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the transmission line projects
16. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred / sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
17. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **3.9375 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
18. The approval under FCA,1980 is subject to the clearance under all other Acts, Rules, Guidelines, Regulations and Court Orders applicable to such project;
19. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
20. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action provision made under FCA, 1980 and guidelines made there under.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. Inspector General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003 **for information;**
4. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, 144, Anna Salai, Chennai-2.
5. Guard file.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)