



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, शिलांग/Regional Office, Shillong
उप कार्यालय, गुवाहाटी/Sub - office, Guwahati
चौथीमंजिल, हौसेफेड इमारत, जीएसरोड, रुक्मिणीगाँव, गुवाहाटी-७८१०२२
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F.No.3 AS A 083/2020/SHI /4806-07

02nd November, 2023

सेवा मे,

अतिरिक्त प्रमुख सचिव/ Addl. Chief Secretary,
असम सरकार/ Govt of Assam
पर्यावरण और वन विभाग/Environment and Forests Department,
दिसपुर/Dispur, गुवाहाटी/Guwahati-781006.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 4.43 ha of forest land for replacement of existing pipeline under Geleky Development project in Geleky Reserve Forest under Sivasagar Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat.

Sir,

This has got reference to the State Government's letter FRM 117/2020/65 dated 14.10.2020, and No. eCF No.149455/147 dated 12.10.2023 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal, In-Principle Approval (IPA) was granted vide this office letter of even number dated 29.11.2021 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

2. In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. eCF No.149455/147 dated 12.10.2023 and its uploading on Ministry's portal on 13.10.2023 and submission of compensatory levies by e-challan and online payment by user agency under CAMPA, **Final Approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of for diversion of 4.43 ha of forest land for replacement of existing pipeline under Geleky Development project in Geleky Reserve Forest under Sivasagar Division in favour of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Jorhat, subject to the following conditions:

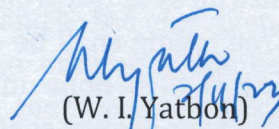
- 1) The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- 2) The compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained over double the degraded forest land of 8.86 ha in compartment No 3, Block No 1, Sivasagar Range, Sivasagar Forest Division in Sivasagar district of Assam as per the funds deposited by the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.

- 3) The State Govt shall ensure that the revised rates of Net Present Value amount of the forest land being diverted under this proposal is transferred through online portal by the user agency into CAMPA account of the State concerned as per the Ministry letter File No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 21.03.2022 before issuing of the Final Approval.
- 4) The charges for felling, logging and transportation of project affected trees should be collected from the User Agency at the rates approved by the State Govt and deposited with the DFO concerned for utilization immediately following the diversion of forest land and State Govt shall intimate immediately about the compliance with respect to the amount deposited as per the undertaking furnished by the user agency.
- 5) The permanent demarcation of forest land for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the user agency.
- 6) The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the 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.
- 7) Overburden shall not be dumped outside the width of the proposed pipeline. The muck generated in the earth cutting will be disposed off at the designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be allowed to roll down the hill slopes.
- 8) The muck dumping area shall be stabilized and plantation of suitable species shall be carried out over stabilized dumps on the cost of the user agency under the supervision of State Forest Department.
- 9) The designing of culverts/ bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of the water, does not give rise to water logging and also does not hamper the movement of the wild animals.
- 10) All the site-specific engineering structures like retaining walls, breast wall and drainage shall be constructed to avoid any soil erosion and to provide slope stability of the concerned hills.
- 11) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake afforestation measures along the proposed pipeline within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- 12) The user agency shall provide suitable under / over pass in Protected Area / Forest Area as per recommendations of CWLW / NBWL / FAC / REC, wherever applicable.
- 13) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- 14) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.

- 15) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- 16) The User Agency shall not expand its occupation or use surrounding forest/forest land in any manner otherwise expressed in this clearance.
- 17) Land so diverted shall revert back to the Forest Department in case it is not needed for the above use after due restoration to its original status (as far as possible and to the satisfaction of State Forest Deptt.).
- 18) The User Agency shall take all possible precautions & care all the time not to impact adversely the surrounding forests and forest land by their actions/activities.
- 19) The user agency will undertake comprehensive soil and water conservation measures at the project cost.
- 20) Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any, shall be done under the supervision of the Forest Department.
- 21) The user agency shall provide fuels 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 area.
- 22) The user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance under Environment Protection Act, 1986, if applicable.
- 23) The user agency will have to obtain the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 clearance for removal, if any, of the stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land.
- 24) The proposal will be implemented under the overall supervision of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 25) 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.
- 26) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 4.43 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal
- 27) The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- 28) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
- 29) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry letter 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

- 30) The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court order (s) and NGT Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- 31) This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval are not complied to the satisfaction of the Regional Office, Shillong.
- 32) Any other conditions that the Regional Office, Shillong, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

भवदीय,

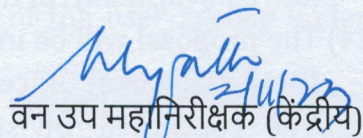

(W. I. Yathou)

वन उप महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Govt of Assam, Environment and Forest Department, Aranya Bhawan, Rop Konwar Jyoti Prasad, Agarwal Path, Near Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra, Panjabari, Guwahati-781037.


वन उप महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)

