



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

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F.No. FC-II/MH-81/2018-NGP /10519

Date: 31.10.2022

✓ To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
HutatmaRajguruChowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 18.9295 ha. of Forest land in favour of MSETCL, Nagpur for laying of 132 KV D/C Transmission Line from Lakhandur to Arjuni Moregaon Substation of Gondia and Bhandara District in the State of Maharashtra - Regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to State Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2018/C.R.187/F-10 dated 06.07.2018 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/I.D-/421/18-19 dated 23.05.2018 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'in-principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 01.03.2019. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra has now submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the State Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra vide his letter no. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-12556/935/19-20 dated 31.08.2019 and letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Nagpur/ID-12556/1626/2022-23 dated 27.09.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letter of even number dated 30.09.2019, the Central Government hereby accords 'final approval' under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 18.9295 ha. of Forest land in favour of MSETCL, Nagpur for laying of 132 KV D/C Transmission Line from Lakhandur to Arjuni Moregaon Substation of Gondia and Bhandara District in the State of Maharashtra subject to the 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 39.00 ha Zudpi Jungle Land in Sur. no. 364, 8/1, 2, 3 & 63 at Villages- Indora, Bhugaon and Zarap, Taluka- Lakhandur and Lakhani, District- Bhandara at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous

species along with 10% RET species of Bhandara District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least two water bodies in Sur. No. 364, four water bodies in Sur. No. 8/1, 2, 3 and two water bodies in Sur. No. 63 shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;


- iii. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 983 trees throughout the length of transmission line, while remaining 3114 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;
- iv. The State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per Rule- 9 (6) (b) (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2002 dated 28.06.2022;
- v. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 25,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;
- 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. The User Agency shall provide insulated transmission wires in the stretch of transmission line passing through the forest area located within a distance of 10 Km from the National Parks/ Wildlife Sanctuaries;
- viii. Width of Right of Way for the transmission line shall be limited to 27 meters;
- ix. The User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- 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 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 & 19/11/2014 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time;
- xii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;



- xiii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xiv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xv. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xvi. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xvii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xx. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project;
- xxi. 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;
- xxii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xxiii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;


This issues with the approval of DDGF(C)/ Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

1. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User agency.
5. Guard file.


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)