



भारत सरकार
Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, शिलांग/Regional Office, Shillong
उपकार्यालय, गुवाहाटी/Sub - Office, Guwahati
चौथीमंजिल, हौसफेड इमारत, जीएस रोड, रुक्मिणीगाँव, गुवाहाटी-७८१०२२
4th Floor, Housefed building, GS Road, Rukmini gaon, Guwahati 781022
दूरभाष /Tel Fax: 0361-2962350, E-mail: iro.guwahati-mefcc@gov.in



File No. 3 AS C 089/2022-GHY

25th September, 2025

सेवा में,

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

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 9.2755 ha of forest land for laying of 18" (carbon steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Guwahati to Panisagar Pipeline project in Tilbhum Reserved Forest under Karimganj Division in favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd.

Sir,

This has got reference to the online proposal no. FP/AS/Pipeline/49586/2020 and State Government's letter No. 195116/I/1076910/2025 dated 21.05.2025 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, and recommendation of Regional Empowered Committee on 23.05.2022, In-Principle Approval (IPA) was granted vide this office letter of even number dated 24.05.2022 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

In this connection and on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter eCF No.195116/69 dated 19.02.2024, F. No. 195116/I/1076910/2025 dated 21.05.2025 and submission of compensatory levies by e-challan and online payment by user agency under CAMPA and confirmation of fund for wildlife conservation and mitigation plan by NCAMPA vide its letter no. F.No.1-04/2014-CAMPA-Part(1)(Computer no. 278334) dated 18.09.2025, **Final Approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 9.2755 ha of forest land for laying of 18" (carbon steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) from Guwahati to Panisagar Pipeline project in Tilbhum Reserved Forest under Karimganj Division in favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

- 2) Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency.
- 3) The compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over the double the degraded forest land of 19 ha in Block No 1, Patheria Hills Reserved Forest, Patharkandi Range in Karimganj Forest Division in Karimganj district of Assam within three years from the date of Stage-II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department 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. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
- 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 State Govt shall ensure that under no circumstances, implementation of mitigating measures envisaged in Human Elephant/ Wildlife conflict mitigation and wildlife Conservation Plan should be delayed beyond a period of 2 years to ensure commencement of rejuvenation of ecosystem services lost from the forest area allowed for non-forestry use of forest land at the earliest possible time.
- 7) An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions of the submitted Human Elephant/ Wildlife conflict mitigation and wildlife Conservation Plan shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife warden to the concerned Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- 8) 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.
- 9) Overburden shall not be dumped outside the proposed area. The muck, if 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) The user agency shall provide suitable under / over pass in Protected Area / Forest Area as per recommendations of CWLW / NBWL / FAC / REC, wherever applicable.
- 12) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

- 13) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- 14) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 15) The User Agency shall not expand its occupation or use surrounding forest/forest land in any manner otherwise expressed in this clearance.
- 16) 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.).
- 17) 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.
- 18) 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.
- 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) No damage to the flora fauna of the area shall be caused.
- 22) No labour camp shall be established inside the forest area.
- 23) The user agency shall provide fuel wood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers working at the site to avoid damage/felling of trees or buy the fuel wood from the extracted timber from the Forest Department to be used by labourers.
- 24) The user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance under Environment Protection Act, 1986, if applicable.
- 25) 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.
- 26) The user agency shall monitor the pipeline at regular interval to ensure safety and to avoid any accident. The user agency shall submit such monitoring reports to the DFO concerned;
- 27) The proposal will be implemented under the overall supervision of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 28) The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- 29) 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.
- 30) 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.

- 31) The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order(S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project
- 32) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 & Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, guideline & clarification, 2023.
- 33) 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.

भवदीय,

(Pee Lee Ete)

वन उप महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)

Copy to:

1. प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक/ 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.

(Pee Lee Ete)

वन उप महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)