

भारत सरकार Government of India पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गुवाहाटी/Integrated Regional office, Guwahati चौथी मंजिल, हौसेफेड इमारत, जी एस रोड, रुक्मणी गाँव, गुवाहाटी- ७८१०२२ 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Housefed building, GS Road, Rukmini gaon, Guwahati -781022



सत्यमेव जयते

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06<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

## सेवा में,

प्रमुख सचिव सह प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक / Principal Secretary – Cum- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests अरुणाचल प्रदेश सरकार/ Govt of Arunachal Pradesh पर्यावरण और वन विभाग /Dept of Forests & Environment ईटानगर/ Itanagar- 791111.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 27.34 ha of forest land for construction of 33 KV SC transmission line from Miao to Kharsang under Comprehensive Scheme for strengthening of T & D system by Power Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir,

This has reference got to the State Government's letter No. FOR.816/CONS/2018/1073-77 dated 20.06.2019 and No. FOR.816/CONS/2018/2820-25 dated 27.07.2022 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted by the Central Govt, under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act. After careful consideration of the proposal and the recommendation of REC in the meeting held on 28.12.2021, In-Principle Approval (IPA) was granted vide this office letter of even number dated 28.12.2021 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. FOR.816/CONS/2018/2820-25 dated 27.07.2022 and its uploading on Ministry's portal on 30.11.2022 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 27.34 ha of forest land for construction of 33 KV SC transmission line from Miao to Kharsang under Comprehensive Scheme for strengthening of T & D system by Power Department, Govt of Arunachal Pradesh in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, 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 raised and maintained over double the degraded forest land of 55 ha identified at Namphuk & Miao RF under Namphai & Diyun Range, Nampong Forest Division in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh 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.
- 4) The proposed OB labour Sheds & MB type quarter in the Compensatory afforestation scheme should be of temporary structure and to be dismantled within 10 years from the 1<sup>st</sup> year of plantation. State Govt shall adhered to Section 5(4)(e) of CAF rules and other relevant Rules as applicable while implementing the Compensatory afforestation scheme; and accordingly, technically approved and duly signed revised CA estimate scheme is to be submitted.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Permanent demarcation of forest land proposed for diversion shall be done on the ground at project cost before handing over the forest land to the User Agency.
- 7) All other clearance/NOCs under different rules/ regulations/local laws and under Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF, New Delhi guideline No. 11-9/98-FC(Pt) dated 05.02.2013 shall be complied with.
- 8) The State Forest Department shall carryout creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) under the transmission line from the amount which is already realized from the user agency;
- 9) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- 10) The recommendation of 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife dated 24.09.2021 as mentioned under shall be strictly implemented by the State Govt:-
  - (i) The implementation of mitigation plan submitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden/State Board for Wildlife along with the following:
    - a) Installation of bird diverters in power lines to save birds from getting electrocuted.
    - b) Creation of physical barriers like trenches to restrict wild elephants.
    - c) Creation of local fruit bearing tree plantation, fodder and bamboo plantation in the periphery of the village to augment wildlife and also act as a diversion for crop raiding wild animals.
    - d) An Alternative source of livelihood generation in the form of poultry, piggery and also bee- keeping should be introduced in the area.
    - e) Equipping the Forest Department and communities for effective management
    - f) Erection of watch towers in the buffer village for monitoring of wild elephant movement during the crop harvesting season.
    - g) Awareness and Training of the local community
    - h) Installation of night vision signage and hoardings
    - i) Canopy connectivity for animal crossings
    - j) Waste Management Plan for taking care of non-biodegradable waste

- (ii) Insulated cables should be used along the entire stretch of the proposed transmission line so as to avoid electrocution to avifauna and other arboreal species as well as avoid poaching using electricity. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 54th meeting held on July 18, 2019.
- (iii) Height above the ground at the lowest point of the lowest conductor or grounding wires (i.e., at maximum sag point) of power lines should be:
  - (a)A minimum of 10m above ground on level terrain (slope 20 degrees) so that no elephant can reach it even with raised trunk.
  - (b)A minimum of 15m above ground on steeper terrain (slope > 20 degrees) so that no elephant can reach it even with raised trunk.
- (iv) The entire length of the proposed power line between Miao and Diyun should be marked with appropriate bird diverters spaced at 10m intervals. The bird diverters shall be regularly checked and maintained by the power company.
- (v) The alignment of the power line should be made such that minimum numbers of trees are felled. Any felling/pollarding/pruning of trees for allowing electrical clearance/maintenance will be done with the permission of the local DFO, Namdapha Tiger Reserve.
- (vi)No construction/maintenance work shall be permitted within forest and wildlife areas in between 6 PM to 7 AM. Labour camps should be at least 1 km away from the boundaries of the Tiger Reserve.
- (vii) No construction material (including soil, stones etc.) should be collected from the forest.
- (viii) Trees below the transmission lines which reach a maximum height of 7-8 m should not be cut.
- (ix) An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.
- (11)In case the portion of transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly area, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- (12)The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission line through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter no. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.
- (13) The User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- (14) The lay out of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (15) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (16) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternative 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 alternative fuel.

- (17) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (18) 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.
- (19) The user agency will have to obtain the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 clearance for removal, if any, of stone, river sand, river boulders in forest land.
- (20) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- (21) The proposal will be implemented under the overall supervision of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- (22) 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.
- (23) 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.
- (24) 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.
- (25) 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 Guidelines F No. 11-42/2017-FC dated 29/01/2018.
- (26) Any other conditions that the Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.

भवदीय.

(Ms. Laetitia Jean Syiemiong) वन उप महानिरीक्षक (केंद्रीय) Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)

Copy to:

 प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, अरुणाचल प्रदेश सरकार/ Government of Arunachal Pradesh, पर्यावरण और वन विभाग / Department of Env. & Forests, ईटानगर/Itanagar.

वन उप महानिरीक्षेक (केंद्रीय) Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C)