



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),

1st & 2nd floor, HEPC Building, No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,

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F.No.4-APA077/2018-CHN/1864

Date 30th November, 2018

To,

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 433.88 ha. of forest land in Ganganapalli & Palakonda RF of Kadapa Division for excavation of GNSS Phase-II Main Canal from KM 96.50 to KM 119.00 under Package No. 03/06 in favour of Executive Engineer, SKD GNSS (Sri Krishna Deveraya Galeru, Nagari Sujala Sravanthi) Division, Prodattur-reg.

Reference: The State Government of Andhra Pradesh letter No.EFS01-12021/88/Section-II/2018 dated 14.09.2018.

Sir,

Please refer to the subject and reference cited above. This is to inform that the subject proposal was considered by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), RO (SEZ), Chennai in its 32nd meeting held on 27.11.2018 and recommended for clearance. However, as recorded in the deliberations of the said minutes (**copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed**), details about previous diversions in the forest area currently proposed for diversion are to be submitted by the Forest Department but the same are yet to be received. Hence, I am directed to request for furnishing the following information / documents to this office at the earliest to enable further processing of the proposal;

- As per the KML file uploaded by the UA, it appears that, part of roads, transmission lines and towers are present within the forest area currently proposed for diversion. Hence, details of such projects for which forest area got diverted already, if any, located within the forest area proposed for diversion under the current proposal, may be furnished. Details shall include information on previous diversions, purpose, actual extent of overlap over the current proposal area, consent from the primary User Agency for re-diversion, relevant map, etc.

o/c

DESPATCHED (BY SP)
Date 30/11/18 PSL

- b. In segment-I, the alignment of canal appears to enter into non forest area for a short distance but the area is proposed for diversion. Hence, the legal status of the area in question may be clarified and if the area indeed falls in non-forest land, a revised map along with the extent of such area may be furnished.

Yours faithfully,



(D.Sathiyam)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004.



(D.Sathiyam)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

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Minutes of the 32nd meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai held on 27.11.2018

The 32nd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai was held on 27.11.2018 in the office of the Additional PCCF (Central), HEPC building, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-34. The following members / special invitees were present during the meeting.

1. Dr. M.R.G Reddy, IFS
Additional PCCF (Central),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai ... Chairperson
2. Shri K. Jude Sekar, IFS (Retired)
Flat No. R-33, Arihant Heirloom Apartments,
P.O. Thalambur, Off. OMR
Chennai-600130 ...Member
3. Dr.C.N. Rao, IFS (Retired)
9-10-3 Giddi Lane
Gandhi Nagar, Kakinada,
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh ... Member
4. Shri.B.S.S. Reddy, IFS (Retired)
107, White House Apartments, Road No.13,
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad ...Member
5. Smt. Manoharan Ravathi IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests (Vig.) & (I/c FCA).
Govt. of Andhra PradeshSpecial invitee
6. Shri D. Sathiyam, IFS
Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai ...Member



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7. Dr.K. Ganesh Kumar, IFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai

...Member-Secretary

8. Shri S. Saravanan, IFS,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Tirupathi WLM Circle, Tirupathi

.....Special invitee

At the outset, Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of REC. The proposals in the agenda were examined by the Committee. The representatives of the User Agencies present were also heard. Recommendations / decisions of the Committee, based on the deliberations are as under;

State: Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ Agenda No 1: Diversion of 433.88 ha. of forest land in Ganganapalli & Palakonda RF of Kadapa Division for excavation of GNSS Phase-II Main Canal from KM 96.50 to KM 119.00 under Package No. 03/06 in favour of Executive Engineer, SKD GNSS (Sri Krishna Deveraya Galeru, Nagari Sujala Sravanthi) Division, Prodattur.

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has noted the following facts of the proposal:

1. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded the hard copy of the proposal vide letter No.EFS01-12021/88/Section-II/2018 dated 14.09.2018 for diversion of 433.88 ha. of forest land in Ganganapalli & Palakonda RF of Kadapa Division for excavation of GNSS Phase-II Main Canal from KM 96.50 to KM 119.00 under Package No. 03/06 in favour of Executive Engineer, SKD GNSS (Sri Krishna Deveraya Galeru, Nagari Sujala Sravanthi) Division, Prodattur.and requested to communicate Gol's approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. Purpose wise breakup: 433.88 ha for excavation of canal from km 96.500 km to km 107.425 and km 111.00 to km 119.00 in Palakonda and Ganganapalli RFs.
Total area proposed for diversion is in two segments as below;
 - a. Segment 1; 230.95 ha for canal and 1.26 ha for road.
 - b. Segment 2: 199.6 ha for canal and 2.07 ha for road.**Width of the canal has not been reported in the proposal.**
3. Legal Status of Forest land: Reserve Forests
4. Status of User Agency: State Government.



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5. Density of Vegetation: In their online application it has been reported as 0.3, Eco Class 3. However, the DFO, Kadapa in part II (Hard copy) has reported as 0.2 to 0.5 (Eco Class III) and reported as 117.01 ha as Dense Forest and 316.87 ha as Open Forest;
6. Cost of the project: Rs. 16133 lakhs;
7. As reported, 5000 permanent and 500000 man days of temporary employment are likely to be generated due to the project;
8. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that most of the Forest areas are hilly and reported that they are not vulnerable to erosion;
9. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that the forest area proposed for diversion does not fall under Sanctuary / National Parks, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc;
10. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna is found in the area;
11. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area;
12. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that, requirement of forest land for diversion as proposed by the UA is unavoidable and the barest minimum for the project.
13. The DFO, Kadapa Forest Division has reported that no work in violation of FCA, 1980 has been done by the User Agency;
14. Enumeration list of trees has been furnished and uploaded in the web portal. However, number of trees to be felled has not been reported in the proposal;
15. The User Agency has identified an area of 435.68 ha in four patches for CA, the details are as follows;

Sl No	Name of the Village	Sy No	Area in ha
01	Chinna Yerasala	1914	186.81
02	Sancherla	548	21.32
03	M.Kambaladinne	578	182.46
04	M.Kambaladinne	583	45.09
	Total		435.68

CA scheme including 10 years of maintenance with a financial outlay of Rs. 3308.50 lakhs has been furnished. However, CA scheme has not been uploaded in the web portal. Site inspection report on non-forest area identified for CA



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purpose and soil suitability certificate have been furnished. Map of the CA areas have been furnished and uploaded in the web portal;

16. RoFR certificate (Form II) for an area of 433.88 ha has been furnished..
17. Site Inspection reports of the DFO, Kadapa Forest Division and CCF, Kurnool Circle has been furnished and uploaded in the web portal.
18. The subject proposal has been processed through DSS cell and the area is found to be not inviolate.
19. The subject proposal has been uploaded in the web portal vide proposal number FP/AP/IRRIG/31863/2018.
20. Map of the Forest land proposed for diversion has been furnished and uploaded in the web portal.
21. The User Agency has reported that, administrative structures like dispensaries, School buildings, railway & electric lines etc are not present in the forest area proposed for diversion. However, as per the KML file uploaded by the UA, it appears that part of roads and transmission towers are present within the proposed forest area for diversion.
22. The Environment Clearance for the project appears to have expired.
23. The State Government has been requested for clarification / additional information as below;
 - a. Information on the whole GNSS project; status of Phase I including details on forest land diverted, CA lands afforested, alignment, benefits etc may be submitted;
 - b. Details on the width of the alignment, components of work proposed therein may be submitted;
 - c. It appears that either the RF boundary is wrongly depicted in Segment I at survey points 99 & 100 or the KML file of the diversion area submitted is wrong at this place. Additionally in segment I, the alignment of canal appears to enter into non forest area for a short distance but the area is proposed for diversion.
 - d. It appears that 400-500 mtr width is proposed for diversion over a small stretch, which may be justified;
 - e. It appears that in segment I, the area proposed for diversion includes 2-3 roads, transmission lines and two towers. Details of previous diversion, if any in this regard may be submitted. Impact of the project on the infrastructures may be stated.



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24. Subsequently, the User Agency has made available details on the GNSS Project, Status of Stage I, justification for the alignment chosen for the width of proposed diversion;
25. The Project site was inspected by the CF (Central). Site inspection report has been placed before REC and the committee has examined the same;
26. The proposal has been recommended at all levels of the State Government.

Deliberation:

The committee has scrutinized the site inspection report. It has heard the Nodal Officer and the representative from User Agency who were present in the meeting regarding the details of previous diversion, if any of roads and transmissions towers located within the area proposed for diversion now. The Nodal officer has stated that relevant details about previous diversions if any will be furnished immediately. On the likely impact of the present proposal on them, the User Agency has stated that the structures are falling outside the water carriage way of the Canal and hence the proposal will not have any adverse effect on the existing structures. The User Agency has also clarified on the alignment proposed for the canal and also explained the reasons for the width of the diversion proposed which is varying.

Recommendation:

The committee has decided to recommend the proposal for clearance, after receipt of details about previous diversions within the area proposed for diversion in the current proposal, subject to usual conditions applicable for such projects, in addition to the following conditions:

1. The Forest Department shall undertake canal bank plantation at the cost of User Agency covering the entire length of the canal.
2. To facilitate the movement of wild animals, the User Agency shall construct adequate number of CM & MD structures as proposed across the canal in consultation with the Forest Department. In case of underpasses, a minimum height of 2.75 meters shall be ensured.
3. A monitoring committee shall be constituted for the GNSS project at the State Level under the chairmanship of an APCCF rank officer including the DFOs of the concerned divisions, to monitor the compliance to the conditions imposed in Forest Clearance.



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4. The Excavated material under the project shall not be used for commercial benefits and shall not be dumped in the nearby forest areas other than the area proposed for diversion.
5. The spoil banks shall be stabilized by giving adequate slope and by undertaking planting.
6. The PCCF shall ensure that the CA plantation is maintained for a period of 10 years and issue suitable instructions to the field officers in this regard and to suitably revise the FSR, if required.
7. Avenue plantation on both sides of the approach roads shall be carried out by the User Agency and the same shall be maintained.

Agenda No 2

Diversion of 101.24 ha of FL located in Compt. No. 571, 572, 573 & 575 of Ganganapalli RF of Kadapa Division for excavation of GNSS Phase-II Main Canal from KM 87.40 to KM 94.80 under Package No. 02/06 in favour of EE, GNSS Division No. 7, Pulivendula, Y.S.R. District.

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has noted the following facts of the proposal:

1. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded the hard copy of the proposal vide letter No.EFS01-12021/109/Section-II/2018 dated 26.09.2018 for diversion of 101.24 ha of FL is located in Compt. No. 571, 572, 573 & 575 of Ganganapalli RF of Kadapa Division for excavation of GNSS Phase-II Main Canal from KM 87.40 to KM 94.80 under Package No. 02/06 in favour of EE, GNSS Division No. 7, Pulivendula, Y.S.R. District and requested to communicate approval of the GoI under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. **Purpose wise breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion:** An area of 99.90 ha for Earth works Excavation of GNSS Canal and 1.34 ha for approach road. However, the UA has reported only one component in the online application.
3. Legal Status of Forest land: Reserve Forests
4. Status of User Agency: Private
5. Density of Vegetation: 0.3, Eco Class 3.
6. Cost of the project: Rs. 53500 lakhs.



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