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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, ASSAM
ARANYA BHAWAN, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-37

No. FG.27/FCA/Proposal/IGGL/K.E. Division

Email: adilpccf.nodal@gmail.com

Dated 8.3.2022

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam
Environment and Forest Department
Dispur, Guwahati-6

16/02/2022 / URGENT
Sub:

Forest diversion proposal of 4.7289 Ha forest land for laying of 18" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) from Guwahati to Panisagar in West Aprikola Reserved Forest under Kamrup East Division, Guwahati in favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd.

Ref:

Government of India letter No. 3-AS B 076/2021-GHY/2022-2023 dated 23.2.2022.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am directed to enclose herewith a letter No. IGGL/GHY/NEGG/FOREST/Kamrup M/2021/2 dated 1.3.2022 along with its enclosures received from the Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. regarding Environmental Clearance against forest diversion proposal of 4.7289 Ha forest land for laying of 18" (Carbon Steel) Natural Gas Pipeline along with Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) from Guwahati to Panisagar in West Aprikola Reserved Forest under Kamrup East Division, Guwahati in favour of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd.

The MoEF & CC website, there are separate tabs under Rules and Regulation for ESA (Ecologically Sensitive Area) Notifications and ESZ (Eco-Sensitive Zone) Notifications, which implies that ESZ/Wildlife Sanctuaries are not same as ESA. There are 8 numbers of ESA in the entire country and the proposed Guwahati-Panisagar Pipeline is not passing through any of them. MoEF & CC had also given a reply to Lok Sabha question on 14.3.2017 stating that 8 numbers of ESA had been notified and draft notification in 1 case had been published (Copy enclosed). The proposed Guwahati-Panisagar Pipeline shall not be passing through Amchang and Pobitira Wildlife Sanctuaries but through their respective ESZ. As per Office Memorandum dated 6.9.2018 of IA Division, MoEF & CC, Pipeline project shall be required to obtain prior Environmental Clearance only if it is passing through National Parks/Sanctuaries/Coral Reefs/ Ecologically Sensitive Areas. As the proposed pipeline is not passing through any National Park/ Sanctuary/Coral Reef/ Ecologically Sensitive area, it is not required to obtain prior Environmental Clearance.

Therefore, you are requested to kindly forward the above-mentioned report to the Central Government, MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati for onward necessary action.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)

Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Copy to:

1. The Inspector General of Forest (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, 4th Floor, Housefed Building, G.S Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-781022 for kind information.
2. The Chief Project Manager, Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. 5th Floor, Central Mall, Christain Basti, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781005

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