Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force), Maharashtra State.
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,
1st Floor, B Wing, Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001
Tel.No.: 0712- 2556916 , E-mail: apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

No. : Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-40697/Nagpur/ 287 /25-26
Nagpur- 440 001, Date: 07/05/2025

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai – 400032

Sub: Diversion of 5.5395 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. PIX Transmission Ltd., Nagpur for expansion of PIX transmission factory for enhancement of production capacity in village Nagalwadi, Tal. Hingna in Nagpur District in the State of Maharashtra- reg.

Ref :
1. The Conservator of Forests (T), Nagpur letter No. Desk-10/Land/C.R./1000, dtd.25.09.2023. |P.N.172
2. This office letter No. Desk17/FCA-S1/PID-40697/Nagpur/2147, dtd. 17.10.2023 |P.175
3. The Government of Maharashtra, letter No. FLD-2022/CR-267/F-10, dtd.31.10.2023. |P.N.177
4. The Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Nagpur letter No. FC-II/MH-207/2023-NGP/14225, dtd. 02.05.2025. |P.187

The State Government vide letter under reference no. 3 has requested the Government of India to reconsider the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Subsequently, the Government of India vide letter under reference no. 4 has raised certain points and informed to re-examine the matter and take necessary action. In this context, the Conservator of Forests (T), Nagpur vide letter under reference no. 1 has already submitted the compliance with recommendation, which is shown as under:

Point No.1*. Since the Regional Empowered Committee has already rejected the proposal, the State Government is requested to submit valid and cogent reasons for seeking reconsideration, specifically addressing the observations made by the REC, to enable further examination and placement of the case before the Committee on merit.*

Compliance: Site-specific nature of project: This is to resubmit that Para 1.15 is categorically keeps restriction for diversion of forest for non-forest purpose for non-site specific project like establishing industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, disposal of fly ash, rehabilitation of displaced persons etc. However, the proposal is not to establish a new

industry which otherwise can be built up on other land, but is for expansion of an existing factory for enhancement of production capacity, as such expansion & enhancement of production capacity requires land contiguous with existing factory set up. User agency explained the entire process during inspection and also presented through video clips of the process that the production capacity enhancement is possible only with adding the capacity of each segment in series and therefore it needs land in contiguous for main process of production. The proposed land is adjacent to the existing factory and is suitable for expansion and enhancement of existing production capacity. While processing the proposal from RFO level to CCF level, site inspection and process inspections have been carried out by concerned authorities to ensure that the expansion project is site specific.

Elaborate audiovisuals of the entire process submitted by user agency is to prove that this proposal is for site-specific project and not a new establishment as per the para 1.15 and directives spelt out in quoted circular dated 24/1/2022. As per Field Official, said land is not suitable for forestry purpose and prone to encroachment. This diversion is win-win situation for Forest Department, because user agency has consented to provide alternate non forest land in Sahyandri Tiger Reserve which is already 60% covered with plantation.

While considering the project as site specific, the diversion is strongly justified on the following grounds:

1. The subjected land is rocky in nature, having no water, no trees and not suitable for any kind of afforestation. However, the non-forest land which is to be provided is suitable for forestry.
2. The subjected land is in various small patches in isolation and difficult to manage; this was earlier managed by the Revenue Department.
3. The proposed land, especially part of Gut No. 18, is already encroached by a colony of slums. The satellite imagery for the last three decades indicate progressing encroachments over the land. Considering the day-by-day increasing encroachment, it will be very difficult for the Forest Department to hold vacant possession of the remaining open land in the future, though the Forest Department is making its best efforts to protect the land from encroachment.
4. The majority of the land in Gut No. 18 is declared as industrial zone By Nagpur Regional Development Authority and is suitable for Industrial use only, because of barren nature of land which is devoid of tree growth and soil depth.

5. User agency explained that they have also searched land availability in surrounding/ other adjacent area for such expansion of project, but suitable land is not available, only barren patches of zudpi land available which is devoid of tree growth.
6. By such expansion of existing industry, new employment opportunities would be generated. This will also help in the development of surrounding local area/villages. Being a manufacturer, the project will be contributing in the Indian economy by selling goods in the domestic market as well as in the International Market.
7. Most of the Industries in the nearby MIDC area are sick and the situation are not good, by this expansion project additional direct and indirect employment for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower would be generated.

The User agency has already procured equivalent non forest land in Sahyandri Tiger Reserve Buffer Area which has more than 60% vegetation cover. User agency has also assured CA on equivalent degraded forest in Nagpur Division, by the diversion, forest depth is benefitting more as per vegetation cover.

Point No.2*. As the proposal stands rejected by the REC, the State Government may alternatively take appropriate action in accordance with sub-rule (3)(iv) of Rule 10 of the VSS Rules, 2023, for consideration by the competent authority.*

Compliance: As per sub-rule (3)(iv) of Rule 10 of the VSS Rules, 2023, *the decisions taken by the Regional Empowered Committee or the Deputy Director General of Forests to grant 'In-principle approval or to reject a proposal, in accordance with the power delegated under this rule, as and when necessary or required, may be reviewed by Central Government and decision taken by the Central Government in such matters shall be the final.*

In view of the above facts, you are once again requested to process the proposal by reconsidering the justification provided and move the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

7/5/25

8/5/25

(Naresh Zurmure)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy to:

1. The Conservator of Forests (T), Nagpur.
2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara.
3. The Senior Manager Administration, M/s. Pix Transmission Limited, J-7, MIDC, Hingna Road. Dist. Nagpur-440016.

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण ,वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440001.
apccfcetral-ngp-mef@gov.in

F. No. FC-II/MH-207/2023-NGP/14225 **Date: 02 .05.2025**

To,

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

Sub: Diversion of 5.5395 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. PIX Transmission Ltd., Nagpur for expansion of PIX transmission factory for enhancement of production capacity in village Nagalwadi, Tal. Hingna in Nagpur District in the State of Maharashtra- reg.

Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter under reference regarding the subject cited above. In this regard, the undersigned is directed to submit that the above-mentioned diversion proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held at the Regional Office, Nagpur, on 24.03.2023. After detailed deliberation, the Committee rejected the proposal. A copy of the minutes of the REC decision is enclosed for ready reference.

Subsequently, as the State Government has submitted a request to reconsider the proposal under the provisions of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*, the matter was referred to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Based on the directions received, the following observations are made:

1. Since the Regional Empowered Committee has already rejected the proposal, the State Government is requested to submit valid and cogent reasons for seeking reconsideration, specifically addressing the observations made by the REC, to enable further examination and placement of the case before the Committee on merit.

2. As the proposal stands rejected by the REC, the State Government may alternatively take appropriate action in accordance with sub-rule (3)(iv) of Rule 10 of the VSS Rules, 2023, for consideration by the competent authority.

Accordingly, the State Government is requested to re-examine the matter and take necessary action.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully

21/5/25

(Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)

AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Van Bhavan, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Van Bhavan, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
3. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi
4. Guard file.

21/5/25

(Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)

AIGF (Central)