



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE**

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FC-III/MH-30/2018-NGP | 3883

Date: 29th June, 2018

To

✓ The Secretary,
Govt. of Maharashtra,
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.

Sub: Diversion of 432.6791 ha of Forest Land in favour of Powergrid, Bramhapuri for Construction of 800 KV D/C Raigarh - Pugalur Transmission Line passing through the Forest area in total 76 Villages of Four Forest Division in Chandrapur District in the State of Maharashtra.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-2018/CR-185/F-10 dated 7.06.2018 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that scrutiny of the proposal in the Regional Office (WCZ) of the MoEF&CC at Nagpur revealed following:

- i. The State Government in its forwarding letter has mentioned involvement of 76 villages in the proposal while detail of villages provided in the online proposal, mentions a total of 79 villages in the project. The discrepancies in the number of villages involved and forest area involved thereof may be rectified by the State Government.
- ii. As per details of legal status of forest land submitted in Part-II submitted online, an area of 13.16 ha in Brahmpuri Forest Division has been classified into other category. Exact legal status of 'other category' needs to be intimated by the State Government.
- iii. The State Government in its forwarding letter has mentioned felling of 47,061 trees, while Part-II submitted online mentioned felling of 56,610 trees. Discrepancies in total number of project affected trees may be rectified by the State Government and exact number of trees may be intimated by the State Government. Further, actual number of trees falling in the corridor of 10 meter below each conductor which will be actually felled may also be intimated by the State Government. Further, given the vegetation of 0.4 in all Forest Divisions, comments of the State Government may also be submitted why no felling of trees has been proposed in Central Chanda Forest Division and vice-versa in rest of the Divisions.
- iv. Site specific CA schemes for the each Division needs to be submitted by the State Government by incorporating the provisions of appropriate protection measures as some of the CA patches in Central Chanda and Chandrapur Forest Division were observed to be surrounded by the agricultural land and may be likely to be encroached in near future.
- v. As per area calculation statement maximum RoW of 69 meter has been proposed for the construction of transmission line. However, it was also observed that RoW as low as 6.0 meters has also been proposed in the forest area. For instance RoW of 18.0 m, 47.0 m, 58.0m, 219.0 m, 34.0 m, 22.60 m and 6.0 meters in Survey No. 136, 137, 140, 176, 177, 175, 147 and 191, respectively has been

proposed in forest land of Allitola village in Wadsa Forest Division. Further, no non-forest land has been reported to be involved in aforementioned survey numbers. Therefore, variation in the RoW within the same survey number may be clarified by the State Government in all Forest Divisions and anomaly, if any be rectified by the State Government.

- vi. A copy of the letter containing the comments of the PCCF (Wildlife), Maharashtra along with its annexure, stated to be enclosed, has not been received along with the proposal. Further, as the proposed transmission line falls into the corridor of Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve and Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary PA, the State Government may therefore, obtain comments of the NTCA in light of provisions as contained in Section 38-O(g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- vii. Examination of the cost-benefit analysis revealed that parameters for CB analysis, as provided in the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 1.08.2017 have not been accounted for completely by the User Agency. Revised CB analysis strictly taking into consideration the parameters, as specified in the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 1.08.2017 needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- viii. Examination of the alternatives explored by the User Agency revealed that adequate details corresponding to alternative alignments explored have not been submitted. Comprehensive details of attributes of alternatives examined viz. forest area involved, no of trees involved, etc. vis-à-vis feasibility of project and soft copies of kml/shape files may be submitted by the State Government. Further, details of other transmissions lines, passing through the area or in the proximity of the proposed line may also be intimated by the State Government.
- ix. Complete compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not been submitted by the State Government. The same needs to be submitted along with supporting documents as specified in clause (a) of Form-I annexed to the MoEF&CC's advisory dated 5.07.2013.
- x. Details of employment potential in terms of man days of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons on permanent (direct and indirect) and temporary (direct and indirect) basis have not been provided.
- xi. The State Government may obtain an undertaking from the User Agency in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines dated 7.01.2013 issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information on shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully



Charan Jeet Singh
Scientist 'C'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. User Agency.
4. Guard File.



Charan Jeet Singh
Scientist 'C'