

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 21st October 2021

To

The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Forests)

All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Sub:- Modification of Guidelines to allow trenches of 2 metre width for laying underground slurry pipelines - Reg.

Madam/Sir

I am directed to refer to letter dt 09.09.2021 received from Secretary, Ministry of Steel, letter dt 18.09.2020 received from the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, letter dt 28.06.2020 received from the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & industry LTD and issues highlighted in the 3rd Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) held on 05.07.2021, wherein interventions were requested from the MoEF&CC to allow trenches of width of 2 metres for laying of underground slurry pipelines in the already diverted forest land within the existing RoW of roads and accordingly, to modify the guidelines at para 4.2 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In this regard it is informed that the matter was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 17.09.2021. Minutes of the meeting of FAC may be accessed at www.parivesh.nic.in.

3. Based on the recommendation of the FAC and acceptance of the same by the competent authority in the Ministry, it has been decided that the cases where forest area has been diverted for the construction of road under the provisions of FC Act, 1980 and all compensatory levies for the entire forest area involved has been paid by the user agency then laying of underground slurry pipelines up to two meter width and two meter deep trenches in existing RoWs within the diverted forest area, may be allowed, subject to other conditions given under para-4.2 of the Handbook of Comprehensive Guidelines.

4. Moreover, if NPV has already been charged for the entire forest area diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, same shall not be charged again for laying underground slurry pipelines within the RoW.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully
Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy To:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt of India, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt of India, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt of India, New Delhi.
5. Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt of India, New Delhi.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all States Govts/UT Administrations.
7. Nodal Officer (FCA), all State Govts/UT Administrations.
8. All Integrated Regional Offices, MoEFCC, Government of India .
9. Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Fimi House, B-311, Okhla Industrial Area Phase I, New Delhi - 110 020.
- 10.The President, Utkal Chamber of Commerce & industry LTD, N/6, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar-751015
- 11.PPS to Secretary/ PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC,
- 12.Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF and CC, New Delhi