

F. No. 8-49/2012-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 20th May, 2013

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.


Sub: Diversion of diversion of 104.902 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV double circuit Rihand-Vindhyaachal Pooling Station Transmission Line in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-4/11/ 32/ 2012/ 10-11/1891 dated 02.06.2012 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 104.902 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV double circuit Rihand-Vindhyaachal Pooling Station Transmission Line in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, was sought, in accordance with section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal and recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act thereon, stage-I approval for the said proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 8th January 2013, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No. F-4/11/32/2012/10-11/996 dated 18.03.2013 and No. F-4/11/32/2012/10-11/1422 dated 25.04.2013, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 104.902 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for construction of 765 KV double circuit Rihand-Vindhyaachal Pooling Station Transmission Line in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, subject to fulfilment the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land double in extent to the forest area proposed for diversion (i.e. $2 \times 104.902 = 209.804$ hectares) shall be raised and



maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds realised from the user agency;

- (iii) The user agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department;
- (iv) The State Government shall realize the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPAs;
- (v) To minimize the felling of trees for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - (a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 mts. would be permitted for taking the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up. The trees will be marked for felling under supervision of the forest staff;
 - (b) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
 - (c) In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum clearance, as may be stipulated by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
 - (d) State Forest Department shall prepare execute the detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, from the funds realised from the user agency; and
 - (e) In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut.
- (vi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (vii) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- (viii) The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- (ix) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

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- (x) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xi) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xii) Any other condition that this Ministry and its Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xiii) User agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report, indicating status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval, to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry; and
- (xiv) The user agency and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all relevant Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

SA/

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

22/12/2015
(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests