

POPD / WBSEDCL
 Receipt No. 256
 Date 21/10/22
 Comm. in Month

Government of West Bengal
Department of Forests
Aranya Bhavan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City
Kolkata-700 106

No. 1526 -For/O/L/10T-12/2017

Kolkata, the 20th October, 2022

ORDER

Sub: Diversion of 234 ha of forest land for construction of 1000 MW Turga Pumped Storage Project of WBSEDCL in Ajodhya Hills under Purulia forest Division

With reference to the In-principle/Stage-I approval accorded by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India vide its letter No. 8-51/2017-FC dated 12/5/2018 and in pursuance of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India's letter No. 8-51/2017-FC dated 13/10/2022, the undersigned is directed to say that the Governor is pleased to accord Stage-II/final approval under Sec 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 234 ha of forest land in favour of WBSEDCL for construction of 1000 MW Turga Pumped Storage Project in Ajodhya Hills under Purulia Forest Division, subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

1. Compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has to be completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines, before handing over of Forest land to the User Agency ;
2. The User Agency will obtain necessary Environmental Clearance, Wildlife Clearance, Coastal Regulatory Zone Clearance, if required;
3. The KML files of the area under diversion and the sites identified for compensatory afforestation shall be uploaded in the E-green Watch portal, before handing over forest land to the User Agency;
4. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
5. Compensatory Afforestation over the identified non-forest land of 234 ha. i.e. 578.22 acres, which has been notified as Protected Forest vide the under-mentioned Notifications, shall be raised within a period of three years from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained for ten years thereafter, in accordance with the approved plan, by the State Forest Department from the funds provided by the User Agency . The details of the Notifications are as under:

S.N.	Area in Acres	Notification No.
1	62.72	No.851-For/O/L/10T-12/2017 dated 29.07.2021
2	392.65	No.531-For/O/L/10T-12/2017 dated 25.03.2019
3	122.85	No.412-For/O/L/10T-12/2017 dated 08.03.2019
Total	578.22	

6. The soil and moisture conservation activities on the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation shall be carried out from the funds provided by the User Agency ;
7. The User Agency shall ensure that no residential or labour colony or commercial complexes are constructed over forest land;

8. The State Forest Department shall implement the approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plan and the approved Wildlife Conservation Plan from the funds provided by the User Agency ;
9. The User Agency will carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down and the dumping area for muck disposal shall be stabilized and reclaimed by planting suitable species by the User Agency at the cost of project under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in place. Stabilization and reclamation of such dumping sites shall be completed before handing over the same to the State Forest Department in a time bound manner as per Plan.
10. The User Agency shall ensure that the trees available between full reservoir level (FRL) and FRL-4 meters are not felled;
11. The User Agency will carry out afforestation along the periphery of the reservoir and provide free water for the forestry-related projects;
12. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of Net Present Value, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
13. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels, preferably alternate fuels, to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage of pressure on the nearby forest areas;
14. 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 and the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
15. The boundary of the forest land being diverted will be demarcated on the ground at the project's cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, each pillar inscribed with the serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and backward bearings and distance from adjoining pillars, etc;
16. The User Agency will explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and, any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department, and the User Agency will obtain permission for felling of trees as per the applicable Court orders/Forest Act/Rules/Guidelines;
17. The User Agency shall submit the Annual Compliance Report in respect of the above-stated conditions to the Department of Forests and the Integrated Regional Office, MoEFCC, Kolkata every year regularly;
18. The violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of Comprehensive Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, issued by the MoEFCC, Kolkata letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019; and
19. The User Agency shall comply with the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, as may be applicable to the project.

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

No. 1526/19 For/O/L/10T-12/2017

Kolkata, the 20th October, 2022

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

- 1) The Additional Chief Secretary, Power Department
- 2) The PCCF (HoFF), WB
- 3) The PCCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980
- 4) The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division), Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran hawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110 003
- ✓ 5) The Chief Engineer, PSPD, WBSEDCL, Bidyut Bhavan, Kolkata-700 091

Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal