

F. No. 7-25/ 2012-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510
Dated: 5th May, 2014

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State / Union Territory Governments

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas - *reg.*

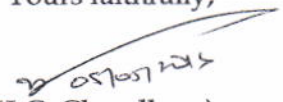
Sir,

I am directed to say that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in their Order dated 7th March 2012 in the Appeal No. 10 of 2012 in the matter of Janajagarithi Samiti (Regd.) versus Union of India and Others directed this Ministry to take steps and notify the detailed fresh guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest area, incorporating necessary changes to mitigate the difficulties which arise during granting forest clearance.

Accordingly, this Ministry in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority formulated revised guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas. A copy of the same is enclosed.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy along with a copy of the said guidelines to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
4. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
5. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI).
6. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF, GoI
7. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Director in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEF, GoI.

8. Director R.O. (HQ), MoEF, GoI.
9. Sr. Director (Technical), National Informatics Centre (NIC), MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
10. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Environment and Forests.
11. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF.
12. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
13. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
14. Guard File.

H.C. Chaudhary
(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

GUIDELINES FOR LAYING TRANSMISSION LINES THROUGH FOREST AREAS

1. Where routing of transmission lines through the forest areas cannot be avoided, these should be aligned in such a way that it involves the least amount of tree cutting
2. As far as possible, the route alignment through forest areas should not have any line deviation.
3. (i) The width of right of way for the transmission lines on forest land shall be as follows:

Transmission Voltage	Width of Right of Way (Meter)
11kV	7
33 kV	15
66 kV	18
110 kV	22
132 kV	27
220 kV	35
400 kV S/C	46
400 kV D/C	46
+/- 500 kV HVDC	52
765 kV S/C (with delta configuration)	64
765 kV D/C	67
+/- 800 kV HVDC	69
1200 kV	89

- (ii) In forest areas, only vertical delta configuration of 400 kV S/C and delta configuration of 765 kV S/C shall be permitted.
4. (i) Below each conductor or conductor bundle, following width clearance would be permitted for stringing purpose:

Transmission line with conductor bundle	Width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle (meter)
Upto 400kV twin bundle	3

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400 kV triple bundle	5
400 kV +/- 500 kV HVDC / 765 kV Quadruple bundle	7
+/- 800 kV HVDC / 765 kV hexagonal bundle	10

- (ii) The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration will be allowed to come up. Felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line.
- (iii) During construction of transmission line, pollarding/ pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strips, whose branches/ parts infringe with conductor stringing, shall be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer.
- (iv) Pruning of trees for taking construction/stringing equipments through existing approach/access routes in forest areas shall also be permitted to the extent necessary, as may be decided by local forest officer. Construction of new approach/access route will however, require prior approval under the Act.
- (v) In the remaining width of right of way trees will be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the following:

Transmission Voltage	Minimum clearance between conductor and trees (Meters)
11 kV	2.6
33 kV	2.8
66 kV	3.4
110 kV	3.7
132 kV	4.0
220 kV	4.6
400 kV	5.5
+/- 500 kV HVDC	7.4
765 kV	9.0
+/- 800 kV HVDC	10.6
1200 kV	13.0

- (vi) The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while

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working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.

- (vii) To avoid any hazard, felling/cutting/pruning of those trees which because of their height /location may fall on conductors shall also be permitted, as may be decided by local forest office.
 - (viii) In the case of transmission lines to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees will not be cut except those minimum required to be cut for stringing of conductors.
 - (ix) In case of transmission lines passing through National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Wildlife Corridors, insulated conductors shall only be used to prevent electrocution of animals.
5. Where the forest growth consists of coconut groves or similar tall trees, widths of right of way greater than those indicated at Sl. No.3 may be permitted in consultation with CEA.

Sl. No. 3