



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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 13th Feb 2018

F.No. 6-175/2017 WL

To

All State / UT Principal Secretaries and Chief Secretaries
Forest and Environment Department

Sub: Guidelines for sanctioning proposals on laying of underground drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables (OFC) inside Protected Areas- regd.

Sir,

Ministry had received a proposal from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of Gujarat for delegation of powers for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables falling inside the Protected Areas (PAs) to the CWLWs of States / UTs. The matter was examined in the Ministry and placed before the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for consideration. The matter was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 45th and 46th meetings. The Standing Committee recommended delegating its powers for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables along the right of way of these roads inside the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves or any other Protected Area notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) are subject to the following conditions:

- [1] The size of the trench will not exceed more than 2.0 m depth and 1.0 m width;
- [2] The user agency agrees to make good the land after use / maintenance;
- [3] The user agency agrees to make good any loss to forest / environment;
- [4] The user agency seeks permission from the State Forest Department for carrying out any maintenance;
- [5] The diameter of drinking water pipeline will not exceed 4 inches in diameter.
- [6] No civil structures will be built with the laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables;
- [7] The user agency will have to submit NOC from the agency which holds the right to use the right of way;
- [8] The State Government / Union Territories shall ensure that the length of the length of trench dug at a time does not exceed 500 m filled up and compacted before digging next stretch of 500 m;
- [9] The State Board for Wildlife shall also suggest the time frame for completing of work of on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables within the PAs after taking into account all the factors/issues involves in the work;
- [10] The user agency shall provide water supply points within the PAs if demanded by the Chief Wildlife Warden or in-charge of PA but not more than per sq.km;
- [11] This approval shall be valid for five years till 31.12.2023;

[12] The State Government / Union Territories will submit a monthly progress report on the extent of the forestland diverted for such purposes to the Ministry as well as the concerned Regional Offices.

This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)

Scientist C

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Distribution

- (1) Secretary, MoEF&CC
- (2) Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications
- (3) DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (4) Member Secretary, NTCA
- (5) ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC
- (6) ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC
- (7) Director, WII, Dehradun
- (8) Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- (9) Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
- (10) Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
- (11) Pr. Secretary, Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- (12) All Chief Wildlife Warden

Copy to

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), Member Secretary, NBWL
- (4) PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL)



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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
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Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 28th Sept 2017

F.No. 6-175/2017 WL

To
All State / UT Principal Secretaries and Chief Secretaries
Forest and Environment Department

Sub: Delegation of powers to the State Government for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables (OFC) in Protected Areas by the Chief Wildlife Warden- reg.

Sir,

The 45th Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 4th September 2017 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The aforesaid Policy Agenda was considered:

The IGF(WL) stated that the Government of Gujarat has sent a Policy Agenda for the delegation of powers for sanctioning drinking water pipeline proposals falling inside Protected Areas. He also mentioned that under the present procedure, any project proposal for laying of pipeline for supply of drinking water has to be recommended by the State Board for Wildlife and the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The projects like drinking water supply to the masses cannot be delayed as this is the basic need for sustenance of human life as well as livestock particularly water scarce areas.

The IGF(WL) stated that the State Govt. has suggested that if the power of taking an immediate decision for implementation of drinking water project is given to the Chief Wildlife Warden, then the immediate need of water supply during the water scarce seasons can be taken care of. In the last meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, it was decided that cases of drinking water projects may be sanctioned by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State in anticipation of *post facto* approval by the State Board for Wildlife and the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Dr H S Singh, Member of NBWL opined that in respect of proposals for laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables along the roads inside the national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves, the authority could be delegated to the State Board for Wildlife. He also suggested that the details of clearances given to such proposals should be furnished to the NBWL.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided that henceforth State / UT Chief Wildlife Wardens would sanction proposals for laying drinking water pipelines and optical fiber cables (OFC) for telecommunications inside the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves. However the CWLWs would have to furnish the details every month of all such sanctioned proposals to the Ministry for information of SC-NBWL.

Yours faithfully,



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