



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

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi 110 003  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> 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 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> 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;

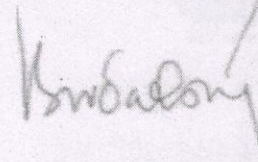


17

[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

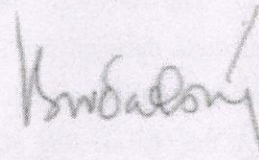
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**Distribution**

- (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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