



Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(Forest Conservation Division)



Online Proposal No.:  
FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/423651/2023



Dated: 24/10/2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology  
Government of Andhra Pradesh,  
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi  
Amaravati-522503

**Subject:** Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 128.61 ha (originally proposed area 193.01 ha) of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) in Chintapalli Division of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District of Andhra Pradesh

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the online proposal no. FP/AP/HYD/IRRIG/423651/2023 dated 23.12.2024 and additional information submitted online on 24.03.2025, 10.06.2025 and 13.09.2025 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under section 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of MoEFCC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby grant **"In-Principle"** approval under section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 128.61 ha (originally proposed area 193.01 ha) of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Project (9X150MW) at Upper Sileru Village in between existing Guntawada Reservoir (Upper reservoir) and existing Donkarayi Reservoir (lower reservoir) in favour of Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) in Chintapalli Division of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District of Andhra Pradesh subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:

**1. General Conditions**

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S. No	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
1.2	Compensatory afforestation over the over 291.84 ha of (Suitable for plantation 163.84 ha) non-forest land shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency as per the approved CA scheme;
1.3	The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance;
1.4	The non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department shall be notified by the State Government as PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act, 1927 before handing over the forest land to the User Agency;
1.5	The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India toposheet of 1:50,000 scale
1.6	The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
1.7	The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023 in this regard;
1.8	At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
1.9	The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> );
1.10	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
1.11	The boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
1.12	The User agency, if required, will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures in the area being diverted at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same may be submitted along with the compliance report;
1.13	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
1.14	The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

S. No	Conditions
1.15	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
1.16	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
1.17	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;
1.18	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
1.19	Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
1.20	The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
1.21	The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
1.22	The User Agency shall submit six monthly self-compliance reports as on 1st January and 1st July of every year to this office as well as to the Nodal Officer of the State;
1.23	The State Government shall monitor compliance of conditions of Forest Clearance and shall submit in this regard yearly report as on 31st December of every year;
1.24	Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
1.25	The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

## 2. Standard conditions

S. No	Conditions
2.1	The user agency, in consultation with the Water Resources Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, shall ensure that the project activities do not interfere with or reduce the minimum environmental flow required to be maintained downstream of the Sileru River;
2.2	No additional forest land shall be utilized for construction of transmission line for evacuation of power to be generated from the project;
2.3	The user agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of the reservoir and canals (as

S. No	Conditions
	applicable);
2.4	A Catchment Area Treatment Plan, if required, shall be prepared, and implemented by/or under the supervision of State Forest Department at the project cost;
2.5	The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down. A muck disposal plan may be submitted along with the compliance report;
2.6	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. A copy of plan may be submitted along with the compliance report;
2.7	The User agency shall consult organization(s) having experience in construction of roads in hilly areas to avoid frequent road blockade due to landslides etc and shall provide breast walls and retaining walls wherever necessary;
2.8	The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that the tress available between full reservoir level (FRL) and FRL—4 meters are not felled, if applicable;
2.9	The user agency shall provide free water for the forestry related projects;
2.10	Other standard conditions as applicable to proposals relating to Hydro Electric Projects will be applicable in this case also.

### 3. Specific Conditions

S. No	Conditions
3.1	<i>Since the proposal involves substantial surface rights for muck disposal, the complete proposal shall be treated as diversion with surface rights. The relaxations in CA/NPV given to underground portions shall not be considered in instant proposal.</i>
3.2	<i>The State Government shall carry out physical enumeration of all trees that will be affected by the diversion and submit a detailed report along with Stage-I compliance.</i>
3.3	<i>The State Government shall ensure that the Wildlife mitigation plan shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.</i>

After receipt of the compliance report on the fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan). Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Government in this regard.

**Copy To**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Amravati.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office (Southern Zone), Chennai.
3. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Amravati.
4. The IGF (Central), Sub-Office Vijayawada.
5. User Agency.

**Your's faithfully**

**(S. Sundar)**

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

