



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



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

Dated: **14/07/2026**



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 seeking prior approval in accordance with section' 2' of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was granted "In-Principle" (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government on 24/10/2025. The State Government has reported/submitted the compliance report on 01/05/2026 and 25/06/2026 to the conditions stipulated in the "In-Principle" approval and requested for grant of final approval.

After careful consideration of the compliance report furnished by the State Government, I am directed to convey the "**Final** approval" under Section 2' 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, subject to the following conditions:-

1. General Conditions

S. No	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
1.2	Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over 291.84 ha of (Suitable for plantation 163.84 ha) non-forest land (Now notified as Protected Forest) identified in Donnikotta Village, Nallamada Mandal, Sri Satya Sai District within two years from date of Stage-II clearance and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency as per the approved CA scheme;
1.3	Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the user agency
1.4	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
1.5	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;
1.6	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.
1.7	No labour camp shall be established on the surrounding forest land;
1.8	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;
1.9	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
1.10	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
1.11	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;
1.12	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
1.13	Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
1.14	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;
1.15	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;

S. No	Conditions
1.16	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;
1.17	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;
1.18	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;
1.19	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;
1.20	Violation of any of the conditions mentioned above shall amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 29th November, 2023.

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 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, as per the muck disposal plan .
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.
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

S. No	Conditions
	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	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.
3.2	The State Government shall ensure that tree felling is as per the enumeration report submitted as part of Stage-I compliance report.
3.3	The State Government shall ensure that the Wildlife mitigation plan shall be implemented at the cost of the User Agency.

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

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : Shri S Sundar
Assistant Inspector General/Scientist, MEF

Date: 14/07/2026