

W-11041/1/2021-JJM-I.DDWS-Part (1)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation  
National Jal Jeevan Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Antyodaya Bhavan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi – 110 003  
Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

To,

Chief Secretary & Chairperson,  
State Water & Sanitation Mission  
All States/ UTs,

**Subject:** Delegation of powers to the State Government for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline in Protected Areas - regarding

Madam/ Sir,

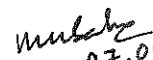
I am directed to forward herewith the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Wildlife Division)'s letter no. 6-175/ 2017 - WL dated 28th Sept., 2017 on the subject cited above wherein approval of competent authority was conveyed for delegation of powers to the State Government for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables (OFC) in Protected Areas by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

2. JJM aims to make provision of tap water connection to every rural home irrespective of its socio-economic & geographical conditions. The JJM is based on the principle of 'no one is left out' ensuring poorest of the poor, weaker and marginalized sections of society - those unserved so far, get assured potable tap water supply in their homes.

3. While planning for rural drinking water supply schemes in villages, States/ UTs are to give priority to water quality-affected habitations, villages falling in drought prone & desert areas, villages in Aspirational districts and Japanese Encephalitis/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES) affected districts, SC/ ST majority villages, Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages. Such decentralization of powers for Rural Water Supply projects will help in achieving the goals of Jal Jeevan Mission in a time-bound manner.

4. In view of this, States/ UTs to sanction proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline in Protected Areas as per the delegation of powers vide aforementioned letter. Guidelines to this effect has also been issued by MoEF&CC dated 13<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018 (copy enclosed). This may also be disseminated and circulated widely among the concerned State Departments for smooth implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Yours faithfully,

  
27.08.2021

(Manoj Kumar Sahoo)

Director (JJM)

Tel.: 011 2436 1064

Copy to:

Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, In Charge, Rural Water Supply Department, All States/ UTs,



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,

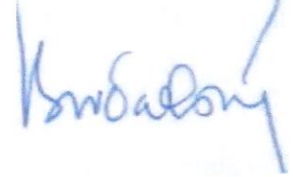
Ministry had received a proposal from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) of Gujarat for delegation of powers for sanctioning proposals on laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fiber cables falling inside the Protected Areas (PAs) to the CWLWs of States / UTs. The matter was examined in the Ministry 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;

[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

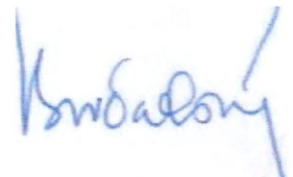
E-mail: [ddwlmef@gmail.com](mailto:ddwlmef@gmail.com)

**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)



**(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)**

Scientist C

E-mail: [ddwlmef@gmail.com](mailto:ddwlmef@gmail.com)



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

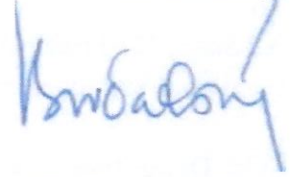
The IGF(WL) stated that the Government of Gujarat has sent a Policy Agenda for the delegation of powers for sanctioning drinking water pipeline proposals falling inside Protected Areas. He also mentioned that under the present procedure, any project proposal for laying of pipeline for supply of drinking 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,



**(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)**

Scientist C

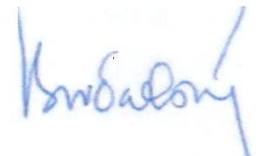
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Scientist C

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