

**F.No.11-28/2014-IA-III**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
(IA.III Section)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003

Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015

**To**  
**The Assistant Vice President,**  
International Business Organization,  
M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Maker Chambers IV,  
222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

**Subject: Construction of BBG Submarine Cable System (Cable laying) landing at Santhome Beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. - CRZ Clearance - Reg.**

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This has reference to your letter no. ITL/ILD/DOT/2014-15-156 dated 23.05.2014 and subsequent letter dated 25.08.2014 seeking prior CRZ Clearance on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has considered the application. It is noted that the proposal is for grant of CRZ Clearance for **Construction of BBG Submarine Cable System (Cable laying) landing at Santhome Beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.** The proposal was considered by the EAC in its meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 - 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2014 and 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The proponent has informed that:

- i. The proposal is for construction of BBG Submarine Cable System (Cable laying) landing at Santhome Beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ii. The Bay of Bengal Gateway (BBG) Submarine Cable System, a 100 Gigabit-per-second (100G) submarine cable system, is being constructed to connect Oman, the United Arab Emirates, India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.
- iii. The cable will connect five countries via landing points in Barka (Oman), Fujairah (United Arab Emirates), Mumbai and Chennai (India), Mt. Lavinia (Sri Lanka) and Penang (Malaysia) and thus will enhance the robustness and reliability of international connectivity into and out of the five countries.
- iv. The landing point in India will be at Chennai at a Beach Man Hole (BMH), proposed to be located near the main entry to Santhome Beach, near Foreshore Estate Bus Terminus at the following co-ordinates:

Point A - 13° 1' 16.591" N and 80° 16' 40.952"E.  
Point A - 13° 1' 16.591" N and 80° 16' 41.019"E.  
Point A - 13° 1' 16.459" N and 80° 16' 41.018"E.  
Point A - 13° 1' 16.461" N and 80° 16' 40.951"E.

CRZ\_Reliance\_Jio\_Infocomm

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- v. The cable installation will be done by a modern 140 meter built for purpose cable laying French vessel. Alcatel-Lucent Submarine Network (ASN) and its French flogged installation vessels have an obligation to comply with all International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirements and not only the marine environment but safety and maritime security as well. ASN is planning to use OALC.4 cable design that can accommodate up to 8 pairs of fibers. Cable is multi layered so that that negligible strain and ultra low pressure are applied to the fibers in normal operation. Extra protective layering will be provided to cable when laid in shallow waters and other required places. Outer covering of cable is inert & insulated material that will prevent any toxicity, generation of electrical or magnetic field.
  - vi. Cable installation process comprises of Cable Route Survey, Route Clearance, Pre-Lay Grapnel Run (PLGR), Cable Surface Lay, Cable Burial, Shore-end Landing, Crossings Engineering, Post-Lay Inspection and Burial.
  - vii. In water of depths of less than 1000m & more than 15 m where the seabed conditions allow, the cable will be buried using a cable plough. It will be deployed from the stern of the installation vessel and towed behind the ship, burying the cable into the trench will be 0.2 m.
  - viii. The BMH is the transition between the submarine cable and the land cable. BMH is a concrete chamber situated below the ground and above the water level at the site with the size of 4m long X 2m deep.
  - ix. The cost of the project is Rs. 15 Crores.
  - x. The CRZ survey was carried out by Anna University, it was observed that project activity will take place in CRZ IV A, CRZ II & CRZ-IB area classified as per CRZ Notification, 2011.
  - xi. **Approvals:** The Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) has recommended the project vide letter no. 14597/EC-3/2014-1 dated 13.08.2014.
  - xii. **Wildlife issues:** There are no national Parks, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserves found in the 10 km buffer zone.
  - xiii. There is no court cases/violation pending with the project proponent.
  - xiv. Based on the EIA, it is clear that the submarine cable landing and marine installation has low and insignificant impacts on the environment. The activities of installation also are of short duration. During the operation phase, there is no adverse impact associated with the laid cable. Thus, it can be concluded that the project will not significantly impact the environment.
  - xv. The health, safety, and environmental measures mentioned in the report will be taken by the PP to tackle any associated impact during the installation phase of the cable.

3. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and recommended in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 for granting CRZ Clearance. The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change hereby accords CRZ Clearance for the above-mentioned Construction of **BBC Submarine Cable System (Cable laying) landing at Santhome Beach, Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.** under the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011 and amendments thereto and


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Circulars issued thereon and subject to the compliance of the following specific conditions, in addition to the general conditions mentioned below:

**A. SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:**

- (i) No mangroves will be disturbed during the whole exercise of lying of cable, as per the undertaking submitted vide letter dated 28.08.2014.
- (ii) The platform to be constructed at the intertidal zone should be buried in such a way that nothing is visible on the surface of the beach.
- (iii) No marine life should be disturbed during the whole exercise of lying of cable.
- (iv) All the recommendations of the Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (TNCZMA) vide letter No. 14597/EC-3/2014-1 dated 13.08.2014 shall be complied with.
- (v) The laying of pipeline shall be completed in the minimum time, as committed.
- (vi) No other activity, other than those permissible under CRZ Notification, 2011 shall be carried out.
- (vii) Safety measures shall be put in place to prevent cable damage.
- (viii) All necessary clearances shall be obtained as applicable from other local/State/Central authorities/ Defence and other security agencies prior to start of work.
- (ix) There shall be no disposal of sewage/solid waste into the coastal area. All the solid waste shall be handled as per the Solid Waste Management Rules.

**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

- (i) Full support shall be extended to the officers of this Ministry/Regional Office at Chennai by the project proponent during inspection of the project for monitoring purposes by furnishing full details and action plan including action taken reports in respect of mitigation measures and other environmental protection activities.
  - (ii) A six-Monthly monitoring report shall need to be submitted by the project proponents to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Chennai regarding the implementation of the stipulated conditions.
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- (iii) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change or any other competent authority may stipulate any additional conditions or modify the existing ones, if necessary in the interest of environment and the same shall be complied with.
  - (iv) The Ministry reserves the right to revoke this clearance if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with the satisfaction of the Ministry.
  - (v) In the event of a change in project profile or change in the implementation agency, a fresh reference shall be made to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
  - (vi) The project proponents shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
  - (vii) A copy of the clearance letter shall be marked to concerned Panchayat/local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been made received while processing the proposal.
  - (viii) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industries Center and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's office for 30 days.

4. These stipulations would be enforced among others under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability (Insurance) Act, 1991 and EIA Notification 1994, including the amendments and rules made thereafter.

5. All other statutory clearances such as the approvals for storage of diesel from Chief Controller of Explosives, Fire Department, Civil Aviation Department, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 etc. shall be obtained, as applicable by project proponents from the respective competent authorities.

6. The project proponent shall advertise in at least two local Newspapers widely circulated in the region, one of which shall be in the vernacular language informing that the project has been accorded CRZ Clearance and copies of clearance letters are available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>. The advertisement should be made within Seven days from the date of receipt of the Clearance letter and a copy of the same should be forwarded to the Regional office of this Ministry at Chennai.

7. This Clearance is subject to final order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. Union of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.460 of 2004 as may be applicable to this project.

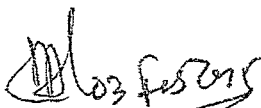
8. Any appeal against this clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

9. Status of compliance to the various stipulated environmental conditions and environmental safeguards will be uploaded by the project proponent in its website.

10. A copy of the clearance letter shall be sent by the proponent to concerned Panchayat, Zilla Parisad/Municipal Corporation, Urban Local Body and the Local NGO, if any, from whom suggestions/ representations, if any, were received while processing the proposal. The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company by the proponent.

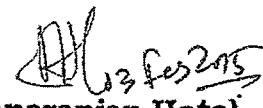
11. The proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated Clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and shall update the same periodically. It shall simultaneously be sent to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, the respective Zonal Office of CPCB and the SPCB.

12. The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in Form-V as is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be put on the website of the company along with the status of compliance of Clearance conditions and shall also be sent to the respective Regional Offices of MoEF&CC by e-mail.

  
(Dr. Manoranjan Hota)  
Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Environment & Forests Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Saint Geroge Port, Chennai.
2. The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110 032.
3. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai.
4. The Director, Environment Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34.
6. Guard File.
7. Monitoring File.

  
(Dr. Manoranjan Hota)  
Director