

Pre-Development Clearances for Intrastate Transmission lines

Sr. No.	Approvals/ Clearances Required	Category	Timeline	Suggestions for simplification of existing process	Suggestions for Pre-existing regulatory mechanism with safeguards
1	Transmission License from State Electricity Regulatory Commission	Necessary Clearance	18 months		Issue of Transmission License/ amendment to existing License and In-principle clearance for a particular scheme can be combined together and approval can be granted by respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission.
2	Section 68 of Electricity Act 2003 from State Government	Necessary Clearance	12 months		Approval under Section 68 for construction of transmission line and conferring powers under Telegraphic Act under Section 164 of Electricity Act 2003 could be shifted to State Transmission Utility (STU) from Ministry of Energy, State Government. The above approvals can be issued along with technical clearance for the transmission system to be issued by STU at present.
3	Section 164 of Electricity Act 2003 from State Government	Necessary Clearance	12 months		
4	State Transmission Utility for approval of project scope	Necessary Clearance	6 months		
5	State Electricity Regulatory Commission for approval of project cost	Necessary Clearance	6 months		
6	Connectivity Agreement with State Grid/ National Grid as applicable	Necessary Clearance	6 months		
7	Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) clearance from MoEFCC	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	18 months	1) CRZ clearance for Transmission line projects calls for two stage approval- one at State Coastal Zone Management Authority level and other at MoEFCC, central level at present. <i>This process can be simplified to the extent of final approval by State Coastal Zone Management Authority only with an intimation to MoEFCC, GOI.</i>	
7.1	<i>Recommendation by State Coastal Zone Management Authority to MoEFCC, GoI</i>				
7.2	<i>MoEFCC, GoI approval for CRZ</i>				
8	Forest approval from MoEFCC	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	30-36 months	1) The process followed for diversion of forest land for industrial purpose and linear projects like transmission line is the same at present. In case of industrial projects, the required forest land to be diverted is physically handed over to the project proponent whereas in case of transmission line, the required forest area to be diverted remains in the custody of forest department. <i>Therefore, a simplified procedure for transmission line need to be formulated.</i> 2) At present, the forest area to be diverted for laying of transmission line is calculated on the basis of the multiplication of Right of Way corridor and length of the line passing through the forest which is not in line with actual usage of forest land by the transmission licensee. <i>Hence the calculation of forest area shall be based on the actual area occupied by tower footings and area of strips used for conductor stringing on either side resulting in usage of about 10-15 % of the forest land.</i>	
8.1	<i>Clearance by Deputy Conservator of Forest of concerned region</i>				
8.2	<i>Clearance by Chief Conservator of Forest of concerned region</i>				
8.3	<i>Collector certificate for minimum demand of diverted forest land and Forest Rights Act (FRA)</i>				
8.4	<i>Compensatory Afforestation</i>				

8.5	Clearance by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest			3) At present, General Approval under Forest Conservation Act (1980) requiring Forest land diversion of less than 1 Ha has been granted for development of electric substation and transmission lines by Government departments. The same facility has to be extended to all transmissison and distribution licensees.	
8.6	Clearance from State Government			4) Submission of 7/12 extracts (land record) of forest land as a part of forest proposal shall be exempted since the Reserved Forest and Protected Forest is in possession of Forest Dept. and Revenue records also indicates the land belongs to Forest department.	
8.7	Stage-I clearance by Regional Empowered Committee				
8.8	Stage-II clearance and issue of final approval letter for forest clearance				
9	High Court clearance (in case of Maharashtra only) for displacement of mangroves (if any)	Necessary Clearance	6 months		
10	Standing Committee of National Board of Wild Life (NBWL)	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	24 months	Transmission Line projects requiring CRZ clearance under CRZ Notification 2011, but not requiring Environment Clearance under EIA Notification 2006 and which are passing outside the Protected Area but within 10 kms radius of boundary of National Park/ Wild Life Sanctuary should be exempted from obtaining National Board of Wildlife clearance	NBWL clearance is required to be obtained only if the line is passing through core area of the National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary.
10.1	Clearance by Chief Wildlife Warden of concerned State				
10.2	Clearance by State Board of Wildlife				
10.3	Clearance by National Board of Wildlife and final approval letter				
11	National Green Tribunal (NGT) (case specific)		6 months		
12	Maritime Board Approval for construction of transmission towers in creek areas	Necessary Clearance	12 months		
13	Airport Authority of India approval for tower heights	Necessary Clearance	12 months		
13.1	Clearance by Regional Level for tower heights in online NOCAS system			Colour coded zoning map of applicable Airport indicating the permissible height of structures should be published by Airport authority of India based on which the project proponent may erect the structure within permissble limit with an intimation to Airports Authority of India	Well laid down procedures have been framed by Airport Authority of India (AAI) for sanction of structure height clearance. As long as project proponent has satisfied himself that he is meeting the requirements stipulated by AAI for granting the permissible heights, project proponent should be allowed to go ahead with the project under intimation to AAI with the required data for verification.
13.2	Clearance by Appellate Committee in case of rejection by Regional level for tower heights				

14	Approval from Railways for railway crossings wherever applicable	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	6 months	<p>Way leave charges levied by Railways for railway crossing of transmission lines/ underground cable are exorbitantly high for private transmission and distribution licenses as compared to State/central government licensees and hence there is no level playing field among the different licensees. This anomaly needs to be corrected.</p> <p>At present, transmission line span length is limited to 80% of the ruling span or 300 meters, whichever is lesser as per the existing guidelines. The above guideline shall be revised to "80% of the ruling span or 300 meters, whichever is higher and also satisfies the vertical clearance between power conductors and traction conductors".</p>	Railways have issued the guidelines for railway crossing by transmission lines. As long as the project proponent meets these guidelines and submits the drawings to the Railways, the project proponent should be allowed to take up the works without waiting for approval of drawings from Railway Authorities.
15	Approval from Highway authorities/PWD for road crossings wherever applicable	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	24 months	<p>1) At present, the approval for road crossing is finally issued by PWD department after obtaining approval from PWD minister of concerned state government. This needs to be simplified by delegating final approval authority at Divisional level of PWD.</p> <p>2) Ground rent charges levied by PWD for road crossing are exorbitant and collected along with the application itself. There should not be any ground rent charges as also only reinstatement charges should be recovered from the project proponent at actuals before commencement of the work</p>	PWD have issued the guidelines for highway crossing by transmission lines. As long as the project proponent meets these guidelines and submits the drawings to the PWD, the project proponent should be allowed to take up the works without waiting for approval of drawings from PWD. Approval can be also be accorded at Divisional Level.
16	Approval from Transmission line utilities for line crossings	Necessary Clearance	6 months		
17	Power and Tele-Communication Coordination Committee clearance	Clearances that may not be relevant any more		At present, all telecommunication lines have been converted either on Fibre optic or microwave. Therefore, PTCC clearance is not relevant in today's environment	
18	Approval from Salt Pan Commissioner for transmission line passing through Salt Pan	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified	9 months	Since Salt Pan land belongs to Govt of India, notification should be issued for permitting erection of towers in Salt Pan area without making an application and approval from Salt Pan Commissioner	
19	Right of Ways Issues with Land owners	Necessary Clearance but Process can be simplified		Comprehensive policy on Right of Way compensation need to be formulated for transmission line at Central Government level	