

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Ref.no.4343/2023/Prod.3,  
Dated:29/06/2023

Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests  
&Head of Forest Force  
Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, Mangalagiri.

**Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, I.F.S.,**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Head of Forest Force (FAC)

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Sub: APFD – SLC Meeting – Wood Based Industries - 16<sup>th</sup> S.L.C meeting held on  
- 22.06.2023 in the Conference Hall, office of the PCCF & HoFF, Andhra  
Pradesh, Mangalagiri – Minutes of the Meeting – Communicated - Regarding.  
Ref:- 16<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting held on 22.06.2023.

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Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> S.L.C meeting held on 22.06.2023 in the Conference  
Hall, Office of the Prl.CCF&HoFF, Andhra Pradesh are communicated herewith.

The Circle Heads and the District Forest Officers are requested to take further  
action on the items, as resolved in the 16<sup>th</sup> S.L.C meeting and submit Action  
Taken report.

Encl:(As above)

Y Madhusudhana Reddy Ifs  
Principal Chief Conservator Of Forests

To

The Circle Heads, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Guntur, Ananthapur, Kurnool,  
Tirupati and FDPT Nandyal (Srisailam).

Copy to all District Forest Officers (T) and (WL) in A.P.

Copy to all the members of the SLC.

**MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE (SLC) MEETING ON WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES HELD ON 22.06.2023, IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRL. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, A.P., MANGALAGIRI.**

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The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SLC was convened on 22.06.2023 at 3.00 p.m. in the Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri to consider various proposals of Wood Based Industries for change of ownership, relocations and other related matters as per Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.

The following members attended the meeting:

1.	Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS, Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur
2.	Sri A.K. Naik, IFS, Prl.CCF (IT & Research), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF., A.P., Guntur
3.	Sri B.K.Singh, IFS, Prl.CCF, I/c (Working Plan), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur
4.	Dr. R.P.Khajuria, IFS, PCCF (Production), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur
5.	Sri N.S.Murali, IFS, IRO, Vijayawada
6.	Sri Y. Srinivasa Reddy, IFS., CCF, Guntur
7.	Sri N. Prabhakara Reddy, IAS., Joint Secretary (Lands), O/o CCLA, Mangalagiri
8.	Sri G. Lakshmana Kumar, Dy. Director, Agriculture Department
9.	Sri Ramalingeswara Raju , Joint Director, Industries
10.	Sri M.S. Jayananda Kumar, APFDC Ltd.
11.	Sri Dwara Ramakrishna, General Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Federation of Timber Merchants', Sawmillers & Allied Industries.

At the outset, Sri R.P.Khajuria IFS, Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Production) and Member Secretary, SLC welcomed the Chairman and all the members present in the meeting.

Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS, Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF and Chairman of the SLC made his opening remarks at the beginning of 16<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting.

The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Production) and Member Secretary, SLC briefed the members about the Agenda for the 16<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting as follows:

S.no	Agenda
1	<b>ATR</b> on the MoM of 15 <sup>th</sup> SLC held on 24.03.2023.
2	<b>Ratification of Approvals granted under Rule 5(5) of WBI (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.</b>
3	Proposals for <b>Transfer of ownership</b>
	a. by <b>Succession</b> (4) b. by <b>Sale</b> (6) c. along with <b>relocation</b> of Sawmill (3)
4	<b>Relocation</b> of Sawmills (1)
5	<b>Fresh license</b> for lapsed licenses (Nil)
6	<b>Report on Wood Balance Study by the Sub-committee</b>

	<b>constituted in the 15<sup>th</sup> SLC.</b>
7	<b>Any other items with the permission of the Chair:</b>

With the permission of the Chair, agenda was taken up for deliberations and decisions by the SLC.

1. **Action Taken Report on the decisions in the 15<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting.**

ATR on the decisions of the 15<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting was placed before the SLC and the same was approved by the SLC.

2. **The permissions granted by the PCCF & HoFF and Chairman of the SLC in the month of May, 2023 under Rule 5(5) of WBI(Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, as per the decision taken in the 13<sup>th</sup> SLC, have been ratified by the SLC for following sawmills:**

Sl.No.	Circle	Division	Category	No.of permission issued
1	Guntur	Guntur	Transfer of ownership by Succession	3
2		Guntur	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	3
3		Palnadu	Relocation of sawmill	1
<b>Total:</b>				<b>7</b>
4	Rajahmundry	NTR	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	3
<b>Total:</b>				<b>3</b>
5	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	1
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1</b>
6	Ananthapuram	Ananthapuram	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	1
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1</b>
7	Tirupati	Tirupati	Transfer of ownership by Sale	1
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>				<b>13</b>

3. **Proposals for Transfer of ownership:**

The SLC examined the proposals under different categories and decided on each category as detailed below:

a. **Transfer of ownership by Succession**

Proposals in respect of the following (4) Sawmills were approved, under Rule 11, as the Circle Heads and Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership.

Sl. no	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
1	Guntur	Sri Gopalam Venkata Subba Rao Timber Merchants and Sawmill	12.98
2	Eluru	M/s Sri Ganga Kanaka Durga Sawmill	7.5

3	Eluru	M/s Sri Srinivasa Sawmill	8
4	Sri Sathya Sai	M/s Sri Gayathri Sawmill	2.14

**b. Transfer of ownership by Sale**

Proposals in respect of the following (6) Sawmills were approved, under Rule 11, as the Circle Heads and Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership.

Sl. no	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
1	Dr. Br. Ambedkar Konaseema	M/s Sri Surya Sawmill	17.700
2	Eluru	M/s Sri Lakshmi Sai Sawmill	3.93
3	Eluru	M/s Sri Srinivasa Sawmill	5.60
4	N.T.R	M/s M. Narasimha Rao Timber Depot & Sawmill	3.48
5	N.T.R	Sri Venkateswara Sawmill	5.230
6	N.T.R	Subrahmanya Swamy Timber Depot & Sawmill	3.43

**c. Transfer of ownership along with relocation of Sawmill**

Proposals in respect of the following (3) Sawmills were approved, under Rule 11, as the Circle Heads and Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership with relocation.

Sl. no	Division	Check List Type	Sawmill Name	Relocation Distance (km)
1	Palnadu	To Srikakulam	Sri Lakshmi Balaji Sawmill	5.40
2	Markapur	To Kakinada	Sri Lakshmi Chennakesava Sawmill & Timber Depot	16.768
3	Kurnool	Within the Division	M/s Sree Venkateswara Sawmill	12.14

In respect of sawmill, where the relocation distance is marginally higher than 5 kilometers i.e., sl.no.1, the DFO Srikakulam shall satisfy himself regarding correctness of the measurements and take further action accordingly.

**4. Relocation of Sawmills**

Proposals in respect of the following (1) Sawmill was approved, under Rule 11, as the Circle Heads and District Forest Officer have recommended for relocation of Sawmills.

Sl. no.	Division	Sawmill Name	Relocation Distance (km.)
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1	Prakasam (Within the Division)	Sri Sai Balaji Sawmill cum Timber Depot	6.20
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5. **Fresh license** for lapsed licenses

Sl.no	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
Nil			

6. **Report of the Sub Committee on examination of the Wood Balance Study:**

The SLC had in its 15<sup>th</sup> SLC meeting on 24.3.23 had constituted a sub-committee to formulate guidelines and mechanism to permit the new Sawmills and according permission for additional machinery.

Accordingly, the Sub-Committee has examined the issue and recommended the following to the SLC in the 16<sup>th</sup> SLC Meeting.

- a. It is deliberated that ToF acts as important source for timber, fuel wood and significant natural renewable resource which makes contribution to the agroecology and also feed Wood based industries with raw material and generate employment. Hence considering the sustainability and forest conservation, in view of the recommendation made by the sub-committee on wood balance study, the members agreed that around 2.00 lakh cum of ToF material can be safely set aside for the Additional machinery/new sawmills.
- b. Accordingly, permission for establishment of new Sawmills or for additional machinery in the existing sawmills may be given by calculating the annual requirement of timber for each Sawmill as per the capacity, based on the formula given in Rule 7 of A.P. Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, only within the 2.00 lakh cum of ToF.
- c. The Sub-Committee members deliberated on considering district-wise availability of ToF for establishment of new saw mills. However it was concluded it is not desirable to restrict sawmills district-wise as the source of timber and its utilization are different from each other.
- d. However in view of larger interest of environmental concern, the sub-committee felt that the new saw mills may be established in Industrial areas/Zones. It is also opined that relocation of saw mills can also be done to the industrial areas/zones.
- e. An online facility/Mobile application shall be provided in order to maintain transparency on receipt of applications.
- f. Wide publicity and ample time shall be given for receiving applications.

The State Level Committee has deliberated upon the recommendations of the Sub-committee and accepted the recommendations of the Sub Committee.

Further, it was brought to the notice of the SLC that since 2002, no new saw mill licenses were given. However, some applications were received by the department at HO, CF, DFO and FRO level (although the department never invited the applications) for new saw mill licenses. There no exhaustive record available for such applications. These applications were either not taken up or in some cases kept in abeyance or deferred by the earlier SLCs.

In order to ensure fairness and level playing field to all the desirable

applicants, the SLC decided that fresh applications may be called, duly giving wide publicity and providing sufficient time for making application. All the completed applications received in time may be considered on 'first come first basis', as far as possible.

Further, the grant of new saw mill licenses and granting additional machinery to the existing saw mills shall be diligently handled, keeping in view the quantity of material available so as to ensure that both the components are adequately adjusted.

The SLC decided that the IT wing of the Office of the PCCF&HoFF will make an online application within 4 weeks to facilitate applying for Establishment of new saw mills/ additional machinery, as per above.

**Other items:**

**Murthy Sawmill and Timber Depot, Avanigadda**

4. Sri N. Radha Krishna Murthy, Prop: Murthy Sawmill and Timber Depot, Avanigadda (V & M), Krishna District has filed Writ Petition No.6742/2022 seeking relief for additional machinery.
5. As per the orders of Hon'ble Court the Member Secretary of the SLC has filed affidavit, informing that the SLC, while accepting the proposal submitted by the sub-committee, after examining the timber assessment report submitted by the IT wing, " *that around 2.00 lakh cum of ToF material can be safely set aside for the Additional machinery/new sawmills in the state*", constituted a sub-committee to formulate guidelines and a robust mechanism to permit the new Sawmills and according permission for additional machinery and the same shall be finalized and put up before the SLC for further action.
6. In view of the SLC decision in the subject matter, **the applicant Sri N.Radha Krishna Murthy, Prop: Murthy Sawmill and Timber Depot, Avanigadda may be informed to submit the proposal accordingly in the online application.**

The meeting concluded with the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force thanking all the members for participating and providing valuable inputs.

Y Madhusudhana Reddy Ifs  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF  
Chairman, State Level Committee  
Andhra Pradesh