

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Ref.no.1833/2023/Prod.3,
Dated:28.03.2023

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)

Sub:- APFD – SLC Meeting – Wood Based Industries - 15th S.L.C meeting held on 24.03.2023 in the Conference Hall, office of the PCCF &HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri – Minutes of the Meeting – Communicated - Regarding.

Ref:- 15th SLC meeting held on 24.03.2023.

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Minutes of the 15th S.L.C meeting held on 24.03.2023 in the Conference Hall, Office of the Prl.CCF&HoFF, Andhra Pradesh are communicated herewith.

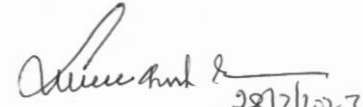
The Circle Heads and the Divisional Forest Officers are requested to take further action on the items, as resolved in the 15th S.L.C meeting and submit Action Taken report by 30.04.2023.

Encl:(As above)

Sd/- Y. Madhusudhana Reddy
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Head of Forest Force (FAC)

To
The Circle Heads, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Guntur, Anantapuram, Kurnool,
WLM Tirupati and FDPT Srisailam,
Copy to all District Forest Officers (T) and (WL) in A.P.
Copy to all the members of the SLC.

//t.c.b.o//


28/3/2023
Superintendent

**MINUTES OF THE 15th STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE (SLC) MEETING ON WOOD
BASED INDUSTRIES HELD ON 24.03.2023, IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRL.
CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, A.P.,
MANGALAGIRI.**

The 15th meeting of the SLC was convened on 24.03.2023 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	Chairman
2.	Sri A.K. Naik, IFS, Prl.CCF (IT & Research), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF., A.P., Guntur	Member
3.	Sri B.K.Singh, IFS, Prl.CCF, I/c (Working Plan), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur	Member
4.	Dr. R.P.Khajuria, IFS, PCCF (Production), O/o Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur	Member Secretary
5.	Sri N.S.Murali, IFS, IRO, Vijayawada	Member
6.	Sri Y. Srinivasa Reddy, IFS., CCF, Guntur	Member
7.	Sri G. Lakshmana Kumar, Dy. Director, Agriculture Department	Member
10.	Sri M.S. Jayananda Kumar, APFDC Ltd.	Member
11.	Sri Dwara Ramakrishna, General Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Federation of Timber Merchants', Sawmillers & Allied Industries.	Member

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 15th SLC meeting.

The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Production) and Member Secretary, SLC briefed the members about the Agenda for the 15th SLC meeting as follows:

S.no	Agenda
1	ATR on the MoM of 14 th SLC held on 13.10.2022.
2	Proposals for Transfer of ownership a. by Succession (25) b. by Sale (6) c. along with relocation of Sawmill (14)
3	Relocation of Sawmills (4)
4	Fresh license for lapsed licenses (2)
5	Report on Wood Balance Study by the Sub-committee constituted in the 14th SLC.
6	Ratification of Approvals granted under Rule 5(5) of WBI (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.
7	Any other items with the permission of the Chair:

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

1. Action Taken Report on the decisions in the 14th SLC meeting.

ATR on the decisions of the 14th SLC meeting was placed before the SLC and the same was approved by the SLC.

2. 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 (26) 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	Kurnool	M/s Sri Samba Siva Swamy Sawmill	13.46
2	Kurnool	M/s Mahadev Sawmill	5.30
3	Kurnool	M/s Kurnool Sawmill	5.41
4	Kakinada	M/s Uma Maheswara Sawmill	19.819
5	Kakinada	M/s Sri Satyanarayana Sawmill	7.00
6	Kakinada	M/s Sagar Sawmill and Timber Depot	4.87
7	Dr.Br. Ambedkar Konaseema	M/s Ashoka Sawmil and Timber Depot	17.890
8	East Godavari	M/s Sri Lakshmi Prasana Sawmil cum Timber Depot	4.346
9	East Godavari	M/s Syamala Sawmill	13.40
10	Eluru	Sri Durga Bhavani Sawmill	9.60
11	Eluru	M/s Sri Satyanarayana Sawmill	6.57
12	N.T.R	Allharam Sawmill	12.98
13	N.T.R	Sri Lakshmi Durga Timber Traders	6.90
14	Machilipatnam	Bala Raja Rajeswari Sawmill	0.303
15	Machilipatnam	Gopi Krishna Timber Depot and Sawmil	6.66
16	Machilipatnam	Bismilla Sawmill	26.93
17	Kakinada	M/s Sri Venkateswara Sawmill	1.09
18	Eluru	M/s Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Sawmill	27.00
19	Parvathipuram Manyam	Sri Lakshmi Venkata Ramana Sawmill & Timber Depot	5.20
20	Vizianagaram	Sri Venkata Ramana Sawmill	2.73
21	Vizianagaram	Sri Parvathiparameswari Sawmill	2.54
22	Ananthapuramu	M/s Mahaboob Subhani Sawmill	11.61
23	Ananthapuramu	M/s Mohammed Muzammil Sawmill	12.26
24	Ananthapuramu	M/s Murugan Sawmill	0.473
25	Prakasam	Sri Balaji Sawmill cum Timber Depot	4.4
26	Palnadu	Bude and Kareem Mastan Sawmill & Timber Depot	14.93

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	Kurnool	M/s Sree Venkateswara Sawmill	15.16
2	Vizianagaram	Khaja Khajar Sawmill	5.05
3	Palnadu	Sri Durga Ganesh Sawmill	6.00
4	Palnadu	Sri Venkata Ramana Sawmill	9.30
5	Palnadu	Venkata Ramana Sawmill	14.71
6	Prakasam	Raja Sawmill	15.30

c. Transfer of ownership along with relocation of Sawmill

Proposals in respect of the following (14) 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	Kurnool	Within the Division	M/s B.Abdul Razak & Sons Sawmill	1.97
2	N.T.R	To Kakinada	M/s Srimannarayana Sawmill	17.416
3	N.T.R	To Kakinada	M/s Ganesh Timber Depot and Sawmill	13.373
4	Dr.Br. Ambedkar Konaseema	Within the Division	M/s Victory Sawmill	32.550
5	East Godavari	Within the Division	M/s National Sawmill	6.313
6	Krishna	Within the Division	Sri Venkata Veera Sawmill	15.57
7	N.T.R	To Vizianagaram	Vidya Sawmill	33.23
8	N.T.R	To Vizianagaram	Vijayadurga Sawmill and Timber Depot	5.79
9	Vizianagaram	Within the Division	Sri Veeranjanya Veneers and Sawmill	6.79
10	Ananthapuramu	Within the Division	M/s Chand Sawmill	11.26
11	Ananthapuramu	Within the Division	M/s Timber Merchant Association Sawmill	12.09
12	Annamayya	Within the Division	M/s Madeena Sawmill	6.439
13	Nellore	Within the Division	Sri Krishna Sawmill	5.70
14	Nellore	Within the Division	Satyanarayana Sawmill	3.50

In respect of sawmills, where the relocation distance is marginally higher than 5 kilometers i.e., sl.no.8, 13 and 15 the DFO concerned shall satisfy himself regarding correctness of the measurements and take further action accordingly.

In respect of **M/s Sri Vengamamba Sawmill**, proposed for change of ownership by sale along with relocation from Guntur to East Godavari, it is informed that confirmation of distance from nearest forest boundary cannot be made by the SLC or by the Head Office, as requested by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry. It is the DFO, who has to verify and confirm before sending proposals

through the Circle Head, with proper recommendations to the Head Office for placing the before the SLC.

Submit proposals with proper recommendations, ensuring that they are in conformity with the provisions of extant rules, for placing in the next SLC to take a call.

3. Relocation of Sawmills

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

Sl. no.	Division	Sawmill Name	Relocation Distance (km.)
1	Annamayya (Within the Division)	M/s New Modern Sawmill	5.402
2	Chittoor to Tirupathi	M/s Sri Ramakrishna Sawmill	4.86 (in municipal area)
3	Nellore (Within the Division)	Sri Venkateswara Sawmill	5.115
4	Palnadu (Within the Division)	Sami Sawmill & Timber Depot	13.74

In respect of sawmills, where the relocation distance is marginally higher than 5 kilometers i.e., sl.no.1 and 3, the Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall satisfy himself regarding correctness of the measurements and take further action accordingly.

4. Fresh license for lapsed licenses

The Proposals in respect of the following (2) Sawmills placed before the SLC have been examined by members.

Sl.no	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
1	Visakhapatnam	M/s Sri Sankar Vijaya Saw Mill and Sri Rama Timber Depot	2.89
2	Nellore	Masthan Baba Sawmill & Timber Depot	3.26

As per the information provided by the CCFs, Visakhapatnam and Guntur the above mentioned sawmill cases are not lapsed sawmill license. The Sawmill owners have paid the required fee in time. The license has neither lapsed nor cancelled. The Sawmill licenses have not been renewed since 2014 and 2016 respectively with certain reasons. These sawmill licenses are required to be renewed only.

For Sl. no.1, M/s M/s Sri Sankar Vijaya Saw Mill and Sri Rama Timber Depot, Visakhapatnam, it was agreed to take action by the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam for change of ownership, provided everything is in order, conforming to the provisions of Acts and Rules and the DFO satisfied himself that all the documents are correct and genuine. For renewal the Divisional Forest Officer was already authorized.

For Sl. no.2, Masthan Baba Sawmill & Timber Depot, the DFO Nellore may cause inquiry and take action to renew the license when it is found that everything is in order conforming to the rules as he was already authorized to renew the licenses of the Wood Based Industries.

In case of violation to the provisions of Act and Rules, they may take action as per Rule 14 of A.P. Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.

5. Report on Wood Balance Study

The Sub-committee formed as per the decision taken in 14th SLC meeting has submitted its report to the SLC. Main points of the report are as follows:

1. As per the assessment made by the IT wing after updating the field sampling points, the total growing stock is 79.83 million cu m. In the previous inventory in 2012, the total growing stock reported was 67 million cu m. As such, there is incremental growth of 12.83 million cum for the 10 year period (2012-2022).
 2. On annual basis, it amounts to 1.28 million cum or say **12.8 lakh cum**.
 3. The data of sawmills obtained from the Divisions pertains to the material from non-exempted species, whereas the timber availability projected by the IT Wing of Office of the PrI. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, pertains to ToF, which will be mainly exempted species. Further, assuming that 20% of the annual incremental growth of ToF assessment can be harvested, then around 2.5 lakh cum of ToF will be available on annual basis for the sawmills.
 4. As reported above the existing Sawmills are using about 1.87 lakh cum of timber procured from the sources within the State of A.P., which includes non-exempted species, i.e. other than ToF.
 5. Therefore, the committee recommends that around 2.00 lakh cum of ToF material can be safely set aside for the Additional machinery/new sawmills.
 6. The members of the SLC decided that in line with clause 6(i) of the Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018 of GoAP there is urgent need to devise suitable mechanism for sustainable use of timber in a way that does not affect the forests of the area adversely. Accordingly, it is decided to constitute a sub-committee comprising PCCF (IT & Res), PCCF I/c (Working plan), PCCF (Production), Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and Divisional Forest Officer, Palnadu to formulate guidelines and robust mechanism to permit new Sawmills and according permission for additional machinery and to submit the report in two weeks time.
- 6. The permissions granted by the PCCF & HoFF and Chairman of the SLC in the months of November 2022 and January 2023 under Rule 5(5) of WBI(Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, as per the decision taken in the 13th SLC, have been ratified by the SLC for following sawmills:**

Sl.No.	Circle	Division	Category	No.of permission issued
1	Kurnool	Kurnool	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	1
2		YSR Kadapa		2
Total:				3
3	Rajahmundry	NTR	Transfer of ownership by sale	1
4		NTR	Transfer of ownership by Succession	1
5		Eluru		1
Total:				3
6	Visakhapatnam	Parvathipuram Manyam	Transfer of ownership along with relocation	2
Total:				2
Grand Total:				8

7. Other items:

- I. The Circle Head, Guntur has submitted proposal, under lapsed sawmill category, for placing before the SLC seeking permission for renewal of license of following three Sawmills.

- a) M/s Maruthi Industrial Sawmill
b) M/s Sri Lakshmi Sawmill, Kaligiri.
c) M/s Rahamthullah Saw mill, Kaligiri.

1. From the Check slip it is observed that the licenses of the said Sawmills have not been renewed since 2013 and 2018 with a reason that the Sawmill are located within 5.00 km. from the nearest forest boundary as it is in violation to the provisions of extant Rules.
2. The Sawmill owners have paid the required fee in time till the DFO, Nellore stopped renewing the licenses. The licenses have neither been lapsed nor cancelled.
3. The proposals have been examined by the member of the SLC and decided that it has no jurisdiction to accord permission to run these sawmills in violation of Rule 3(2) of A.P. Wood Based Industries (Estt. and Regulation) Rules, 2018.
4. It was agreed to restore the licenses of the said three sawmills by the DFO, provided the sawmills are relocated from their present place of establishment to another place beyond 5.00 km distance from nearest forest boundary.

II. M/s Devi Sawmill, Peddapuram, Kakinada.

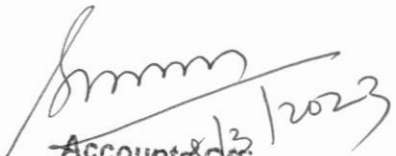
The DFO, Kakinada is permitted for change of ownership through succession subject to satisfying himself about the genuineness of the "Will" submitted before him.

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

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

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28/2/2023


Accounts Officer
Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator
of Forests, A.P. GUNTUR