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No.: 5-WBC087/2015-BHU

30th September, 2015

To

The Principal Secretary,
Forest Department (Forest Branch),
Govt. of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, 1st Floor, Block-LA-10A,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 098, West Bengal.

Sub: Diversion of 13.54 ha (9.32 ha in Burdwan + 4.22 ha in Durgapur Division) of forest land by Essar Oil Limited for laying of pipeline and construction of access road to CBM Well sites at Raniganj CBM Block - reg.

Ref: State Govt. letter No. 1696-For/O/L/10T-11/2015 dated 04.08.2015 and 2095 dated 17.09.2015.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am directed to inform that the proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 23.09.2015 and the Committee decided to defer the proposal to the next REC meeting due to the following reasons.

- The proposal is not site specific and from the presentation of the user agency, it appears possible that the forest land can be avoided. Most of the forest land required for the project is almost in the fringe of forestland and, therefore, for laying of pipeline and roads this can be easily shifted to the nearby non forestland. The CF (LA&FCA), representing West Bengal agreed with the view of the committee. Therefore, the State Govt. of West Bengal may please reconsider the proposal to see if the forest land involved can be avoided.
- So far as the comments of CWLW, West Bengal are concerned, these are contrary to what DFO, Burdwan has reported in part-II of the proposal. Whereas the CWLW has stated that there is no designated elephant corridor, however, the DFO, Burdwan has stated the following two corridors are involved i.e. 1) Brindabanpur, Rajkusum, Gopalpur, Bistupur, Piyariganj (Damodar river side) & 2) Bistupur, Chuamudafa, Jamdoba, Raghunathpur (Ajay river side). The State Govt. may kindly look into this contradiction.

A well considered view of the State Govt. on the above observations of REC may be sent to this office for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(R. K. Samal)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

- The PCCF & CWLW, Govt. of West Bengal, Bikash Bhawan, North Block, 3rd Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 91 for kind information and necessary action.
- The Addl. PCCF (CAMPA) & Nodal Officer, FCA, Govt. of West Bengal, State Forest Department, O/o the PCCF, Aranya Bhawan, LA-10A, Sector-3, 4th to 6th Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 98 for kind information and necessary action.
- The Project Director, CBM-Project-Raniganj, Essar Oil Limited (E&P Division), Durgapur - 713 208, West Bengal for information and necessary action.

Conservator of Forests (Central)

प्रेषित / Despatcher

दिनांक / Dated: 30/9/15

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