

**Minutes of Meeting of Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) held on
22.12.2020**

Agenda No. 1

File No. 8-113/2000-FC (Vol. III)

Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 86.479 ha of forest land for construction of overhead piped conveyer belt from Kurmitar ML Boundary of OMC Ltd to new proposed Railway siding at Barsuan for transportation of mineral with provision for one dispatch area in between the route and the other at terminal point at Barsuan.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2020. Corresponding agenda note may be seen at ***parivesh.nic.in***. After due deliberation FAC observed that the proposal is for construction of overhead piped conveyer belt from Kurmitar ML Boundary of OMC Ltd to the proposed Railway siding at Barsuan.
2. M/s OMC Ltd has submitted a proposal to evacuate the enhanced production of iron ore of 6.0 MTPA upto nearest Railway head in environmentally safe manner. This is as per the recommendation of CSIR-NEERI.
3. At present the evacuation of iron ore up to rail head is done by about 2000 trucks. This mode uses the existing utility road which is about 12 km long. The present alignment of the piped conveyer belt will be laid on 346 steel trestles (pillars) and will be of 8.314 km long.
4. Entire alignment is over forest land except 0.127 ha of non-forest land in the proposed project.
5. It is also informed that 86.479 ha of forest land includes 1.304 ha of Forest land **which is a part of 11.912 ha forest land, for which Stage-II approval has already been accorded by ERO MoEF&CC on 29.05.2020** (for infra-structure development to support mining at Kurmitar and Rantha ML in favour of the same User Agency i.e. M/s OMC Ltd.). Thus it is also a case of re diversion for

which CA is not provided.

6. It is also reported that an area of 1.993 ha of forest land (i.e. Khandadhar RF -1.662 ha and Khandadhar PRF-0.331 ha) included under proposed forest area of 86.479 ha for diversion for the instant proposal, has also been included in another diversion proposal of Rantha ML initiated by M/s OMC Ltd, which is under process.

Decision of FAC

FAC after thorough deliberation and discussion with Regional Officer, Bhubaneswar and representatives of user agency **recommended the proposal** with general, standard and following specific conditions.

1. After construction of the proposed overhead conveyer belt, State government will ensure that transportation of ore from the mines through existing road gets discontinued in a phased and time bound manner. To maximise utilisation of the conveyor belt facility user agency shall not transport any ore material through road beyond a permissible quantity as specified by the State Government from time to time.
2. It was noticed during DSS analysis that 0.983 ha forest area is proposed to be used for infrastructure purpose adjoining the despatch area-1. Since this is an isolated area, use of forest land for non-forestry purpose was not recommended considering larger impact it will have on the remaining forest. Moreover, the user agency has sufficient area available, for this purpose in the land which had already been diverted in its favour.
3. On analysis on DSS it was observed that a seasonal water stream/nalah exists on South-west boundary of the proposed dispatch area-2. The area between the banks of this seasonal stream/ nalah and the proposed dispatch area-2 shall be mapped and a green belt with native species shall be raised and maintained at the cost of user agency to protect the seasonal stream/nalah. Soil and moisture conservation measures in the dispatch area shall be planned and implemented at the cost of the user agency and effective measures shall be used by the user agency to

prevent Iron ore leaching from the dispatch areas.

4. It shall be ensured that the trestles (pillars) of proposed conveyor belt are sufficiently high so that the movement of wildlife particularly elephant in the area is not hampered. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared and approved by the competent authority and the cost of its preparation and implementation shall be borne by the user agency. The user agency shall also make proportionate contribution towards the cost of the Regional Wildlife Management Plan prepared and approved by the competent authority.
5. The state Forest Department shall also prepare a scheme of Assisted Natural Regeneration of the forest in 500 meter perimeter of the dispatch areas with a view to create dense green cover so as to minimise dust and other pollution on rest of the forest, and implement it at the cost of the user agency.
6. Earlier approval was accorded for the parent proposal, i.e. use of forest area for mining in Kurmitar Iron and Manganese Mines vide this Ministry letter no 8-113/2000-FC (Vol.II) dated 29th November 2018. Compliance of the conditions specified in the approval shall be submitted by the State Government.
7. Besides, it is also recommended that the title of the proposal should get changed as it also includes 1.304 ha of forest area is for re-diversion. The title of the proposal may be modified as under to avoid any confusion for future reference

Proposal for diversion of 85.175 ha of fresh forest land and 1.304 ha re-diversion of Forest land (which is a part of 11.912 ha forest land, for which Stage-II approval has already been accorded by ERO, MoEF&CC on 29.05.2020) for construction of overhead piped conveyor belt from Kurmitar ML Boundary of OMC Ltd to new proposed Railway siding at Barsuan for transportation of mineral with provision for one dispatch area in between the route and the other at terminal point at Barsuan.

Agenda No. 2

File No. 8-62/1999-Fc (Vol)

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Dehradun for renewal of Collection of Minor Minerals from 628.8 ha forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 for 10 years under Dehradun Forest Division, Uttarakhand regarding (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019)

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2020. Corresponding agenda note may be seen at ***parivesh.nic.in***.
2. This proposal was earlier considered by FAC on 19.12.2019. FAC after due deliberation had deferred the proposal with following observations.
 - a. The State Government shall conduct a study to ascertain the impact of such mining in upstream and downstream. The study shall come out with clear recommendation as how such mining is useful in maintaining the natural flow of the river and health of adjoining forest. It should cover the impact of mining in the area in last 10 years. The study may correlate satellite imageries of last 10 years. It may also be ascertained that how much loose boulders and sand can be collected for the purpose of mining every year. The study may be conducted through a recognized institute of repute.
 - b. It may be clarified that if the mining lease has been revised for 696.2 ha or not. The status of remaining forest area may be clarified. (1325-628.8 = 696.2 ha).
 - c. KML file of CA area, as applicable be provided.
3. State Government has confirmed that a morphological study of all rivers in this proposal (Song 1,2 & 3 and Jakhan 1 & 2) to ascertain the impact

of such mining in upstream and downstream has been carried out by Indian Institute of Central Soil Water Conservation, Dehradun. The study report has ascertained that in almost all the stream bed under the study the perimeter of the bed of extraction remained the same but the area has decreased to some extent over time. This is due to regeneration of vegetation in the left over 25% of area which will help in protecting the banks from erosion. Further on account of taking lesser area than the previous approval it is clarified by the State Government that this proposal has not included certain stretch of rivers which was part of earlier approval.

Decision of FAC

FAC after thorough deliberation and discussion with Regional Officer, IRO Dehradun and representative of user agency **recommended the proposal** with general, standard and following specific Conditions

1. State government shall ensure that the extraction of minor mineral is carried out manually. Further, heavy machineries shall not be used for extraction of sand, stone and Bajri from the river bed.
2. The extraction of minor mineral shall be as per the recommendations of morphological study report done by Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun.
3. Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, MoEF&CC as updated from time to time shall be followed.
4. Bamboo plantation shall be raised between the mining area in the river bed and the nearby areas at project cost to avoid soil erosion and also protect agriculture fields. The state government may coordinate to dovetail the schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India in this regard.
5. Copy of this approval shall be marked to National Commission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation),

Government of India for reference.

6. The sale proceeds from collection of minor minerals from forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 shall be used for protection/ conservation of forests

Agenda No. 3

File No. 8-9/2020-FC

Sub: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forest use of 680.1 ha (instead of 1100 ha.) of Forest land in favour of M/s JKSPDC for construction of Ujh Multipurpose Hydro Electric Project in District Kathua, UT of Jammu and Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/44025/2020)- Reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2020. Corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.
2. FAC observed that this project is of national importance which provides geo-political strategic advantage in form of more effective use of water of Ujh River. This project will ameliorate the agricultural and power sectors in the otherwise barren Kandi area. It will also be a boon in the dry Kandi belt which is reeling under the peril of impending water crisis during dry season and also reduce the miseries of floods in the monsoons. It further observed that this is the first online project proposal of J&K being dealt by FAC. Justification provided by the UT Administration regarding considering a patch of CA area that is of less than 5 ha was accepted after detailed deliberation on the overall proposal. It was assured by the UT Administration during the discussion that Special CA scheme will be prepared in a time bound manner taking into account the issues related to deficient soil in the CA area.

Decision of FAC

After thorough deliberation and discussion with Regional Officer, IRO Jammu and Nodal officer (J&K), FAC **recommended the proposal** with general, standard and following specific conditions.

1. Large number of trees are proposed to be felled due to the project. Every effort shall be made to ensure that trees are felled only when felling is unavoidable and it shall be done in a phased manner. The UT Administration shall therefore also ensure that compensatory afforestation is taken up in the first year of the construction of the project, and adequate post-planting measures are taken to ensure healthy growth of regenerated forest.
2. The UT Administration shall prepare a Catchment Treatment Plan (CAT) which will be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
3. The R&R plan shall ensure that no rehabilitation is proposed over forest land. A copy of the approved R&R plan shall be submitted by the user agency to the UT Administration who will monitor to ensure that no project affected person occupies forest land.
4. Further, the Integrated Farming Scheme for Rainfed Area (a scheme of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare) and National Bamboo Mission shall be fully taken into consideration in the R&R planning, to create larger employment opportunities for project affected individuals and to ensure that biotic pressure on the remaining adjoining forests doesn't increase.

Agenda No. 4

Proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/51783/2020

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non- forest use of 13.24 ha of forest land for construction of Shahpurkandi Dam

Division-II Punjab, Shapurkandi Township, under forest division and District Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir (online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/51783/2020)- reg.

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2020. Corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.
2. The project area involves land from two states. The proposal from Punjab Government was considered in FAC on 21.09.2020 and was recommended following specific condition:

"This recommendation for 'in-principle' approval should not be construed in any manner as prior consent of the FAC to recommend diversion of the forest area on the J&K side. To avoid a fait accompli, FAC also recommended that compliance of the conditions of this in-principle approval shall be initiated only after in-principle approval for diversion of forest area in J&K part of the project is obtained"

3. Accordingly, the UT administration has submitted this proposal and the same was considered by FAC.
4. It is reported that total area involved in the Shahpurkandi Dam Project in J&K side is 618.35 ha, out of which 13.24 ha has been reported to be forest area.

Decision of FAC:

After thorough deliberation and discussion with Regional Officer, IRO Jammu and Nodal Officer, J&K, FAC **recommended the proposal** with General, Standard and following Specific conditions:

1. The UT Administration shall prepare the Catchment Treatment Plan (CAT), which will be implemented at the cost of the user agency.
2. The R&R plan shall ensure that there is no adverse impact on forests due to the project affected persons. A copy of the R&R

plan shall be submitted, and the same shall be monitored by the UT Administration in the above regard. In this regard the R&R plan shall also take full advantage of the Integrated Farming Scheme for Rainfed Area and National Bamboo Mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare so that more employment opportunities could be created in the farm sector and there is no increase in biotic pressure on the adjoining forests due to project affected people.

3. State Government shall obtain necessary wild life clearance before starting work on the project.

(Confirmed through email)

(Shri S. D. Vora)

Member

(Confirmed)

(Shri A.K. Mohanty)

Inspector General of Forests (FC)

(Confirmed through email)

(Shri Anmol Kumar)

Member

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(Dr Sanjay Deshmukh)

Member

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(Shri Sisir Kumar Ratho)

Additional Director General of
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*Additional Commissioner (Soil
Conservation)*

Ministry Agriculture (Member)

(Approved)

(Dr. Sanjay Kumar)

Director General of Forests & Special Secretary