

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
**New Delhi – 110003**  
**Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021**

**To,**  
**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal

**Sub: Diversion of 467.809 hectares of forest land/revenue forest land (443.000 ha. forest land + 24.809 ha. Revenue forest land=467.809 ha. forest land) for Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s. Northern Coal Fields Limited, Rewa in Singrauli District State of Madhya Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015) -regarding**

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to refer to Addl. Principal Chief conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/783/2017/10-11/3262 Bhopal dated 30.10.2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination and recommendation of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, ***In-principle/Stage - I*** approval to the proposal was granted by this Ministry's letter of even number dated 19.04.2018 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management)

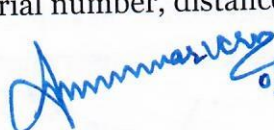
  
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and Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide their letters No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015/3108 dated 27.09.2019, letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015/124 dated 08.01.2020, letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015/1531 dated 20.05.2020, letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015/116 dated 11.01.2021 and letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/13685/2015/1333 dated 06.04.2021 '**Final approval /Stage – II**' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 467.809 hectares of forest land/revenue forest land (443.000 ha. forest land + 24.809 ha. Revenue forest land=467.809 ha. forest land) for Opencast Coal Mining in favor of M/s. Northern Coal Fields Limited, Rewa in Singrauli District State of Madhya Pradesh, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

**A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.:**

- i. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan (if required) as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF &CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard, before handing over of forest land to the user agency;
- iii. The User Agency either itself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake fencing, protection and afforestation of the safety zone area (7.5 meter strip shall be kept within the mining lease or mining cluster, as applicable and such other areas as specified in the approved mining plan) at the project cost. Area of safety zone of a mining lease shall be a part of the total area of the mining lease;
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates; and

  
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- v. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;
- vi. The State Government shall upload the kml files of the area under diversion and the accepted degraded forest land for raising compensatory afforestation in the E-Green Watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;

**B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.:**

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees shall be removed and the trees should be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- iii. The Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 935.618 ha degraded forest land ((i.e. twice in extent to the area of forest land proposed to be diverted ( $2 \times 467.809 = 935.618$  ha.) at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
- iv. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- v. The user agency shall undertake mining and reclamation of the mined out area as per the approved mining plan and the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- vi. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the Rules framed there-under as amended;
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Following activities be implemented by the user agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost;
  - a. A plan containing appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented;
  - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion;

  
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- c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour;
  - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that that angles of repose at any given place is less than  $28^{\circ}$ ; and
  - e. Strict adherence to the prescribed top soil management;
- viii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- ix. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- x. The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xi. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xiii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused
- xiv. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvi. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xvii. The State Government shall ensure to implement the Integrated Wildlife Plan for the region at the project cost;
- xviii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior

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approval of Govt. of India;

- xix. The change in the layout plan of the mining lease, if required, shall be done as prescribed in the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xx. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019;
- xxi. The mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing of the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.;
- xxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xxiii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 19.04.2018 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Shrawan Kumar Verma)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading on PARIVESH portal.