

**Field Inspection Note of Sri. P.V. Raja Rao, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kothagudem Circle, Kothagudem on 04.12.2018 for fresh proposal of the SCCL for diversion of 694.159 Ha. forest land for the proposal(KOC-III) for continuing opencast mining in Koyagudem Area.**

Today along with the General Manager, Yellandu, Project Officer, Koyagudem, General Manager(estates) & General manager (Environment) and other officials of the SCCL and the Forest Divisional Officer, Kothagudem, inspected the area proposed for diversion of 694.159 Ha. of forest land for Mining purpose.

The General Manager, Yellandu has submitted the proposal to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HOFF, Telangana on 02.11.2016. This proposal was forwarded for the processing. Subsequently, vide PCCF & HOFF reference No. 4806/2016/FCA-1/PS, dated 30.11.2018 has confirmed the Compensatory Afforestation area identified for the purpose in Guduru Forest Division.

- 1) In the proposal following RF land use pattern has been proposed:

S.No	Land use purpose	Area in (Ha.)
1	Quarry area	302.52
2	External dump	295.96
3	Safe barrier , Inspection road, Drain, Bund and Transmission line including Safety Zone	42.48
4	CHP & Coal Yard	3.93 (reduced to 3.233)
5	Nallah Diversion Including settling tank	36.30
6	Belt Conveyor and Railway siding	11.59
7	Regularization of area in difference in GPS & DGPS survey	2.076
		694.159

- 2) The area proposed is falling in Compt. No. 34(P), 36 and 37 of Chathakonda RF of Tekulapalli Range. The adjoining Compartment are Comp.No. 38 and 39 of Tekulapalli Range. The boundary of the area proposed for diversion on the N-E side is abetting Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary. However, the buffer area of Kinnerasani Wild Life Sanctuary is about 6 Kms. from the nearest proposed area. In between there are villages like Lachigudem, Sampathnagar, Gangavaram, Vajannagudem, Mangapuram, Pedda Cherla palli, Mala Madugu, Venkatarampuram, Mittapalli, Chinthala chilaka and Gollagudem etc.. in the Eco-sensitive zone as well as buffer area in these villages developed agriculture in going on.

- 3) It has been informed by the project proponent that the SCCL is having approved Mining Plan for the area proposed for diversion vide Ministry of Coal, Gol Ir. No. 13016/5/2016-CA II, dated 24.09.2016 (copy enclosed). The SCCL has submitted proposal for obtaining Mining Lease vide Letter dated 15.09.2018 (copy enclosed) and submitted proposal for obtaining Comprehensive Environmental Clearance and the subject was considered before the EAC on 27-28, February-2017 and the MoEF &CC, Gol vide letter No. J-11015/11/2017-IA.II(M), dated.30.03.2017 issued ToR.

- 4) The project proponent also informed that there are three diversion of forest land for mining purpose in this area. The area and period of validity is indicated as below:

S.No	Mine name	Area (Ha.)	MoEF& CC Reference	Validity of permission till
1	Koyagudem Opencast-I	236.00	F.No. 8-113/99-FC, dated.14.05.2001	2031
2	Koyagudem Opencast-II (Phase-I)	231.94	F.No. 8-90/2006-FC, dated.08.01.2008	2028
3	Koyagudem Opencast-II (Phase-II)	231.84	F.No. 8-22/2014-FC, dated.18.04.2017	Co-terminus with Mining Lease(2035)
Total		699.78		



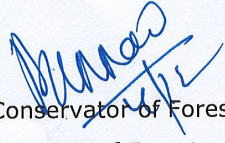
As may be observed the total forest area of 699.78 Ha. has been diverted for mining purpose for Koyagudem Projects and the present proposal is for continuing the Mining in this area for another 30 years. The project proponent has informed that from the proposed project about 464.89 Million Cum of overburden will be produced which will be dumped in 641.13 Ha. with height of 120 mts. above the surface level and one internal dump of 401.71 Million Cum. will be dumped. Thus in total 641.13 Ha. will be utilized for dumping of Over-burden soil. This area includes area of 295.96 Ha. from the proposed diversion and the remaining area of 345.17 Ha. i.e. of Koyagudem opencast-I ( 203.79 Ha.) & 141.38 Ha. of Koyagudem OC-II(Phase-I) will be utilized for dumping of overburden dump. The project proponent has been informed that the areas of the existing mine (de-coaled area) will be utilized in order to reduce the requirement of additional forest land outside, as adjoining areas are forest land.

- 5) Further, they have given justification that they have considered the alternatives for dumping of over-burden dump in Non- forest land, but, found the existing proposal is the suitable and best option on following count.
  - a. The majority of the land is falling in Eco-sensitive zone of Kinnerasani Wild Life Sanctuary.
  - b. The land is though Non-forest but coal bearing for which exploration is proposed.
  - c. In this area, 13 villages(ST) are there who are un-willing for re-location due to ethical & ancestral values.
  - d. Covers irrigation water tanks.
  - e. If, the area of KOC-I & KOC-II(Phase-I) is not utilized there will be need for additional forest land.
- 6) The user agency has informed that they are doing mining in Yellandu, Kothagudem and Manuguru areas in the district, these mines are separated from each other 50-60 Kms. It has been also informed that during next 5 years about 16 (sixteen) mines will be closed and there will be reduction in coal production to the extent of 29 Million Tonnes. The Government of India has put a target to produce 75 Million Tonne by the year 2020-21 and for this purpose they are proposing new mines, and the present proposal is one of such mines. The coal produced from all these mines including the present proposal is linked to mainly Thermal power plants and Cement factories, any disruption in supply of coal will affect adversely.
- 7) Out of 694.159 Ha. area proposed diversion, about 542.35 Ha. of forest land is under encroachment and cultivation of mainly dry crop is going on. Out of this RoFR certificate has been issued to 645 holders covering an area of 542.35 Ha. The remaining area is undulating, seasonal nallah and hilly and covered with scrub growth. The density of this remaining area is about 0.2 and open forest. The growth is mainly of pole crop having average girth of 20-25 cm, that to mainly of coppices growth. The main species are Chloroxylon sweitinia, Annogeissus, Nyctanthus, Wrightia, Beedi leaf etc., the crop height is about 2.0 Mts.
- 8) The CA land for this area has been identified in Gangaram Range to the extent of 1388.31 Ha. being double the degraded forest land, as the SCCL is treated CPSU for the purpose of CA. The CA scheme has been prepared with an outlay of Rs.8800.80 Lakhs (including of conservation of wild life sensitive areas).
- 9) The SCCL has already deposited Rs. 32.599 crores during 2016 for implementing Wildlife Conservation plan for mitigating impact of KOC-II (Phase-II) project.
- 10) The Forest Divisional Officer, The District Forest officer, Kothagudem have process the proposal and submitted along with their recommendations.



11) In view of the above, it is recommended to consider this proposal subject to following:

- a. The user agency to take-up rehabilitation of the area concurrently.
- b. The safety zone area all around proposed mine area will be demarcated and planted with local species, in 100 Mts width between the Eco-sensitive zone and the mine boundary tall plants of local species will be planted under Miyawaki technique and maintained for the life of the project.
- c. The comprehensive Wildlife Management plan will be implemented at the project.
- d. The project proponent will obtain required permission under environment clearance, Mining Lease etc., and comply with the stipulations made therein.
- e. As the area of old approved mines is proposed to be utilized to the extent of 345.17 Ha. the user agency will seek renewal of permission.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests/  
Conservator of Forests,  
Kothagudem Circle