

## Railway Siding project of Central coalfield Limited

**FCA proposal No: FP/JH/RAIL/47332/2020**

- **Total project area: 251.51 Ha (Latehar FD- 234.5 Ha, Chatra South FD- 17.01 Ha)**
- **Non-Forest area: 130.22 Ha (Latehar FD- 130.22 Ha, Chatra South FD- 0 Ha)**
- **Proposed Forest area for diversion: 121.29 Ha (Latehar- 104.28 Ha, Chatra South- 17.01 Ha)**
- **Forest area proposed in Latehar Forest Division: 104.28 Ha (Notified Forest- 71.17 Ha, Deemed Forest (GMJJ) – 33.11 Ha)**

The proposed Magadh Railway Siding is situated in the villages of Ara, Chamatu, Chetar, Seregara, Phulbasia and Chedra/Chara on forest and non-forest areas of Balumath forest ranges of Latehar Forest Division. This area is a part of landscape significant in terms of ecological and hydrological functions, and important habitat of wildlife and comes under the proposed migratory route of wild elephant. CCL has planned for construction of Magadh Railway Siding (MRS) in Magadh-Sanghmitra Area (M-S Area) to dispatch coal to different power plants from Magadh OCP by introduction of Rapid Loading System (RLS) through SILO loading arrangement. Take-off point of siding line is at 480 m away from Bukru station towards Shivpur on Tori-Shivpur section of Dhanbad Division of East Central railway. Location of the CHP has been planned near coal mining project to reduce feed distance of transport of coal to minimum possible extent to minimise dust generation due to coal transport. This alignment is proposed for minimum route length with least involvement of forest land avoiding high density forest patches has been planned. Mega coal projects of CCL (Magadh OCP) is operating in the nearby area which is going to be expanded in the near future. Therefore it is very important to consider the complete landscape and cumulative impact of this project along with the operational and upcoming mining projects in the nearby areas.



*Fig-01: Location of Coal Blocks near MRS project area*

The proposed area has Tropical Dry Deciduous forest vegetation with an average canopy density of **0.3 to 0.4** and **Eco class III** having a predominance of *Shorea rubusta* (Sal) and its associate species. **16211 trees** enumerated on the proposed forest area depicts a large pool of Carbon Stock in an ecologically and hydrologically significant tract of forest. User Agency has already cleared and broke 31.68 Ha of Protected Forest land and 9.62 GMJJ Land (Deemed Forest) on which embankment was made. Forest cases were registered for the forest offences on Protected Forest land

**Prawesh Agrawal**  
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Divisional Forest Officer  
Jatehar Forest Division



## Recommendation of Divisional Forest Officer, Latehar for Magadh Railway Siding project of Central coalfield Limited

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Fig-01. Location of Coal Blocks near MRS project area

The proposed area has Tropical Dry Deciduous forest vegetation with an average canopy density of **0.3 to 0.4** and **Eco class III** having a predominance of *Shorea rubusta* (Sal) and its associate species. **16211 trees** enumerated on the proposed forest area depicts a large pool of Carbon Stock in an ecologically and hydrologically significant tract of forest. User Agency has already cleared and broke 31.68 Ha of Protected Forest land and 9.62 GMJJ Land (Deemed Forest) on which embankment was made. Forest cases were registered for the forest offences on Protected Forest land

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under Indian Forest Act, 1927 and for violation over Jungle Jhari land Deputy Commissioner, Latehar has been requested to take proper steps.

Based on a thorough cost-benefit analysis of the project vis-à-vis the landscape dynamics, to balance the trade-off between *ecological security* and *energy security* while ensuring that both the interests go hand in hand in a sustainable manner, the proposal submitted by CCL of the diversion of 104.28 Ha forest land in Latehar Forest Division under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for **Magadh Railway Siding is recommended with following specific conditions:**

1)

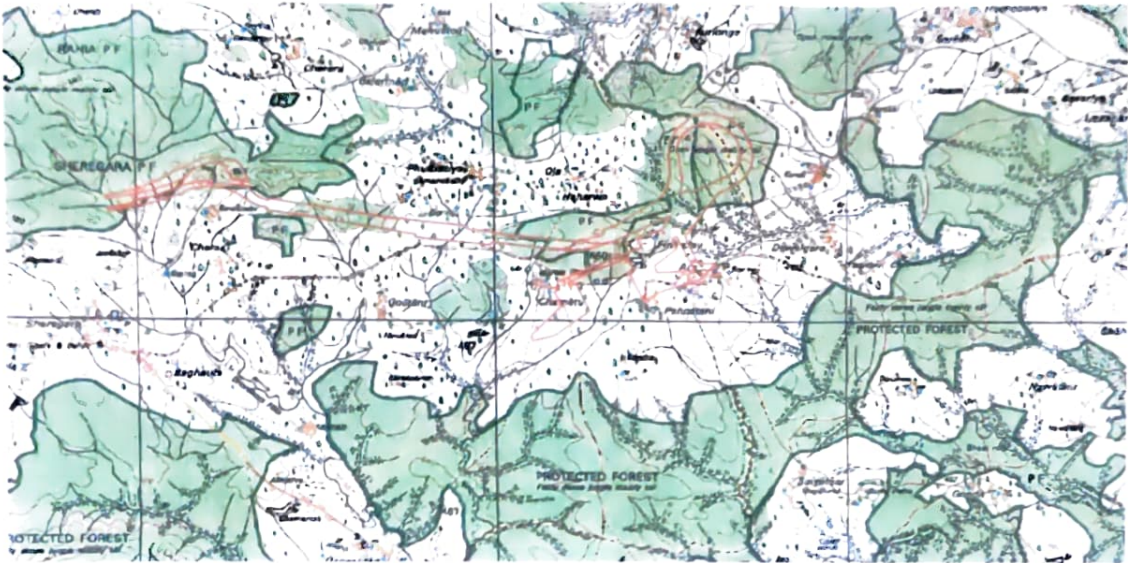


Fig-02 Location of Magadh Railway Siding on Toposheet (showing forest and water bodies in the area).

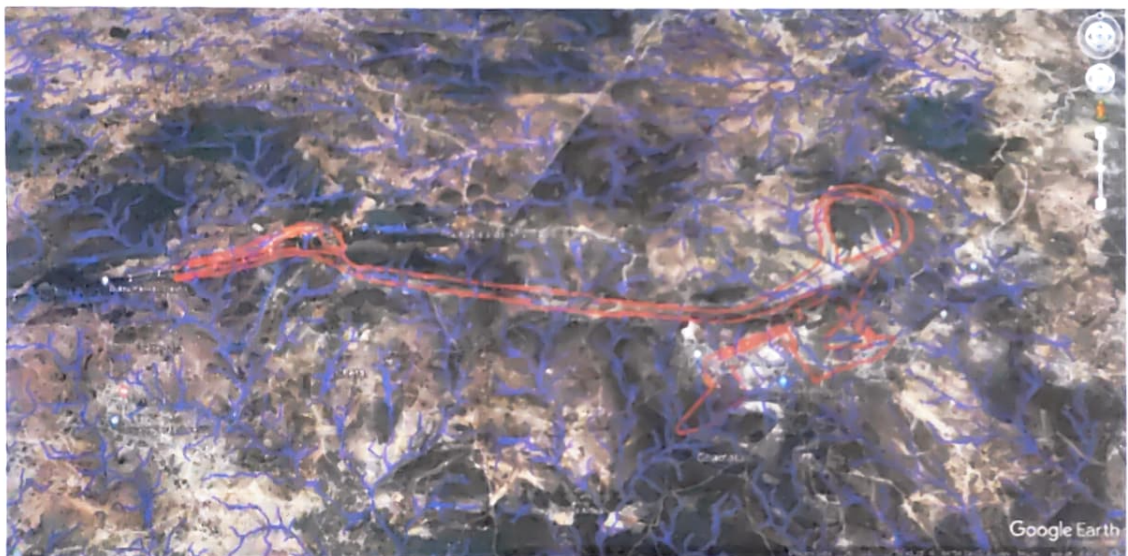


Fig-03. Rivers/streams in and around MRS project area.

The proposed area of Magadh Railway Siding is a part of landscape significant in terms of *ecological and hydrological functions* interlaced with numerous rivulets/nalas and is important from the *Water Security* perspective. With this project in the area few streams arising from the adjoining hills and forests will be compromised and entire fragile ecosystem can get affected by water crisis a few years down the line. Complete stretch of stream should be further protected by identifying and developing dense multi row plantation of indigenous species on both

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side of the river (preferably up to 100 meters) to prevent adverse impacts of project. The area proposed for diversion is prone to soil erosion which will become further vulnerable to soil erosion and degradation due to this project. Therefore, a Comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan should be prepared and implemented to ensure that the detrimental impact of project on the adjacent forests shall be minimised.

- 2) The Forest area proposed for diversion is situated in the elephant movement route along the contiguous forest areas. The proposed diversion shall be causing hindrance to the free movement of elephants from one forest tract to another. There should be adequate measures to safeguard the traditional route of wild animals including elephants. In order to minimise Human-Animal conflict in general and Human-Elephant conflict in particular, along with furthering the cause of conservation of elephant and its associate habitat, while maintaining the structural and functional integrity of the eco-system, it is very much necessary to protect the precious habitat from fragmentation, degradation, and destruction. Hence, a site specific Wildlife Management Plan, to mitigate the conservation concerns due to the dissection of contiguous habitat patches is recommended. Also under structural measures there should be underpasses/overpasses at adequate spacing along the line.
- 3) It is also recommended that a significant share (preferably 50%) of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/ Community Development Funds should be earmarked for Environmental Restoration and Habitat Development under the guidance and supervision of State Forest Department represented by concerned DFO.
- 4) It is desirable that User Agency should be entrusted with a defined role in the implementation of all the required measures as much as possible under the guidance and supervision of state forest department along with active engagement of locals.
- 5) The entire cost of study, monitoring, logistics and implementation of all the measures shall be borne by User Agency.

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