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Proposal for diversion of 12.07 ha Forest Land under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in Central Chanda Forest Division

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons.

- 1) The proposal is for diversion of 12.07 ha. forest land area for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R- 603 in Central Chanda Forest Division. The area statement is shown as under-

Sr. No.	Item	Village	Taluka	Comptt. No.	Survey No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1.	Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Mining project	Sakhari	Rajura	R-603	440/1P	11.8825	Reserve Forest
2.	Safety zone			R-603	440/1P	0.1875	
	Total					12.0700	

The proposal for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project has been initiated by Area General Manager WCL, Ballarpur Area. The Government of India, Ministry of Coal, New Delhi has approved Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) opencast Mine under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 u/s 7 notified vide letter dated 9th October, 2014 and Administrative and Technical approval by the Board of Directors of WCL communicated vide Company Secretary, WCL letter No. WCL/B/D/SECTT/BM-224/2010/2688, dated 29/5/2010. The project includes 766.47 ha. of non-forest land.

Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast mine is located in Rajura Tahsil of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra State. The mine is 210 km away from Nagpur and nearest railway station is Ballarpur, which is about 20 km from the proposed project. The project area can be demarked on survey of India Topo sheet No-56 M/1 having Latitude 19° 49' 22.78" to 19° 49' 18.03" and Longitude 79° 14' 12.08" to 79° 14' 00.67". The proposed project of Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast mine would contribute 1.25 Mty. of coal per annum to bridge the ever increasing gap between demand and supply of Thermal Power Stations in India. Project report of Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast mine as prepared by CMPDIL, Nagpur is enclosed alongwith mining plan.

- 2) Reclamation plan prepared by Area General Manager, WCL Ballarpur Area is enclosed with Proposal.
- 3) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and category consisting of tropical dry Deciduous Forests of density below 0.4.

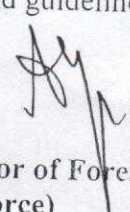
- 4) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that no alternate alignment is possible and the forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 5) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that there is no tree felling is involved in the proposed diversion area.
- 6) The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary as certified by Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur.
- 7) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 8) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur, has certified that non forest area covered under the project is not acquired under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 by application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 is not recognized as deemed reserved Forest nor it has been identified as "Forest" as envisaged in the interim order given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 12/12/1996.
- 9) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as certified by Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda Forest Division, Chandrapur.
- 10) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 km from the boundary of the protected areas.
- 11) The User Agency has given an undertaking to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
- 12) User Agency has agreed to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation upto 24.14 ha degraded forest land.
- 13) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur has given suitability certificate for 24.14 ha degraded forest land of Compt No. 567 in Ballarpur Range, Central Chanda Division, Dist Chandrapur which is proposed for compensatory afforestation land in lieu of forest land required for construction of Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast mining project at village Sakhri, Tahsil. Rajura, Dist Chandrapur and it is contiguous to forest area, suitable for afforestation and free from encroachment and encumbrances.
- 14) The user agency has given undertaking to submit the compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 in format prescribed by Government of India vide letter dt.5/7/2013 before the final approval.
- 15) The user agency has given undertaking to submit the environmental clearance for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project.

- 18) The user agency has given undertaking to submit the environmental clearance for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project.

In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section -2 (II) of Forest (Conservation) Act- 1980 subject to the following conditions –

- i) The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged.
- ii) Compensatory afforestation will be raised at the cost of User Agency on double degraded forest in compartment 567 area 24.14 ha in Ballarpur Range, Central Chanda Forest Division, Dist Chandrapur.
- iii) The Agency will pay the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of the permanent pillars on the compensatory afforestation land made available by the Agency.
- iv) Construction of temporary dwelling / hutment's etc. for labors will not be allowed in the forest areas.
- v) Adequate precautions shall be taken to safeguard the adjoining areas from explosives and it shall not be stored in the forest area.
- vi) The User Agency will dump the overburden on the revenue land or on adjacent private land owned by agency as per their undertaking and forest land will not be used for dumping.
- vii) As per Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 2015 promulgated by the Central Government on 12th January 2015 there would be no renewal of any Mining Leases in future. All Mining Leases to be granted in future would have tenure of 50 years. as directed by GOI, MoEF, vide letter dated 01/04/2015.
- viii) The User Agency shall pay Rs. 20 lakhs for Wildlife Mitigation purpose as recommended by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur. The wildlife mitigation plan will be approved by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
- xi) The User Agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) and its protection by erecting adequate number of 4 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
- x) In case of mining leases adjoining the habitation stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads be properly fenced by the user agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation/ regeneration activities in the safety zone.
- xi) Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy cover in the area, regeneration shall be taken in this area by the user agency at the project cost under supervision of the Forest Department.
- xii) Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half time the area of forest land under safety zone shall also be done by the State Forest Department at the cost of User Agency.
- xiii) The user agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 12.07 ha. of forest land as per the latest Guidelines of Government of India.
- xiv) The User Agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of Forest land as per the latest guidelines of Government of India.
- xv) The user agency shall produce the compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 in format prescribed by Government of India vide letter dt.5/7/2013 before obtaining formal approval.
- xvi) All extraction works will be done as per Mining Plan approved by the Government of

- xiv) The User Agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of Forest land as per the latest guidelines of Government of India.
- xv) The user agency shall produce the compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 in format prescribed by Government of India vide letter dt.5/7/2013 before obtaining formal approval.
- xvi) All extraction works will be done as per Mining Plan approved by the Government of India.
- xvii) The Forest area will be reclaimed as per the approved mining plan during the currency of lease, and the area will be handed over to the Forest Department periodically.
- xviii) The user agency shall submit the environmental clearance for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project before obtaining final approval.
- xix) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied by the user agency.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

PART - IV

(to be filled by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks. (While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)
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Specific recommendation
of principal chief conservator
of forests (Hoff) M.S. Nagpur
is enclosed on page No. 101
to 104.

Yash / 15/12/15
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
And Nodal officer
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

14/12

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**
ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 12.07 ha Forest Land under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in Central Chanda Forest Division.

No. : Desk-17/NC/I/I.D- /1715 /15-16
Nagpur - 440 001, Dated : 15/12/2015

To,
The Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralay, Mumbai-400032

The Area General Manager WCL, Ballarpur Area, Chandrapur has submitted the proposal for diversion of 12.07 ha Forest Land under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in Central Chanda Forest Division. The location of proposed area is as given below -

Sr. No.	Item	Village	Taluka	Comptt. No.	Survey No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
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Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in two copies.

- 1) Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.
- 2) Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,
- 3) Area Statement,
- 4) Index map in suitable scale,
- 5) Reclamation plan prepared by Area General Manager, WCL Ballarpur Area is enclosed with Proposal.
- 6) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and category consisting of tropical dry Deciduous Forests of density below 0.4.
- 7) The Deputy Conservator of Forests Central Chanda, Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that no alternate alignment is possible and the forest land required is the barest minimum.
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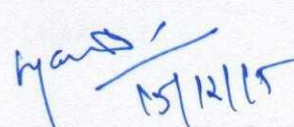
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- xix) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied by the user agency.

It is, therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the proposal for diversion of 12.07 ha Forest Land under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in Central Chanda Forest Division.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies


 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 & Nodal Officer,
 Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur for information.

Copy to Deputy Conservator of Forests (T), Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur for information.

Copy to Area General Manager, WCL Ballarpur Area, At. Dhoptala Tal. Rajura Dist. Chandrapur for information.


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