



**एन एम डी सी लिमिटेड NMDC Limited**  
( भारत सरकार का उद्यम / A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
**दोणिमलै लौह अयस्क खान/ Donimalai Iron Ore Mine**



ISO 9001:2015  
ISO 14001:2015  
ISO 45001:2018  
SA 8000: 2014

**Donimalai Township – 583 118, Dist.: Bellary, Karnataka.**  
Phones: 08395 – 274654 / 274618, Fax: 08395 – 274687 /274654

**DNM/ENV/89/2021/2484**

**Date.02.09.2021**

To  
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Division,  
Ballari.

**//Through: RFO, Sandur South Range & ACF, Ballari//**

**Sub:** Diversion of Forest Land (75.92a.) for construction of New Screening Plant, Tailing dam(s), Slurry pipe line corridor & Water pipe line corridor at Donimalai Complex of NMDC Ltd-reg.

**Ref:** DCF LetterNo.M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19 dated 27.08.2021.

Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned subject, please find enclosed herewith the point wise clarification for further processing of our application pertaining to diversion of Forest land (75.92Ha.) for construction of New Screening Plant, Tailing dam (s), Slurry pipe line and Water Pipe line corridor at Donimalai Complex of NMDC Limited. .

| Sl. No. | Clarifications   | Reply to the Clarification   |
|---------|--|--|
| i)      | The User Agency has applied the instant proposal under the other category in PARIVESH portal instead of Mining Category. The components mentioned for diversion seems to the ancillary activities of Mining. In this regard the State govt. may provide its Justification. | <p>The present proposal is for construction of a standalone project i.e. a new Screening Plant &amp; Beneficiation Plant along-with associated tailing dams and pipelines.</p> <p>It may please be noted that the area selected for the proposed facility is adjacent to the existing screening plant at Donimalai Iron Ore Mine. The site selection is based on the terrain requirement and operational feasibilities. The proposed area is situated on non-mineralized zone.</p> <p>Earlier, when the project was listed for the consideration of EAC (Non-Coal Mining) in its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting held during 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 for grant of Environment Clearance, then committee was of the view that <i>the proposal needs to be transferred to the EAC (Industry Sector) as the proposal is only for the beneficiation process which is outside the lease area</i> and the project proposal falls in Schedule 2(b) as per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006. (Minutes of the meeting are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-A</u></b>).</p> <p>Accordingly, the EC proposal for the project was put up for consideration of the EAC (Industry-I). In the 19<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting (Industry-I) held during 8<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 Project was recommended for grant of Environmental Clearance after receipt of Stage-I clearance of Forest</p> |

हिन्दी में पत्र व्यवहार को हम प्राथमिकता देते हैं । हिन्दी में पत्र व्यवहार का स्वागत है ।

पंजीकृत कार्यालय :10-3-311/ए खनिज भवन, कैसल हिल्स मासाब टैंक, हैदराबाद 500 173

Regd.Office:10-3-311/A, Khanij Bhavan, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad 500 173

| Sl. No. | Clarifications  | Reply to the Clarification  |
|---------|---|---|
|         |   | <p>Clearance. (Minutes of the meeting are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-B</u></b>)</p> <p>In view of the reasons given above, User Agency has applied the instant proposal under the other category in PARIVESH portal instead of Mining Category.</p> <p>The justification of the project is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-I</u></b> for your kind reference please.</p>   |
| ii)     | From the documents submitted by the State Govt., it is not clear that whether these activities were already part of the earlier approved Mining Plan (M.L.No.2396).                   | The proposed activities are not part of the earlier approved Mining Plan of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396).  |
| iii)    | The State Govt. is requested to submit the detail of total mining lease of the entire Area.   | <p>NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Complex is having two operational mining leases which are as follows: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mining Lease of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML.No.2396) is valid up to 03.11.2038 for an area of 597.54Ha (as per CEC survey) with an EC Capacity of 7 MTPA Iron Ore production.</li> <li>2. Mining Lease of Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (ML.No.1111) is upto 03.10.2022 for an area of 639.80Ha (as per CEC survey) with an EC Capacity of 7 MTPA Iron Ore production. Application for extension of the Mining lease for another period of 20 years has been already submitted to the State Government.</li> </ol> <p>The lease details of both the mines are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-II</u></b> for your ready reference please.</p>  |
| iv)     | The state Govt. is requested to submit the details of total Forest land involved in the entire Mining lease and the details regarding how much Forest Area has already been diverted. | <p>NMDC Ltd., Donimalai complex is having two fully mechanized mines, the details of forest land involved and diverted forest land details are as follows: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML.No.2396)</b> is located in Donimalai reserve forest of Sandur south range of Ballari division. The total lease area is 597.54Ha (as per CEC survey). The forest clearance for an area of 608Ha has already been granted by Government of India and Government of Karnataka. Hence, the Forest Clearance for total lease area is granted in favour of NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (ML.No.2396).</li> <li>2. <b>Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.1111)</b> is located in Swamimalai reserve forest of Sandur South range of Ballari division. The total lease area is 639.80Ha (as per CEC survey). Out of the total 639.80Ha lease area, 152.79 Ha is revenue land, 324.70Ha diverted forest land and 162.31Ha un-diverted forest land. Forest clearance for the total forest land of 341.20 Ha (forest land falling within the mine lease 324.70Ha and forest land outside the mine lease 16.50Ha) is granted in favor of the NMDC Ltd., Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.1111). The forest land outside the mine lease is being utilized for overhead belt conveyor, road and power lines. The overhead belt conveyor is established from mine head to proposed location of new Screening Plant-II i.e. 75.92Ha.</li> </ol> |



| Sl. No.               | Clarifications   | Reply to the Clarification  |               |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
|-----------------------|--|---|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|----|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--|--|---------------|-------|--|--|----------------|--------|--|------------------------------|----------------|-------|--|--|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--|--|----------|
| v)                    | The state Government is requested to submit the approved mining plan and valid documents including the lease period.   | <p>The present proposal is considered as a standalone project. The approved mining plan of both the mines i.e. Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396) &amp; Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (ML.No.1111) along with the valid lease documents are enclosed in the <b><u>Annexure-II, III &amp; IV</u></b>.</p> <p>Lease period of the both mines of NMDC Donimalai Complex is as follows:<br/>Donimalai Iron Ore Mine: 04.11.2018 up to 20 years.<br/>Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine: Valid up to 17.10.2022 (Application submitted to IBM, Bangalore for extension of lease for another 20 years, execution of lease extension process is under progress).</p>   |               |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| vi)                   | The State Government may clarify whether the instant proposal is part of the old proposal which was granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter No.8-107/91-FC dt.06.02.2009. KML file for the entire area of lease along with the separate file of non-forest area with the lease shall be provide.                   | <p>No.</p> <p>There is no linkage of the present proposal with the old proposal for which Stage-II approval was granted vide MoEF&amp;CC letter no.8-107/91-FC dated 06.02.2009. This earlier approval is for mining at Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396).</p> <p>The kml files of both the mine leases (including forest area) and proposed area for diversion are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-V</u></b>.</p>   |               |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| vii)                  | The CB ratio uploaded by the User Agency has not been verified / signed by the Competent Authority in the Forest department. Moreover, it shows higher value and shall be re-verified by the State Government. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the revised CB ratio approved as per the latest guidelines. | The CB ratio is prepared by the user agency as per the latest guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi. The updated CB ratio for the proposed FC proposal is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VI</u></b> .   |               |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| viii)                 | The CA scheme for 12 years is uploaded in the PARIVESH portal and the same is not legible. In this regard a legible copy of CA scheme may be uploaded in PARIVESH by the State Government.   | The CA scheme is already prepared and is in accordance with working plan of the Ballari Division. The readable copy of the CA scheme is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VII</u></b> for your ready reference please.   |               |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| ix)                   | The present status and KML file of the CA areas w.r.t the earlier granted Stage-II approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/1991-FC dt.06.02.2009 may be forwarded to the Ministry.  | <p>The CA land details w.r.t. the Stage-II FC in respect of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine granted approval vide Ministry's letter no. 8-107/1991-FC dated: 06.02.2009 are as follows:</p> <p>The CA land details (already mutated) for Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396) of NMDC Ltd. w.r.t. earlier approvals area as follows:</p> <p><b>Donimalai Iron Ore Mine:</b></p> <table><tr><th>S.No.</th><th>Name of Project</th><th>CA land details (Location)</th><th>Extent in Ha.</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396)</td><td>129, Gudekote</td><td>283.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>909, Gudekote</td><td>49.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>236, Halasagar</td><td>112.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>total diverted area=608.00ha</td><td>488, Halasagar</td><td>73.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Sl.No.1, Kochigere Ballari</td><td>37.00</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total CA area mutated</td><td>554.00Ha</td></tr></table> | S.No.         | Name of Project | CA land details (Location) | Extent in Ha. | 1. | Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396) | 129, Gudekote | 283.00 |  |  | 909, Gudekote | 49.00 |  |  | 236, Halasagar | 112.00 |  | total diverted area=608.00ha | 488, Halasagar | 73.00 |  |  | Sl.No.1, Kochigere Ballari | 37.00 | Total CA area mutated |  |  | 554.00Ha |
| S.No.                 | Name of Project  | CA land details (Location)  | Extent in Ha. |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| 1.                    | Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396)  | 129, Gudekote   | 283.00        |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
|                       |  | 909, Gudekote   | 49.00         |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
|                       |  | 236, Halasagar  | 112.00        |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
|                       | total diverted area=608.00ha   | 488, Halasagar  | 73.00         |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
|                       |  | Sl.No.1, Kochigere Ballari  | 37.00         |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |
| Total CA area mutated |  |   | 554.00Ha      |                 |                            |               |    |                                       |               |        |  |  |               |       |  |  |                |        |  |                              |                |       |  |  |                            |       |                       |  |  |          |



| Sl. No. | Clarifications  | Reply to the Clarification   |
|---------|---|--|
| x)      | The complete compliance of the earlier diverted area i.e 608ha which was granted Stage-II / final approval vide this Ministry's letter no. 8-107/91-FC dt.06.02.2009 may be submitted by the State Government.  | <p>The earlier Stage-II approval is for mining operations at Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396) for an area of 608Ha. The proposed area is adjacent to the existing screening plant-I located near to mine lease of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (M.L.No.2396).</p> <p>The compliance report of the earlier diverted areas i.e. DIOM which were granted Stage-II approval are enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VIII</u></b>.</p>   |
| xi)     | The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over C&D class over Non-Forest Revenue land equal to the forest land being diverted. But the proposed CA land is reported to be not suitable for carrying out plantation. As per the existing Rules and Guidelines number of plants to be planted over non-Forest land identified for CA shall be at least 1000 plants per hectare. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to identify the degraded forest land where the balanced seedling can be planted and forward the kml files of the site this Ministry with the revised CA Scheme. | <p>The user agency has submitted the undertaking for remittance of CA charges as per the guidelines no. 2.5 (I) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for raising the compensatory afforestation in degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted.</p> <p>The CA area mutated by the user agency is C &amp; D category non-forest revenue land. Some portion of the CA land is suitable for plantation and for that the land suitability certificate has been issued by the DCF, Ballari office.</p> <p>As per the directions of AIG(F), MoEF&amp;CC, New Delhi, it is requested to undertake the plantation of balanced seedlings in another degraded forest land and accordingly, revise the CA scheme. The kml file of the same may please be forwarded for further processing of the proposal.</p>   |
| xii)    | The Site suitability certificate submitted by the Concerned DFO mentions about an area of 451.228Ha., but the area requirement for CA is instant proposal is 75.92Ha. In this regard, a revised site suitability may be submitted and clear recommendation for the CA area over non-forest land may be provided. From the perusal of documents, it is not understood that why the CA suitability certificate of 451.228Ha. has been submitted.  | <p>The CA suitability certificate of 451.228Ha is a composite CA suitability certificate as the user agency is in process of diversion of 3 different FC proposals. The present FC proposal is one of the components of the total CA land.</p> <p>As desired by the AIG, MoEF&amp;CC, New Delhi, the site-specific suitability certificate of CA land for an area of 75.92Ha may please be provided by the DCF, Ballari.</p> <p>The CA land is falling in Kudligi taluk, Appenhalli village (56.572Ha) and Kasapura village (19.348Ha) of Ballari division. As per the CA land suitability certificate, few patches of CA area are suitable for afforestation and remaining area will support the nearby existing bear sanctuary in mode of wildlife corridor. The CA land suitability certificate issued by the RFO, Gudekote is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-IX</u></b>. Accordingly, it is requested to your kind office to please issue CA land suitability certificate for 75.92Ha FC proposal.</p> |
| xiii)   | The proposal is not site specific and it is requested to explore non-forest area for establishing the proposed structures. The details about the alternate sites explored and identified for the instant proposal by the State Government shall be submitted.   | <p>The project has carried out the reconnaissance survey of the entire area and not found suitable land in the revenue part. Most of these areas are agricultural land. After this survey, project has identified the proposed site for the following advantages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Geographically accessible.</li> <li>2. To operate the plant, associated facilities i.e. water, electricity etc. are easily available in the vicinity.</li> <li>3. The proposed site is already connected with single</li> </ol>  |



| Sl. No. | Clarifications | Reply to the Clarification  |
|---------|----------------|---|
|         |                | <p>fleet covered belt conveyor of length 5.5kms from KIOM mine head which is in operation. The area of this belt conveyor is already diverted i.e. 11.248Ha.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The processed iron ore from proposed plant can be transported to vendors through nearby existing loading plant i.e. Ranjitpura railway station with minimal disturbance to flora and fauna.</li> <li>The proposed site is far away from any habitation so it will not disturb the local people by means of noise and dust. The same has been checked by Scientist from MoEF&amp;CC, New Delhi.</li> <li>The proposed land is free from rehabilitation and resettlement issues.</li> <li>The FRA certificate for the proposed site has already been granted by the DC, Ballari.</li> <li>There is no mineralization in the proposed land, the land will be utilized only for plant to carry our mineral beneficiation.</li> <li>The proposed location is best possible interconnection of existing infrastructure with minimal disturbance to the surrounding forest.</li> <li>The tree canopy density of the proposed site is less than 0.4 (dry deciduous forest).</li> <li>The work of tree enumeration of the proposed site has already been done.</li> <li>There would be minimum tree felling on the proposed site and green belt will be developed in and around the plant to compensate the same.</li> <li>The proposed site is not part of any national park/ wildlife sanctuary/biosphere reserve/ tiger reserve/elephant reserve or corridor in the core and buffer of the proposed project.</li> <li>The proposed site is having minimal man animal conflict.</li> <li>The proposed site is under keen surveillance of CISF unit of Donimalai, hence best possible protection and conservation can be taken up.</li> <li>The proposed site is accessible by road. In case of fire, fire tender can attend the event by the fire fighting team.</li> <li>The proposed site is far away from any source of water i.e. Perennial River and situated on slope of hill.</li> <li>The site is most economically feasible.</li> <li>There is no alternative land of 75.92Ha extent is available in the vicinity of the project.</li> <li>The proposed site is having ample potential to generate employment for the local villagers.</li> <li>The proposed site can be easily monitored by the existing manpower of NMDC Ltd.</li> </ol> <p><b>Environment Clearance for this proposed project has already been granted by the MoEF&amp;CC (Industry-I) subjected to obtain the Stage-I approval.</b></p> |

In view of the above, it is requested that the proposed area for diversion of 75.92Ha of forest land for construction of new Screening Plant-II may please be processed further. We have submitted all the

concerned undertakings to adhere to orders/ rules/ regulation of Government of Karnataka and Karnataka Forest Department. Hence, the proposed diversion may please be processed for grant of Stage-I approval under the FC Act, 1980.

Submitted for kind information and perusal please.

Thanking You Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

  
2/9/21  
**Chief General Manager**  
**Donimalai Complex**

**Encl:** As above:



ISO 9001:2015  
ISO 14001:2015  
ISO 45001:2018  
SA 8000:2014

**एन एम डी सी लिमिटेड N M D C Limited**  
( भारत सरकार का उद्यम / A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
**दोणिमलै लौह अयस्क खान / Donimalai Iron Ore Mine**

**Donimalai Township – 583 118, Dist: Ballari, Karnataka.**  
Phones: 08395 – 274654 / 274618, Fax: 08395 – 274687 / 274654

NMDC/ENVIR/FC-SP-II/2021/2488

Date: 15.09.2021

To,  
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Division, Ballari,  
Karnataka.

**Sub:** Diversion of 75.92 ha Forest Land for construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry Pipeline corridor & Water Pipeline corridor at Donimalai Complex of NMDC Ltd. reg.

**Ref:** Your letter No. M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19 dated 08.09.2021

Dear Sir,

With reference to above mentioned subject, we are hereby submitting the following documents desired in the above referred letter in connection with our FC proposal for diversion of 75.92Ha Forest land for construction of new Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry Pipe line corridor at Donimalai Complex:

1. As desired, the final approval copy of the letter dated 04.02.1997 under Section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for mining lease no. 2396 is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.
2. The mining lease deed copy of M.L.No.2396 for the period from 04.11.2008 to till date:  
The mine lease for M.L.No.2396 has been granted by the Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Bangalore. The mine lease deed for this second renewal from 04.11.2008 to 03.11.2028 could not be executed and registered. This had happened because of some procedural issues with the State Government. As per chronology of the events of the DIOM with the State Government notifications is attached as **Annexure-2**. The copies of the extension of mining lease from the year 2008 and relevant documents issued by the Commerce & Industries Department, Bangalore till date is enclosed as **Annexure-3**.

However, the period from 04.11.2008 to 03.11.2018 was regularized via Govt. of Karnataka Order No. CI 78 MMM 2016, dt.09.10.2017, wherein Mining Lease was considered initially granted for a period of 50 years from 04.11.1968 to 03.11.2018 in terms of rules framed under the Mineral (Mining by Government Company) Rules, 2015. Afterward, Government of Karnataka vide its order No. CI 32 MMM 2020, dated-10.02.2021, Mining Lease of DIOM was extended for a further period of 20 years w.e.f. 03.11.2018. From these correspondences, it is clear that NMDC Ltd. from time to time pursued for the execution of the Mining lease deed for the second renewal post 04.11.2008.

Contd.....

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**पंजीकृत कार्यालय : 10-3-311/ए खनिज भवन, कैसल हिल्स मासाब टैंक, हैदराबाद 500 028**  
**Regd. Office: 10-3-311/A, Khanij Bhavan, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad 500 028**




3. As desired, the copy of notifications issued by Department of Commerce and Industries for the M.L.No.2396 for period from 04.11.2008 to till date is enclosed as Annexure-4.

In view of the above submissions, it is once again requested your kind office to please process our FC proposal for diversion of 75.92Ha forest land for construction of new Screening Plant-II at Donimalai Complex.

Submitted for kind information and perusal please.

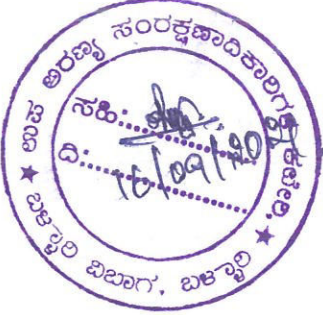
Thanking you Sir,

Yours Sincerely,

  
16/9/21  
Chief General Manager  
Donimalai Complex

Olc

Encl: As above.







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( भारत सरकार का उद्यम / A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
दोणिमलै लौह अयस्क खान/ Donimalai Iron Ore Mine



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SA 8000: 2014

**Donimalai Township – 583 118, Dist.: Bellary, Karnataka.**

Phones: 08395 – 274654 / 274618, Fax: 08395 – 274687 /274654

**DNM/ENV/89/2021/2491**

**Date:-07.10.2021**

To,  
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
BallariDivision,  
Ballari.

**Sub:-**Diversion of Forest Land (75.92a.) for construction of New Screening Plant, Tailing dam(s), Slurry pipe line corridor & Water pipe line corridor at Donimalai Complex of NMDC Ltd-submission of additional information w.r.t point no (xiii).

**Ref:** 1) Your letterNo.M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19 dated 27.08.2021.  
2) Our letter no: DNM/ENV/89/2021/2484 dated 2/9/2021.

Sir,

In continuation of our letter referred above, the further justification against the point no. (xiii) of your letter dt.27.08.2021 is here by submitted below for your kind perusal please.

1. NMDC commenced mining operations in Donimalai and Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine in the year 1977 & 1992 respectively. The common infrastructural facilities such as Screening plant, Loading plant, Power supply, Water supply, Township have been developed at Donimalai for these two mines. Further, both the mines have respective downhill conveyor system for transportation of ore. The railway siding at Ranjitpura was already developed at the time of commissioning of Donimalai iron ore mine for transportation of Iron from Donimalai which is now being used for Kumaraswamy mine also.
2. The proposed screening plant-II (including for future beneficiation facilities) is planned to be set up towards southern side of the existing Screening plant on the hillock between existing fine ore belt conveyor number BC 411 and existing lump ore conveyor number BC 501 in order to share maximum common infrastructure facilities available at Donimalai. However, the location of the proposed plant falls in Donimalai Reserve Forest and shown in SOI toposheet no: D43E12 at an RL varying between 684m to 726m (mRL).
3. While identifying the above location, lot of reconnaissance survey and land use pattern of the nearby area have been surveyed, studied and explored the non-forest area for establishing the proposed structures. Based on survey, alternative sites are explored by NMDC and the following are submitted.
  - a) It is observed that the most of the area at Donimalai is surrounded by forest land viz Kumaraswamy Betta Reserved Forest in Southern & Western direction, Donimalai RF in Northern direction, Ubbalgandi extension RF etc. in eastern direction, Sandur RF in NW direction. There is hill range in Donimalai RF with height elevation of 1041mRL.
  - b) Whereas very limited area belongs to revenue land and the same is occupied by Sandur town, Donimalai Township, cultivated land, habitation, villages etc.
  - c) No barren land is available within the proximity of the existing infrastructure facilities to consider the location of above proposed Screening Plant-II.
  - d) Some barren land is available at a distance of 5 to 15km (aerial distance) beyond Donimalai Reserve Forest in NE direction where in elevation ranges between 684mRL to 967mRL.



Though the barren land is available, the location at barren land is not at all feasible due to following technical and logistic aspects:-

- i. The existing crushing plant at Donimalai is situated towards western side of the lease area. The downhill conveying system, screening plant and loading plant, Ranjitpura railway siding etc. are also situated outside ML area towards western side. The Kumaraswamy downhill conveyor is already established up to Donimalai. In case the proposed SP-II is located in barren land towards NE direction of Donimalai lease, the existing infrastructure facilities and proposed SP-II will be in totally opposite direction and technically not feasible to use existing facilities.
  - ii. Further, the existing conveyor of Kumaraswamy iron ore mine requires extension upto proposed site in barren land in two ways: either to pass through Donimalai hill top (1041mRL) which is practically impossible due to iron ore mining operations at Donimalai hill top or align a route circumscribing the Donimalai lease area. In case of later option, it further requires additional forest land.
  - iii. Moreover, the existing water supply and Power supply facilities up to Donimalai needs to be extended, which also requires additional forest land.
  - iv. It also requires laying of separate conveyor from proposed SP-II site in barren area to existing Railway siding at Ranjitpura situated at 600mRL for dispatch of ore to customers which also involved additional forest land.
  - v. In case proposed Screening Plant-II is located in barren land (non-forest area) instead of identified location in forest land, it also invariably requires additional forest land for extension of conveyor / laying of new conveyor, power supply, water supply, approach road etc. **Hence, the purpose of locating the Screening Plant-II outside forest land shall not serve the motive of avoiding the forest land.**
4. Even though, the proposed Screening Plant-II is standalone project but it is linked with existing mining operations of NMDC and in order to share the maximum benefits of common existing infrastructure, the proposed SP-II identified near the existing facilities in the forest land is a desirable. In view of the reasons mentioned at s.no: 3(d), alternate site in barren land is not feasible.
5. It is pertinent to mention that the proposed Screening Plant-II in forest land also require Environmental Clearance and Forest Clearance. The online FC application for diversion of 75.92 Ha of Forest land was accepted by Nodal Officer (FCAct), Bangalore on 7/5/2016. The public hearing for the above proposal as a part of Environmental Clearance was held on 10/02/2016 at Donimalai. The sub-committee of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry-1) of MOEFCC, New Delhi has also visited the site during 5th to 17th May 2017. The EAC, MOEFCC during its meeting held on 8/6/2017 has also recommended the proposal for the grant of Environmental Clearance for the proposed site.

In view of the above reasons, the location of proposed Screening Plant-II at identified forest land over 75.92 Ha may please be considered.


Submitted for kind information and further necessary action please.

Thanking You Sir,



Encl:-SOI Topo sheet no: D43E12.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Chief General Manager  
Donimalai Complex