

वेस्टर्न कॉलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
 'सेंट्रल चंद्रपुर'  
 राज. उपिनिया नं. नंदागार रम्पानी  
 प्रीमियम. U10100MH1975GO1018626  
 राजीव गांधी राजीवगांधी, चंद्रपुर ज़िले  
 गांधीजी, राजीवगांधी: राजीवगांधी  
 पोस्ट (ग्रा. प्राप्ति) 442706  
 वेबसाइट [www.westerncoal.nic.in](http://www.westerncoal.nic.in)  
 उपर्युक्त प्रबंधक कायलिय

(Under Jurisdiction of Nagpur Court only)



WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED  
 'A Maharatna Company'  
 (A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)  
 CIN: U10100MH1975GO1018626  
 Office: AGM Office, Ballarpur Area  
 P.O.: Saati, Tah.: Rajura,  
 Chandrapur (M.S.) 442706  
 Website: [www.westerncoal.nic.in](http://www.westerncoal.nic.in)  
 SUB AREA MANAGER OFFICE

Ref. No: - WCL/BA/PSA/SAM/24-25/ 549

Date: - 28/09/2024

To,

The Deputy Conservator of Forest (T),  
 Central Chanda, Chandrapur.

**Subject:** Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evar Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.07 forest land Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No.R603 in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District In of Maharashtra State.

Reference:

1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,(Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi, Dt. 11/07/2024.
2. No. Desk-17/FCA 12/PID 8832/Chandrapur/903 dated: 15/07/2024.

Sir,

With reference to above mentioned subject reply was earlier submitted to your good Office on 04/09/2024. As per discussion please find the modified reply along with Annexures (5 sets copies). The same has been uploaded on Parivesh Portal as well

Sr no	Query	Compliance
1	Copy of the approved mining plan along with progressive mine closure plan for the total lease area i.e. 1152.66 ha (out of which 1140.59 ha is non-forest and remaining 12.07 ha is forest land) is not available which needs submission.	<p>Total Area requirement of project is 1152.66 Ha. Mining plan along with Mine Closure plan has been approved by Board on 09/09/2023 for the acquired land of 1105.95 Ha. Copy of same has been attached as Annexure A.</p> <p>Also, Environment Clearance has been obtained vide no. J-11015/80/2016-IA.II(M) dated 01.12.2020 for area of 1095.52 Ha. Mining Plan along with Mine Closure Plan will be revised for obtaining EC for area of 1152.66 Ha (out of which 1140.59 ha is non-forest and remaining 12.07 ha is forest land) after obtaining Stage I Forest Clearance (same has been categorically mentioned in present EC which is reproduced below: (Annexure B).</p> <p><b>Quote:</b>  <i>"Total agricultural land of 1050.99 Ha and govt land of 89.60 Ha is involved in the project. About 12.7 Ha of forest land is also required in overall 1152.66 ha land. The application for Stage-I FC has already been made but FC is yet to be secured.</i></p> <p><i>Now considering the present position of the mine and the surged demand of power grade coal from</i></p> <p><i>30/09/2024</i>  <i>प्रधान वन्यजीव विभाग</i>  <i>मुख्यमंत्री, चंद्रपुर</i></p>

WCL mines for the power plants of Maharashtra, and as per the requirements of MoEF&CC (for project involving forest land but not having Stage-I FC in hand), a Mining Plan by excluding the Forest land and adjacent non-forest land (for maintaining mine geometry) has been prepared as Phase-I for the proposed expansion from 0.60 to 3.25 MTPA.

*In view of public hearing and the ToR secured for total land area of 1152.66 Ha, fresh proposal for EC or amendment therein, shall be submitted to take into account the additional land after receipt of stage-I forest clearance for the forest land of 12.07 Ha".*

**Unquote**

As per the DSS analysis, KML file of complete project area i.e. 1156.66 ha and KML file of the safety zone has not been uploaded/ submitted. The same shall be provided.

KML file of complete project area demarcating 1152.66 Ha along with 7.5m safety zone/barrier plantation that is to be maintained all along project boundary as per EC Generic condition 4.1 (c)(ii) stating "*Greenbelt consisting of 3-tier plantation of width not less than 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine lease area in a phased manner*" Attached as **Annexure C**. Plantation along mine boundary has already been started with 1,02,000 nos. in last 4 years.

The safety zone component is not listed as per submitted land use plan in the instant mine. In this regard the State Govt. shall offer comments and ensure the compliance of the guidelines with regard to safety zone.

The Land Use Plan of entire 1152.66 Ha project area including 27.95 Ha of Safety Zone area all along the mine boundary is attached in Plan of 1:5000 scale as **Annexure D** along with tabulated details.

It is also to submit that in compliance to EC Generic condition 4.1 (c)(ii) stating "*Greenbelt consisting of 3-tier plantation of width not less than 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine lease area in a phased manner*" safety barrier of 7.5 m has been maintained all along mine boundary.

KML file of complete project area demarcating 1152.66 Ha along with 7.5m safety zone/barrier plantation attached as **Annexure C**.

As per the details mentioned in online Part-I the total mining lease area reported as 778.54 ha whereas examination of the proposal revealed that the total mining lease involves 1152 ha area. In this regard, the State Govt. vide their letter no. Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-8832/2023-24/3556 dated 28.03.2024 has forwarded the justification submitted by the user agency. However, a necessary correction in online Part-I of the proposal has not been carried out yet.

As the proposal was submitted in Parivesh I, there is no scope of modification of Area. However, regarding the discrepancy in mining lease Area reply submitted by Area Planning Officer, Ballarpur Area to Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda vide no. WCL/BA/AGM/PLG/714 dated: 14/12/2023 may be cited which gives the details of mining lease involved (1152.66 Ha). Copy of reply to query attached as **Annexure E**.

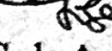
It was asked to assess the efficacy of the Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakhs, as recommended by the State, in term of holistic impact of the mining

Dy.CF Central Chanda studied the forest area around the project affected area and he decided to spend Rs. Rs.20 lakhs for Flora& Fauna

regard, the State government has submitted copy wildlife management plan which is approved by the DCF, Central Chanda, Chandrapur Forest Division. However, comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Maharashtra on the efficacy of the Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakhs have not been submitted. Further, the wildlife management plan has not been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State. In this regard, the duly approved Wildlife Management Plan by CWLW, Maharashtra along with its recommendation shall be submitted by the State Govt.

Conservation Plan. The plan is submitted to this office vide their letter No. 1930, dated 05.03.2024. The Conservation Plan submitted by Dy.CF. Central Chanda is suitable, this office is agreed and submitted it to APCCF (Wildlife) East, Nagpur vide this office letter No. 1726, dated 14.03.2024 for approval. Any further comments required may please be provided by Forest department.

Your's faithfully,

  
Sub Area Manager,  
Pauni Sub Area,  
Ballarpur Area.