

## **Site Inspection Report**

Date of Inspection – 07.02.2023

Name of Proposal – Construction of Amrapali Railway Siding/ line,,Amrapali OCP

**Presence – Forest officials**

- (1) Sri Satish Chandra Rai, RCCF, Hazaribagh.
- (2) Sri Rahul Meena, DFO, Chatra North Forest Division.
- (3) Sri R. K. Singh, ACF, Chatra Circle.
- (4) Sri Panna, RFO, Tandwa Range & other field staffs.

**User Agency officials**

- (1) Sri. A.K. Singh, GM, Amrapali, CCL & other officials of Amrapali Project

On the aforementioned date, the proposed forest land for diversion was visited. The total forest land proposed for diversion is 120.61 ha, includes 103.26 ha of protected forest land and 17.35 ha of GMJJ land, which is meant for Construction of Amrapali Railway Siding/line for eco-friendly rail transportation of coal from already operational Amrapali OCP and upcoming Chandragupta OCP.

The proposed area of railway siding/ line falls within the lease area of Amrapali project. The proposed line starts adjacent to the ongoing mining area while the other end joins the existing Tori Shivpur line. As the proposed area is mostly surrounded by forest land only, therefore during visit, it was found that there is almost no scope of avoidance of diversion of forest land.

The locations of the pillars and enumeration list were checked and matched with that of those mentioned in the proposal.

The total proposed area has the presence of a variety of trees. It consisted of mainly *Sal* along with Sidha, Khair, Kendu, Plash, Mahua, Salai etc. The proposed line towards the mining area has dominance of *Sal* poles while the other end towards Tori Shivpur line has mixed variety of species with *Sal* in mostly coppice form. The crop density was observed as 0.6. According to Champion & Seth classification of forest types this forest area falls under Northern Dry *Sal* Forest 5BC1.




Almost the entire area had moderate slope with some portion being gently sloping. At places, the soil erosion becomes severe with eroded topography of rill and gully erosion was being easily seen. Therefore, **a soil and moisture conservation plan** will be necessarily required.

No significant wild animal movement has been reported in the proposed line adjacent to the mining area due to mining activities, light, population etc but proposed area towards Tori - Shivpur line has seen significant wildlife presence. During the visit it was told by the local villagers and the staffs that elephants from Palamu and Hazaribagh side cross 2-3 times in a year. Although no rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna was observed, the commonly found fauna other than elephant are : Jungli Suar (Wild Boar), Khargosh(Indian Hare), Kotra (Barking Deer), Siyar(Jackal), Ajar(Python), Monkey, Porcupine, Jungle Cat, Bagairi (Indian bush lark), Jungle Murgi, etc. Therefore, **site-specific wildlife management plan** will be needed to address human-wildlife interface issues.

The nature of the project is such that there is going to be habitat fragmentation and destruction. As such, sufficient number of underpasses should be constructed at project cost by the User Agency in consultation with the Forest Department.

Apart from the above, the forest area did not have any archeological/heritage site/defense establishment etc.

Overall, the proposal is mainly concerned with Construction of Amrapali Railway Siding/ line by CCL. This proposal will lead to the more eco-friendly and smooth rail transportation of coal instead of more polluting road transportation. It will also take care the need of coal transportation from upcoming Chandragupta OCP. Considering all the above details, it was found that the forest land proposed for diversion was unavoidable and barest minimum of the project.

  
11/2/2023  
**Conservator of Forests,**  
Territorial Circle, Chitara  
( S. C. Rai )  
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