Proposal for diversion of forest land in favour of SUNFLAG IRON & STEEL COMPANY LIMITED in Loharadongri Iron Ore Block, Taluka Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur in the state of Maharashtra

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST LAND AND DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED

INTRODUCTION

During the year 1959 the officers of the Expert Committee, appointed by the year 1959 the officers of the Expert the reservation of areas of iron ore and manganese ore, to be developed by the public sector in the state of Bombay have also reported that the reserves iron ore in the Lohara area is of the order of 21 million tons. There has been no exploitation of iron ore at present in this area.

In order to asses the true reserves of the iron ore deposits at Lohara, Tahsil Brahmapuri, district Chanda, for catering the requirements of the proposed pig Iron Plant to be set up in Vidarbha division of the Maharashtra State, the Department of Geology and Mining took up detailed prospecting by drilling of the Lohara iron ore deposits, in this field season 1962-63. The area under investigation is included in Toposheet No. 55P/11.

Prior the commencement of drilling operations the area was mapped on 1 : 1000 large scale topographical map. Lateron, the area was further mapped on 30.48 m x 30.48 m grid map showing there in all the out crops of the iron ore body and the associated rocks. In all 9 bore holes were drilled and the total drilling is 291.75 m. Besides drilling, 12 pits were sunk in the float area to ascertain the extent of the float ore. Two diamond drills, Min drill F.20 and Min drill F.60 were deployed to complete the prospecting work in the area.

The field party consisted of Shri B.S. Karkare, Geologist, Officer in-charge, and Shri Phatak, Geological Assistant, Surveyor, Drilling staff etc. Shri D.s. Phatak, Geological Assistant being the camp in-charge of the prospecting work at Lohara remained in the field throughout the investigations. Shri D.S.Karkare, Geologist Officer-in-Charge of the work, visited Lohara area periodically to guide the prospecting work. The main party remained in the field from February, 63 to August, 63.

LOCATION AND APPROACH

Lohara iron ore deposit situated about one mile South of Lohara village ($20^0$23'54||:$79^0$44'21||) in Brahmapuri tahsil, Chanda district, is actually located on a

hill 315.16 m (20º 23' : 79º 44'). The deposit is 4 km NE of Alewahi village ($20^0$22':$79^0$42') which is also a railway station on Nagbhir-Chanda narrow gauge line of the south eastern Railway. Alewahi is approachable by a Kachha read off milestone 77/7 (near Palasgaon) on the Nagpur-Chanda MainRoad (via Naghbir and Mul). The road from Alewahi to Lohara Iron ore deposit is motor able only in fair season. This read goes out of order at few places in rainy season. Some repairs to the road and two bridges on the two small nalas can make the road motor able throughout the year.

Now, the Directorate of Geology and Mining (DGM), Government of Maharashtra, pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the "Act") and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (the "Auction Rules"), issued the notice inviting tender dated, 01 February, 2019 to commence the auction process for grant of mining lease for Loharadongri Iron Ore Block located in chandrapur District of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has auctioned Loharadongri Iron Ore Block for mining lease. M/s Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Ltd. has participated in the auction of Mineral Block. On offering highest price M/s Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Ltd. has been declared Preferred Bidder by the Government of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has issued Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore in Loharadongri, Tal. Brahmapuri, Dist. Chandrapur on 35.73 Ha for a period of 50 years vide the Government of Maharashtra, Industries, Energy and Labour department, Mantralaya letter number MMN-0719/C.R.42(Part-8)/IND-9, dated 13.09.2019 in pursuance to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the "Act") and Mineral (Auction) Rules,2015(the "Auction Rules").

The justification for locating the Iron Ore Mining Project in the Forest area is on an account of the fact that mining is a site–specific activity and can be only located where the mineral deposits exists. Therefore, the above mentioned area proposed for mining.

Hence, this detailed Justification note is for forest clearance under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Benefit from the Project -

M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Company Limited (SISCO) is a limited company, having its registered office at 33, Mount Road, Sadar Nagpur, is a renowned Sunflag Group. It

has put up Indian's most modern steel plant, at Warthi, Bhandara, the first integrated steel plant of its kind in the country with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes of high grade alloy steel per annum, comparable to the best in the world. It has a sound financial background and industrial experience in the field of mining for coal and iron ore,

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Investment	Approx. VALUE (in Crores)
Project Cost	

- Employment generated consequent to the Mining Activity will benefited around 36 people (Direct including through Contractors and indirect self-employment)
- The Project will give a tremendous boost to the local and the regional economy benefitting a local villagers.
- The State Govt. will directly benefitted the revenue on account of public utility Project.
- Unlike the financial benefits, the social benefit arising out of this proposal can expressed only as value judgment. This includes increases in the standard of living local population, educational opportunities, training and development of skills, etc.
- The project will provide wide opportunities for increase interaction in one side word and will draw the local population out of their shell and encourage then to join national mainstream.
- The most important from the public utility project will be creating of an industrial channel that will defuse the potentially grave social problems that the district faces in the form of illiteracy which thrive on ignorance, poverty and isolation of the local people will cease to have their rationale and hence will fade out from the area.

Conclusion –

The strength under Mining Project and benefit it is expected to bestow, make it abundantly clear that it now need full further support and encouragement from the Govt. for speedy implementation, they can come about by an expeditious clearance under the Forest Conservation Act to be followed grant of public utility project.

We request you to consider this proposal submitted pursuant to our above background and justification favorably and grant the clearance at the earliest so that

the economy and industrial development of the backward region of state and country. Receive the requisite boost.

Hence, this detailed Justification note is for forest clearance under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

For Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Nagpur

Place : Nagpur
Dated: . .202

S. Mahadevan Iyer
For Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. Nagpur