

Site Inspection Report for Magadh Railway Siding
Central Coalfield Limited
Proposal No: FP/JH/RAIL/47332/2020

Inspection Conducted by:

Shashi Kumar, I.F.S., Conservator of Forests, Territorial Circle, Medininagar

Date of Inspection: 23rd September 2024

Attendees:

1. Prawesh Agarwal, IFS: Divisional Forest Officer, Latehar Forest Division
2. Niripendra Narh: General Manager, Magadh-Sangmitra Area
3. Sadala Satyanarayanan: Project Officer, Magadh OCP
4. Nand Kumar Mahto: Range Forest Officer, Balumath
5. Manish Sinha: Deputy Manager (Mining)
6. Sikendra Kumar: Forest Guard
7. Amit Kumar Tiwari: Forest Guard

Observations and Findings

A. Project Overview : The proposed Magadh Railway Siding project covers a total area of 251.51 hectares, distributed as follows:

. Latehar Forest Division: 234.5 hectares

. Chatra South Forest Division: 17.01 hectares

Of the total area: Non-forest land: 130.22 hectares (Latehar: 130.22 hectares, Chatra South: 0 hectares) and Forest land: 121.29 hectares (Latehar: 104.28 hectares, Chatra South: 17.01 hectares). Within Latehar Forest Division, 71.17 hectares are classified as notified forest land, while 33.11 hectares fall under G.M. Jungle Jhari (deemed forest land).

Village and Range Details

The 104.28 hectares of forest land within Latehar Forest Division span six villages: Ara, Chamatu, Chetar, Seregara, Phulbasia, and Chedra/Charra. This land falls under the jurisdiction of Balumath Range.

B. The proposed area does not fall within any Protected Area under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It is not located within any Tiger Reserves or Eco-Sensitive Zones of National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries. The terrain is undulating, prone to soil erosion and forms part of a significant ecological and hydrological landscape. The area serves as an important wildlife habitat and is part of the proposed migratory route for wild elephants. Other species reported in the area include hyenas, wild cats, jackals, wild boars, langurs, barking deer mongooses etc.

C. Impact on Natural Resources

The construction of the proposed project may lead to:

Partial or complete compromise of streams (nala) in the area. Potential disruption of the fragile ecosystem, potentially leading to a water crisis in the future.

D. Violation of FCA Provisions

The project area has been partially developed without prior approval, constituting a violation of the FCA and Indian Forest Act, 1927. Specifically:

- 31.68 hectares of notified forest land and 9.62 hectares of GMJJ (deemed forest land) have been disturbed, primarily for embankments for the railway track and roads.
- No ongoing illegal work was observed during the inspection.

E. The additional details are included in the field inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Latehar Forest Division.


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