

Site Inspection Report for the FCA proposal bearing acknowledgment

No: FP/JH/MIN/139492/2021

Date of Inspection: 05/09/2023

Proposed Area for Forest Diversion (in Ha): 219.80

The proposal has been submitted to DFO, Hazaribagh West Forest Division by the Vice President, Gondulpura Coal Project, Adani Enterprises Limited for the diversion of 219.80 forest land. Total area of project includes 219.80 ha of forest land and 293.38 ha of non-forest land. The 219.80 ha. forest land involves 210.68 ha of protected forest and the rest 9.12 ha. of GM Jungle Jhari under administrative control of revenue department. The site inspection has been done by the undersigned on 05.09.2023 in presence of Sri A.K. Parmar, ACF, Hazaribagh West Forest Division, Sri Kamlesh Singh, Range Forest Officer, Barkagoan Range and other officials of Forest Department.

Area Statement-

The land required by the User Agency is 219.80 hectares of notified Forest land (which includes 210.68 hectare forest under administrative control of Forest Department and 9.12 ha Jungle Jhari land under administrative control of Revenue Department) spread in 04 villages Balodar, Gali, Gondulpura & Hahe. NOC of 9.12 Hectare of forest land under administrative control of Revenue department has been submitted by User Agency.

The user agency has submitted that no vacant area is available in the vicinity of the proposed site to accommodate the Over Burden volume of 45.10 MBCM. Thus 89.82 hectare (65.23 hectare outside the block and 24.59 hectare inside the block) of forest land is required to accommodate Over Burden Dump. Further external OB dumping will increase life of mine to 30 years from 20 years (without external dump). The justification given by them is attached in the proposal folder.

Vegetation-

The area is rich in terms of biodiversity, both flora and fauna. Some of the important tree species recorded were Sakhua, Aasan, Bahera, Bhelba, Khair, Kendu, Mahua, Palas, etc. The proposed area has Tropical Deciduous Forest. As per tree enumeration total count of trees is 32328 in the proposed forest land for diversion (219.80 Ha). The average canopy density of proposed forest land for diversion is 0.7 of Eco Class III.

Wildlife Movement-

As per Integrated Wildlife Management Plan for North Karanpura Coal Block (IWLMPP-NKCB) and as per the information received from local people, there is presence of wildlife like Barking deer, Common Mongoose, Indian Fox, Jackal, Hyena, Pangolin, Hare, Peafowl, Red Jungle Fowl, Quail, Cobra, Karait, Russell's Viper and Python etc. in these forest areas. Movement of elephants have been seen in and adjoining areas of this proposed area. To mitigate the negative impact of mining on residents and migrating wild animals, a Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan is required to be prepared and implemented effectively.

Location of Project –

The proposed project is located in remote and naxal prone area of North Karanpura Coal Block. During inspection by forest department, illegal mining activities have been found. Time to time legal action have been taken by forest department. Many other coal projects are coming up in the adjoining areas like,



- Badam and Moitra Coal blocks are located on the western side of the blocks and both blocks are in advanced stage of development
- The southern boundary of the coal block is covered by Badam Opencast Mine and forest land.
- Moitra Coal block is located on the western side of the northern boundary.

Badmahi river lies along the northern boundary of the project. To protect the river from the negative impact of mining a buffer zone in form of green belts should be developed along the banks of the river to protect the river ecology.

Catchment Area-

The above forest patch is part of more or less continuous stretch of forest, which is also part of the catchment area of Badmahi river. Major areas come under the gentle slope having high susceptibility of erosion. In future the mining activity in this area could have an adverse impact in on water regime and river ecology of this river. Therefore, a site-specific catchment area treatment plan should be prepared and implemented for soil and moisture conservation.

Impact of Mining on Flora and Fauna-

It is pertinent to mention here that many coal project are coming up in the North Karanpura Coal Block region which will definitely have its negative impact on human health and ecology of that area. Further since these projects are very site-specific in nature as a result in case, the proposed area is considered for diversion we are only left with options to take adequate safeguard measures in terms mitigation and adaptation measures so that minimum disturbance is caused to the human health, ecology and biodiversity of that area.

Diversion of forest and non-forest land for projects like coal mining will have following anticipated impact in this area in near future,

- Further fragmentation of forest as well as habitat of wildlife.
- Degradation of adjacent forest and the catchment of Badmahi River.
- Change in water regime and soil conditions of the area.
- Lowering of air quality of the area.
- Adverse impact on the general ecosystem of the area, and micro-climate and the precipitation of the area.

Measures to minimize the negative impact of Mining

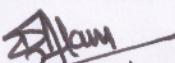
There should be utmost precautionary and anticipatory approach with adequate safeguarding, mitigation and compensating measures, so that minimum damage to continuity of forest patches occur.

- The methodology and process of coal mining at particular site needs to be planned and executed over the entire lease area such that the operations are phased and sequenced to optimize the active working area.
- For extraction, evacuation, handling and transportation of coal, such technologies and process have to be adopted which cause least adverse impacts on environment & ecosystem



- Badmahi river lies along the northern boundary of the project. To protect the river from the negative impact of mining a buffer zone in form of green belts should be developed along the banks of the river to protect the river ecology.
- The watershed and catchment of river Badmahi in 10 Km radius or more of Project Area should be undertaken for appropriate treatment to compensate for the loss of catchment due to mining in the lease site by preparing and implementing catchment area treatment plan for the said area.
- To mitigate the negative impact of mining on residents and migrating wild animals, a Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan is required to be prepared and implemented effectively.
- It has been found that many Mining Operations are started without implementation of Wildlife Conservation Plan/Catchment area treatment plan, just on the basis of giving undertaking which has adversely impacted the project area. Considering the past records, Commencement of Implementation Wildlife Management Plan and Catchment Area Treatment Plan should be done prior to start of land breaking in project area or at least it must be simultaneous
- The Mining Plan should include progressive reclamation and eco-restoration of the areas taken up in the different phases so that at the end of the mining life, substantial part has already been rehabilitated into the best feasible end state.
- One percent of profit to be deposited in account of forest division to carry out other activities as and when required conservation of biodiversity and ecology of that area and also to strengthen Surveillance and Monitoring system against illicit activities including prevention and control of forest fires for the forest hinterlands of the project area.

User Agency has not violated the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and no work has been started at the site.


 (S.A. Ansari, IFS)
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Hazaribagh West Forest Division