

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

A. details of the Project:

- i. **Name of Project :** Diversion of forest land for development of Rajbar E&D Coal mines
564.90 Ha in the State of Jharkhand by TVNL
- ii. **Proposal No:** FP/JH/MIN/48598/2020
- iii. **User Agency:** TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED
- iv. **Proposed Forest area for diversion:** 564.90 Ha (Notified Forest: 535.45 Ha, Deemed Forest (GMJJ): 29.45 Ha)
- v. **Total project area:** 1351.00 Ha; Non-Forest area: 786.10 Ha

B. Details of Site Inspection: -

- i. **Date of Site Inspection:** - 11/07/2025
- ii. **Other Members present during the inspection**
 - a. Sri Ramesh Kr Singh, Electrical Executive Engineer, TVNL
 - b. Sri Lal Mohan Gupta, Asst. Executive Engineer, TVNL
 - c. Nand Kumar Mahto, Range Forest Officer, Latehar/Chandwa Forest Range
 - d. Pintu Kumar, Forester Incharge-cum-Forest Guard, Latehar
 - e. Anil Kumar, Forester Incharge-cum-Forest Guard, Chandwa

Area proposed for diversion:

The site inspection has been done by the undersigned along with Range Forest Officer, Forester and Forest guards of Latehar & Chandwa Forest Range and representatives of M/s Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.

The land proposed for diversion by the User Agency is as follows:

| Location | Plot No. (Notified PF: CS plots, GMJJ: RS plots) | Notified Forest Area (in Ha) | Deemed Forest (GMJJ) Area (in Ha) | Total Forest Area (in Ha) | Legal Status of Notified Forest (PF/RF) |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Jareyang | NF: CS plots- 12P, 13P, 262P, 35P, 9P, 48P, 359P, 362P, 365P, 369P, 385P, 421P, 497P, 502P, 507P, 508, 509, 510 GMJJ: RS plots- 999, 232P, 236, 249, 257, 428, 461P | 134.04 | 2.15 | 136.19 | PF |
| Rajbar | NF: CS plots- 153P, 154P, 155P, 156P, 223P, 279P, 284P, 288P, 301P, 304P, 319P, 363P, 368P, 369P, 436P, 443, 445P, 451P, 464P, 470P, 402P, 406P, 419P, 420P, 423P, 424, 425P, 426P, 427P, 428P, 439P, 440P, 442. GMJJ: RS plots- 761P, 790P, 799P, 976P, 977P, 1123, 1203P, 1204P, 1237P, 1240P, 1241P, 1259P, 1262P, 1265P, 1113, 1124, 1217, 1248, 1249, 1250, 755P, 874P, 984P, 991P, 1115P, 1239P, 1238P, 1150P, 1260P, 975/1284P. | 274.34 | 24.13 | 298.47 | PF |
| Dareya | NF: CS plots- 1, 11P, 28, 69, 142P, 488P, 489P, 506P, 502P, 507P. GMJJ: RS plots- 7, 250P, 339, 30, 1474, 1485P. | 55.55 | 1.66 | 57.21 | PF |
| Renchi | NF: CS plots- 6P, 73P, 211P, 212P, 222P, 405P, 424P, 431P, 532P, 533P, 574P, 669P, 684P, 729P. GMJJ: RS plots- 311P, 373, 376, 382 | 64.35 | 1.51 | 65.86 | PF |
| Serak | NF: CS plots- 46P, 47P, 1654P, 1652P. GMJJ: RS plots- NIL | 7.17 | 0 | 7.17 | PF |
| Total Area: | | 535.45 | 29.45 | 564.90 | |

Four mega coal projects (Upcoming mines at Banhardi-1.5 km & Chakla Coal Mines-12 km; and operational mines at Sikni-4.5 km & Tubed-6.5 km) are close to this proposed mining site. Therefore, it is very important to consider the complete landscape and cumulative impact of these mining operations at every step of decision making and planning.



Fig-01: Location of Coal Blocks coming up near Rajbar CB area

No portion of the applied area falls under any National Park, Wild Life Sanctuary, Tiger Reserve or notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any National Park/wild life Sanctuary. Approximate distance from nearby National Park, Sanctuaries and ESZ are: Palamu WLS at 34 km, Betla NP at 35 km, Lawalong WLS at 20 km, ESZ of PWLS-BNP-MWS-PTR at 18 km, ESZ of Lawalong WS at 14 km.

Referred points are detailed as below –

- *Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details there of with NOC from competent authority, if required. – No.*
- *Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details alternatives examined. – Yes.*
- *Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ), Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed) – No.*
- *Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area - if so details thereof – Yes. Elephas maximus indicus (Elephant).*
- *Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials, whether work is violation is still in progress. – No*

Site visit:-

The proposed Rajbar E&D Coal Block is situated in the villages of Jareyang, Rajbar, Dareya, Renchi & Serak on forest and non-forest areas of Latehar & Chandwa forest ranges of Latehar Forest Division. It is a part of significant landscape in terms of ecological and hydrological functions, an important habitat and part of migratory route for wildlife (including wild elephants). Besides, it is an ecologically significant watershed that is interlaced with numerous streams, rivulets and nalas that form a part of catchment area of Sukri River. Thus, the landscape is important from the

Water Security perspective as well. Total area of the project is 1351.00 Ha (564.90 Ha of Forest land and 786.10 Ha of Non-Forest land).

| Component wise breakup | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sl. | Component | Forest Land (in Ha) | Non-Forest Land (in Ha) |
| 1 | Excavation Area | 520.36 | 741.64 |
| 2 | Road | 4.88 | 6.12 |
| 3 | Garland Drain | 2.21 | 2.09 |
| 4 | Embankment | 5.98 | 3.52 |
| 5 | E.T.P., Magazine & Sed. Tank | 2.8 | 0 |
| 6 | CHP with Coal Storage area | 12.7 | 0 |
| 7 | Safety Zone | 6.84 | 6.43 |
| 8 | Green Belting Area | 4.16 | 11.47 |
| 9 | Electrical Substation | 0 | 2 |
| 10 | Work Shop | 0 | 2.9 |
| 11 | Store | 0 | 1.9 |
| 12 | Office | 0 | 1.9 |
| 13 | Township | 3.97 | 6.13 |
| 14 | Undisturbed Area | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 564.90 | 786.10 |

The forest area of proposed mining site is very rich in terms of floral and faunal biodiversity with an ecologically significant gene-pool. Therefore, a sincere effort is needed to preserve the germplasm of the area by conducting a thorough biodiversity and ethno botanical study.

The proposed mining site has patches of dense Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest with average vegetative density of *0.4 to 0.5* and *Eco class III*. The area is dominated by *Shorea robusta* (Sal) and its associate species. Many of these species also contribute to forest-based livelihood activities from NTFP collection and its value addition as well as Lac cultivation for indigenous local communities.

Fauna present in and around the proposed area are *Elephas maximus indicus* (Elephant), *Hyaena hyaena* (Hyena), *Herpestidae* (Mongoose), *Macaca mulata* (Rhesus macaque), *Felis chaus* (Wild cat), *Canis aureus* (Jackal), *Sus scrofa* (Wild boar), *Semnopithecus entellus* (Common Langur), *Muntiacus Muntjak* (Barking deer) etc. Presence of invertebrates, avifauna and herpetofauna in and around the proposed forest area indicates species richness and biodiversity.

Herds of elephant's roam in and around the proposed area for diversion. Incidents of Human-Animal conflicts are likely to increase further with more fragmentation and loss of habitat due to open cast mining projects in and around the area (four mega projects nearby). Therefore, it is very much required to prepare and implement a plan for minimising losses due to such incidents of human-animal conflict in and around the area collectively by forest department and User Agency in cooperation with locals. Also, for detailed list of rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna, a comprehensive biodiversity and ethno botanical study by specialised agency and thereafter implementation of species-specific conservation plan, as required, is strongly recommended.

A serious consideration is needed in regard of water regime of the whole catchments area because after implementation of the proposed project few streams will get compromised in entirety or partially and the entire fragile ecosystem would be affected by water crisis a few years down the line.

The area proposed for diversion is also prone to soil erosion. Open cast mining and associated activities would involve activities like breaking of land and removal of earth, specially the top soil, in the area and beyond. Thus, the entire landscape will become further vulnerable to soil

erosion and degradation. Therefore, a *Comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan* should be prepared and implemented treating the entire landscape to ensure that the detrimental impact of open cast coal mining on the adjacent vast expanse of forest shall be minimised.

Total project area of coal block is 1351.00 Ha out of which 564.90 Ha is forest land. According to tree enumeration a total of 68509 trees will be removed from the forest area. It is therefore very important to mitigate the impact of not only the removal of trees and change in land use over such a vast area but also the resultant change in complete landscape and loss of biodiversity from the area.



The proposed project of coal mining is recommended keeping in mind the larger public interest and energy security, provided the above concerns get adequately addressed.

Divisional Forest Officer
Latehar Forest Division

[Signature]
11.07.2025
Divisional Forest Officer
Latehar Forest Division