



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, BOKARO FOREST DIVISION, BOKARO

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Site Inspection Report

PROPOSAL (PROPOSAL NO.: FP/JH/MIN/40575/2019) UNDER SECTION 2 OF FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT 1980 FOR RENEWAL OF 143.05 HA OF ALREADY DIVERTED NOTIFIED FOREST LAND FOR COAL MINE IN FAVOUR OF SELECTED DHORI OPENCAST PROJECT, DHORI AREA OF M/s CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED IN BOKARO DISTRICT, JHARKHAND

The site inspection in respect of the project was done on 20th October 2023 by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bokaro Forest Division along with Shri Vinay Kumar, Range Officer (Bokaro Range) and Sri Akshay Kumar Murmu, in charge Forester (Bokaro Range).

The General Manager, Dhori Area, Central Coalfields Limited (Shri Manoj Kumar Aggarwal), Project Officer, Selected Dhori Opencast Project (Shri Shailesh Prasad), Staff Officer (P&A), Dhori Area (Shri Pratul Kumar), Staff Officer (Project & Planning), Dhori Area (Sri Ashish Anchal), Area Survey Officer, Dhori Area (Shri Sahdeo Mazumdar), Manager, Selected Dhori Opencast Project (Shri Rajeev Kumar), Area Environment Officer, Dhori Area (Shri Gaurav Kumar), Nodal Officer (E&F), Selected Dhori Opencast Project (Shri Achyutanand Kumar) participated in the site visit and gave inputs regarding the project related details and technical aspects and the forests and wildlife in the concerned area.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

Sl. No.	Land category	Area in Ha
a.	Protected Forests notified under Indian Forest Act, 1927	143.05
	Total	143.05

Selected Dhori Group of Mines is a brownfield opencast coal mining project falling in the East Bokaro Coalfields, Bermo & Chandrapura CD block, Jharkhand.

Selected Dhori (Lower) Opencast Mine is a brown field project which has been under operation prior to pre-nationalization era. CCL has submitted that they have planned to reach the production level of 135 MTPA by 2024-25, as a part of 1 billion Tonne production plan of Coal India Limited and production of coal from these mines of CCL will help them to bridge the gap of demand and supply of coal. In this regard, M/s. CCL has proposed to allow continuation of production of high-grade coal from Selected Dhori Opencast Mines by exploiting lower seams in the project area of 211.82 Ha at a production capacity of 2.0 MTPA.

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M/s. CCL has submitted that that out of 211.82 Ha of Project Area, 69.183 Ha has already been diverted vide F. No. 8-69/2004/FC dated 02.03.2009 for a period of 20 years, wherein mining operation is continuing. Remaining 143.05 Ha has been diverted vide F. No. 8-122/90-FC dated 01.07.1996 for period of 10 years, where mining was done till 2006 for extraction of coal from Seam- VI to Seam -X (Upper Seams). Now, CCL has submitted a Mining Plan of 2.0 MTPA for proposed area of 143.05 Ha, wherein they want to extract the remaining coal of Lower Seams in already broken land of 143.05 Ha.

The mineable reserve (9.09 MT) available in the proposed land (143.05 Ha) is a high-grade coking coal of washery grade-III. Extracting coal from this mine would help in bridging gap between the energy needs and the supply of coal.

This project has been a major economical source to the nearby villagers in terms of employment. This project, when in operation, may provide direct and indirect employment to several local villagers.

2. Wildlife: Whether Forest area proposed is important from wildlife point of view

The proposed area for diversion is a broken land (i.e. a coal mine) is not habitat of wildlife in general. However, the areas around the mine (nearby areas) are important from wildlife point of view. It has been habitat of peacock, python, cobra, jackal, wild boar, monkey, elephant, hyena etc. and thus buffer area is significant from ecological & wildlife perspective.

3. Total number of Trees

Sl. No.	Content	No. of trees
a.	No. of trees having girth below 7" which should be transplanted.	NIL
b.	No. of trees having girth more than 7" which should be felled.	NIL
	Total	NIL

4. Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

The forest area is already a broken land which had been diverted vide F. No.: 8-122/90-FC dated 01.07.1996. Presently renewal of the lease in Form-B has been proposed vide Proposal No.: FP/JH/MIN/40575/2019 for a period of 30 years.

Since the land is already broken so as such there is no vegetation in the form of tree. Only small bushes are available on the temporarily stored OB dump as well as at few places, which will also be rehandled once the renewal of the proposal will be obtained.

5. Important species:

The important wildlife species around the area are peacock, reptiles (python, cobra), jackal, wild boar, monkey, elephant, hyena etc.

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6. Recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Bokaro Forest Division, Bokaro:

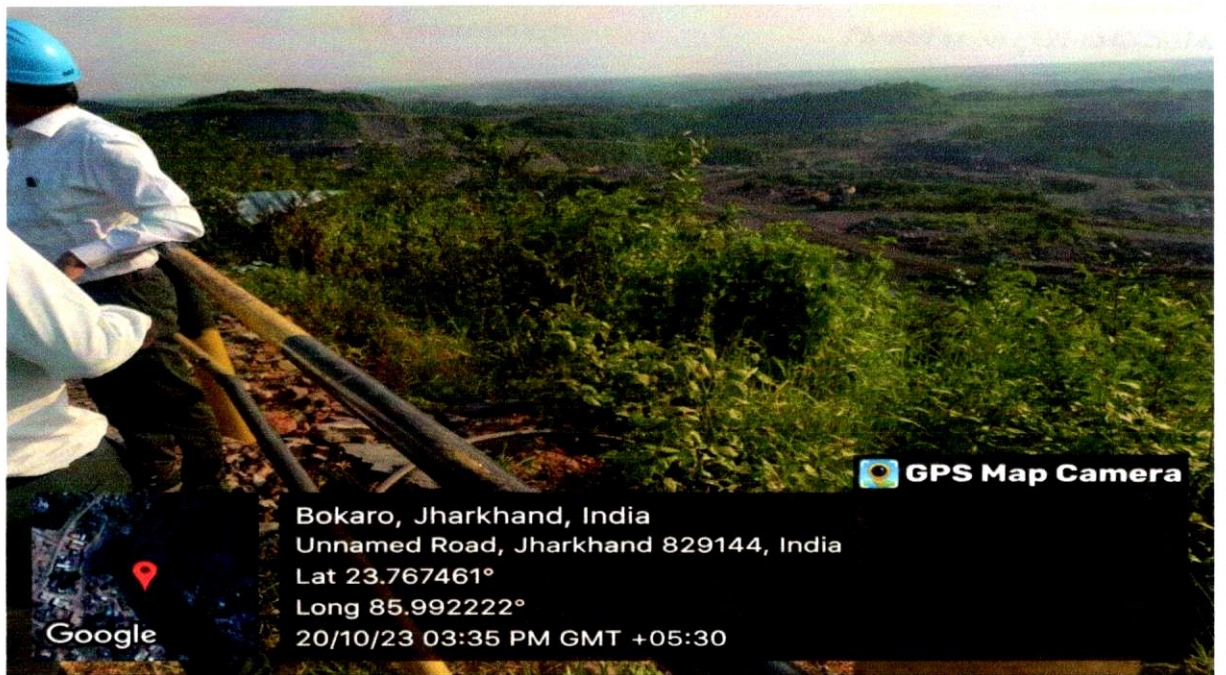
Proposed renewal proposal may be recommended conditionally for specific time period as the land is already broken land, where mining has been done in the past. However, it is brought into notice that the compliance of the some of the conditions imposed by MoEF&CC in different FC proposals related to M/s. CCL is pending at M/s. CCL level.


Thus, while considering this specific FC proposal (Proposal No.: FP/JH/MIN/40575/2019), for approval at the competent level, a condition should be imposed on CCL to comply pending FC conditions of other proposals.

7. Add Photographs



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**Divisional Forest Officer,
Bokaro Forest Division, Bokaro.**