

No. 8-107/91-FC(Pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 06<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

To

**The Principal Secretary to the Government,**  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department,  
M.S. Building,  
Bangalore, Karnataka.

Sub: Renewal of Mining Lease No. 2396 towards diversion of **608.00 ha** of forest land in Donimalai Reserve Forests in favour of NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Iron Ore Mine - granting of extension of mining lease beyond 03-11-2008.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to User Agency's letter No. DNM/HRD/EMC/FC dated 03.10.2008 and DP Sectt/Dnm/ML/1 dated 20.11.2008 (copy enclosed), and this office's even no dated 10.11.2008 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for renewal of Mining Lease No. 2396 towards diversion of **608.00 ha** of forest land in Donimalai Reserve Forests in favour of NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Iron Ore Mine - granting of extension of mining lease beyond 03-11-2008, was sought, in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Earlier, the Central Government has granted in-principle approval for diversion of 608.00 ha of forest land for renewal of mining lease vide letter of even number dated 22.10.1992 for a period of 10 years. Later on, the lease was given approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter of even number dated 04.02.1997 for a maximum period of 30 years, with lease being co-terminus with mining lease under MMRD Act. Now, the request of NMDC for continuation/extension of mining lease as per guidelines of the Ministry in already in-principle agreed mining lease of the NMDC for 20 years beyond 03.11.2008 was examined by the Forest Advisory Committee.

After detailed discussions, the FAC recommended for continuance of the mining during the validity of the mining lease under the MMRD Act within the already approved period as per already approved conditions, however deposition of NPV as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order, Safety Zone protection, proper mitigative measures for soil conservation and implementation of approved Reclamation Plan shall be done. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred to in Account No. 344901010070128 of Union

Bank of India, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110003 within three months. The State Government may prescribe conditions as in case of other similar mining projects.

The Regional Office, Bangalore shall monitor regularly at least once in a year and report any irregularity and violations. However, after five years a comprehensive verification of compliance to all conditions stipulated shall be carried out and report may be submitted for further consideration by the ministry for continuance of the forest clearance.

In view of the above, I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government for continuance of the mining during the validity of the mining lease under the MMRD Act within the already approved period as per already approved conditions and as per other conditions to be prescribed by the State Government.

Yours faithfully,

*Sd*  
(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Bangalore, Karnataka.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore.
4. The User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.

*B.K. Singh*  
(B.K. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

OK  
*issuued*  
*10/2/09*