

## JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

The Hon'ble Supreme Court had by Order dated 13 April 2012 directed that all the Mining Lessees in the Districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur should implement Supplementary Environment Management Plan / Reclamation & Rehabilitation Plans. Further the Hon'ble Supreme Court has suggested setting up of a Special Purpose Vehicle for the purpose of implementing Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone.

As part of this process of taking steps for ensuring restoration of environment in these mining areas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court by Judgment dated 21 March 2017 directed the Government of Karnataka and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to submit a detailed proposal with regard to implementation of the scheme of construction of conveyor belt systems and railway sidings for transportation of ores.

In this regard, SMIORE has by letter dated 26 September 2017 indicated that it would be willing to construct, at its own cost, a Downhill Conveyor System (DCS) for transportation of ores. Considering the Report dated 25 October 2017 of the CEC, the Hon'ble Supreme Court by Order dated 7 December 2017 directed the six Mining Lessees, including SMIORE, to construct DCS, as Mining Related Infrastructure Development activity, within a period of 18 months and also directed the Government of Karnataka to provide Right of Way within 2 months, for the purpose.

In compliance with the said Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we propose to set up a 300 Tonnes Per Hour (TPH) DCS from Western End [+865 Mean Sea Level (MSL)] of Kammathuru Iron Ore Mine in our Mining Lease No. 2678 (Old 2580/1179) to BMM (PMBR) Siding (+650 MSL) covering a length of 1.2 km. The proposed DCS passes through our Mining Lease area, Forest Land and the Revenue land. Application seeking Forest Clearance (FC) over an area of 2.4313888 hectares under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is being made to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Forest land proposed to be diverted for laying the Conveyor and the service roads for erection and maintainance of the Downhill Conveyor System will be bare minimum considering steep hilly terrain. The total Forest land required is 2.4313888 Hectares and Revenue land is 0.717 Hectares. It is planned to divert minimum forest land for the project. All the required setups like water pipe line and power transmission & others will be adjusted with in the diverted area.

The contour being too steep, mobilization of heavy machineries such as Cranes, Concrete Millers and Trailers for execution of civil works, structural erection & belt laying activity will be impossible without creating approach roads and service roads for taking the same to specific locations. Moreover, the main approach road from Kammathuru Cross to Ranjithpura main road is intersecting the conveyor corridor at hill top along the down slope, so access service roads will be extended at suitable gradient for conveying materials with Heavy Equipments during commissioning of DCS and these roads will be used for maintainance of DCS during operation.

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for The Sankar Manganese & Iron Ores Limited  
  
Vice President (Mines)