

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Rc.No.116/2015-D1,
Dated. 17.04.2023.

Office of the District Forest Officer,
Kakinada Division, Kakinada.

From
Sri. I.K.V. Raju, S.F.S.,
District Forest Officer
Kakinada Division,
Kakinada.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rajahmundry Circle,
Rajamahendravaram.

Sir,

Sub: APFD - F(C) Act, 1980 - Proposal for diversion of forest land for mining lease for Laterite over an extent of 9.74 ha in copmt.no.606, 609 of Sarlanka RF of Kakinada Division in favour of M/s. Bhaskara Minerals, Kakinada - Processing of the proposals - Shortcomings communicated by the PCCF, AP, Guntur - Resubmission of Proposals - Report submission of - Reg.

- Ref:1. PCCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur Rc.No.EFS02-15029/61/2018-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-2; Dt:07.08.2020.
2. CF, Ananthapuram Rc.no.150/2017-TO; Dt:02-12-2020.
3. This office Rc.No.116/2015-D1; Dt: 21.12.2020.
4. This office Rc.No.116/2015-D1; Dt: 28.09.2022.
5. CCF, Rjy Rc.No.2796/2020-D1; Dt:06.10.2022.
6. PCCF (HoFF), AP, Guntur Rc.No.EFS02-15029/61/2018-FCA SEC- PCCF/FCA-2, Dt:30.10.2022.
7. This office Rc.No.116/2015-D1; Dt: 04.11.2022.
8. CCF, Rjy Rc.No.2796/2020-D1; Dt:14.11.2022 & 03-02-2023.
9. PCCF (HoFF), AP, Guntur Rc.No.EFS02-17/52/2020-IT; Dt:16.02.2023.
10. FRO, Yeleswaram Rc.No.392/2018; Dt:21.03.2023.
11. Bhaskara minerals letter, Dated:06-04-2023.

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It is submitted that, the proposal for diversion of forest land for mining lease for Laterite over an extent of 10.69 ha in copmt.no.606, 609 of Sarlanka RF of Kakinada Division in favour of M/s. Bhaskara Minerals, Kakinada were forwarded by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh, Guntur in the reference 1st cited, for examining and to submit the remarks and recommendations.

Accordingly, the proposals were forwarded to the Forest Range Officer, Yeleswaram for field verification. As per the report submitted by the Forest Range Officer, Yeleswaram and Site inspection conducted by the then District Forest Officer, Kakinada on 12.11.2020 the proposals were submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry vide references 3rd and 4th cited. Inturn the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry has submitted the proposals to the PCCF (HoFF), AP, Guntur vide reference 5th cited.

Further, it is to submit that, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has communicated certain shortcomings vide reference 6th cited regarding the proposals submitted for diversion of forest land in favour of M/s.Bhaskara minerals, Kakinada. The Details of the shortcomings along with reply is submitted hereunder.

S.No	Details of the shortcomings	Reply										
1.	<p>The DMG, Andhra Pradesh, Ibrahimpatnam in Lr.no.19971/R1-3/2013 Dt:03-12-2014 has recommended for 9.75 ha only. In the reference 2nd cited, instructions were issued to resurvey the area restructuring to 9.75 ha. Accordingly, the user agency has re-surveyed the forest area and submitted data. The CCF, Rajhmundry without getting it authenticated from the office of the Prl.CCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur processed Part-II and Part-III proposals. The DGPS raw data for re-surveyed forest area is required to be verified and authenticated by the office of the Prl.CCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur to arrive the precise forest area below or equal to recommended area of 9.75 ha by the DGM, AP, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada. The DGPS surveyed map of proposed forest area re-surveyed duly authenticated by GIS wing, office of the Prl.CCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur is required and tobe uploaded in Form-A in PARIVESH portal.</p>	<p>It is submitted that, the proposed mining area revised DGPS map submitted by the M/s.Bhaskara minerals, Kakinada has been verified and authenticated by GIS Cell, O/othe PCCF(HoFF), AP, Mangalagiri and communicated vide reference 9th cited and the details are as follows.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Area assessed by GIS cell (ha.)</th></tr><tr><td>Surveyed mining area</td><td>7.38</td></tr><tr><td>Surveyed safety zone area</td><td>0.86</td></tr><tr><td>Surveyed road area</td><td>1.50</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9.74</td></tr></table> <p>Accordingly, the user agency has uploaded the details in Form-A in PARIVESH portal. Copy of the Form-A is submitted herewith.</p>	Area assessed by GIS cell (ha.)		Surveyed mining area	7.38	Surveyed safety zone area	0.86	Surveyed road area	1.50	Total	9.74
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2.	<p>In part-II, the District Forest Officer, Kakinada has recommended the proposal to an extent of 10.69 ha. The same needs to be revised to the forest area after getting DGPS raw data verified and authenticated by the office of the Prl.CCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur.</p>	<p>It is submitted that, the re-surveyed forest area 9.74 ha has been verified and authenticated by the GIS cell. Accordingly the Part-II of the proposals has been revised and submitted herewith.</p>										
3.	<p>Field inspection of the District Forest Officer, Kakinda needs to be revised to forest area resurveyed by the user agency verified and authenticated by the office of the Prl.CCF & HoFF, AP, Guntur.</p>	<p>It is submitted that, the field inspection report of the District Forest Officer, Kakinda has been revised as per the re-surveyed forest area of 9.74 ha which was verified and authenticated by the GIS cell. Accordingly, the Revised Site Inspection report was submitted herewith.</p>										
4.	<p>Scheme of one and half time degraded forest land identified for safty zone afforestation along with surveyed map with GPS coordinates as per 2.6 (ii), Chapter-2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF, & CC, New Delhi in F.no.5-2/2017-FC; Dt;28-03-2022 required to be uploaded as the same is not found place in the proposals.</p>	<p>The Degraded Forest land was identified (for one and half time of Safty zone) over an extent of 1.40 ha in Compt.no.639 of Nellipudi RF of Kothuru Beat of Sankhavaram Section of Yeleswaram Range, Kakinada Division.</p> <p>The Afforestation Scheme of one and half time degraded forest land was prepared for Rs.5.5832 lakh for maintenance upto 12 years i.e.,2023-24 to 2034-35.</p> <p>The Surveyed map with GPS coordinates along with Afforestation Scheme was submitted herewith.</p>										

5.	Annexure A to H proformae in RoFR certificate.	A certificate in prescribed format i.e., Form-II duly certified by the District Collector along with A to H Proforma information of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006 is issued by the District Collector, Kakinada District vide Rc.no.116/2015-D1; Dt: 31-03-2023 is submitted herewith.
6.	Undertakings to revised precise forest area after re-survey authenticated by the office of the Prl.CCF and HoFF, AP, Guntur, wherever required are to be obtained from the user agency and to be uploaded in PARIVESH Portal.	The User agency has submitted undertakings as per the re-surveyed forest area of 9.74 ha which was verified and authenticated by the GIS cell, office of the Prl.CCF and HoFF, AP, Mangalagiri and the same were uploaded in PARIVESH Portal.

Further, it is submitted that, the Site inspection was conducted by me on 03.04.2023 along with concerned staff. As per the proposal submitted by the user agency, as per the inspection reports of the concerned staff and as per my field inspection the following are the observations.

- The proposed area for diversion of forest land for mining lease over an extent of 9.74 ha is in compt.no.606, 609 of Sarlanka RF of Peddamallapuram Beat, Rowthulapudi section of Yeleswaram Range (Mining Area:7.38 ha, Safety Zone Area: 0.86 ha and Road Area: 1.50 ha).
- Density of vegetation in this area is between 0.40 to 0.50 and Eco class of Forest area is Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests (Eco Class - III).
- The Forest type of the area is southern dry mixed deciduous forests (5A/C3) to southern thorny scrub forest, (6A/DS1) with Moderately Dense to Scrub Forest. The dominating species are *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Ximenia americana*, *Wrightia arborea*, *Pterspermum xylocarpum*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Strychnos potatorum*, *Sterculia villosa*, *Coreya arborea*, *Pterospermum canescens*, *Strychnos nuxvomica*, *Terminalia alata*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Palaquium ellipticum*, *Cassia fistuala*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Terminalia bellarica*, *Morind timeturia*, *Diospyros sylvatica*. The Tree enumeration taken up in the proposed area for diversion and total trees **1613 nos** were enumerated in the Mining and road areas and the value of trees is **Rs.37,49,290/-** (Classification wise enumeration list is enclosed herewith). Further, the user agency has submitted an undertaking for extraction of required no.of trees only in 9.74 ha of proposed area.
- Movement of wildlife such as Fox, Hare, Wildbore, Chousinga, Porcupine and Deer is there in Sarlanka RF area. For protection of these wildlife against mining operations by taking safety measures as a precaution is very much essential. Erection of Chainlink mesh of suitable gauge to a height of 2.00 mts around the safety zone area prevents entry of the wildlife into the proposed mining area thus; the possible damage if any to the wildlife can be avoided.
- The proposed area is not a part of a National park or Sanctuary. The proposed area is not a part of Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve or Elephant corridor. No Archeologically important structures are present in the proposed area. The National park and Sanctuary and proposed forest land for diversion is located at aerial distance of **63.25 Kms** from Papikonda National Park and at aerial distance of **49.92 Kms** from Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Blasting in the mining area causes harm to the wildlife. In view of this, a condition "**ban on blasting**" is to be imposed to avoid any possible injuries or death of animals **working in the night also may not be permitted**.
- The areas are prone for soil erosion, due to their being gentle to moderate slopes. SMC measures like digging of STs is required in the vicinity. However, there is no scope for digging of Percolation tanks due to shallow depth of soils.
- Reclamation of mined areas is required in a phased manner. The dugout pits shall be refilled with fertile soil besides bench terracing if required and planted with tall plants of native species.
- Permanent demarcation of the mining area by erection of RCC pillars is essential to avoid disputes as well as checking encroachment into adjoining forest areas not granted for mining purpose.
- As per the guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provision for safety zone all around the proposed mining areas shall be made. After earmarking the area required for safety zone the total area required for diversion for mining is to be calculated.

Sl. no	Name of the applicant	Area proposed for mining in ha	Area Proposed for Road area in ha	Area earmarked for safety zone in ha (Exempted In CA)	Total area proposed for diversion in ha
1	M/s Bhaskara Minerals	7.38	1.50	0.86	9.74

- As per the certificate issued by the District Collector in Form-II along with A to H Proforma information, there are no claims received under RoFR Act, 2006 in the proposed mining area.
- In the Gram Sabha conducted on 14.04.2018 in Velangi Gram Panchayat of Sankhavaram Mandal, a resolution was passed expressing no objection for mining the mineral Laterite from the proposed mining areas in Sarlanka RF by the M/s Bhaskara Minerals.
- The non-forest land identified by the user agency for CA over an extent of 9.67 ha in Sy.no.125-1 (2.29 ha) of Vodulapalli Village, Sy.no.206-1 (2.88 ha) & 226-2 (2.48 ha) of Peddannavaripalli Village and Sy.no.90-2 (2.02 ha) of Nuthanakalva Village of Talupula Mandal of Ananthapuram District.
- The Compensatory afforestation scheme was prepared and submitted by the DFO, Ananthapuram for an amount of Rs.71.20 lakh towards raising and maintenance of CA Plantation over an extent of 9.67 ha.

Based on the above field observations and interaction with the field staff and local villagers, the following special conditions in addition to the general conditions are proposed to be imposed for diversion of forest land.

- Chainlink fence of suitable gauge to a height of 2.0m shall be erected around the safety zone area to prevent entry of the wildlife into the mining area at the cost of the user agency.
- To collect @ of Rs.1.00 lakh per ha of forest area proposed for diversion from the user agency for taking up wildlife conservation measures and monitoring of works in the vicinity of the proposed mining areas. [it amounts of Rs.9.74 lakh]
- Blasting in the mining areas shall be banned. Mining in the night shall not be permitted.
- An amount of Rs.1.00 lakh per ha shall be deposited for carrying out soil and moisture conservation works in the vicinity of the mining area.
- The mined areas (dugout pits) shall be refilled with fertile soil and bench terracing be done if required besides raising successful plantations with tall plants of native species at the cost of the user agency as a part of reclamation of the mined area.

- f. Permanent demarcation of the mining area by erection of RCC pillars at the cost of the user agency to avoid disputes as well as to check encroachment into adjoining forest areas not granted for mining purpose.
- g. User charges equivalent to the cost of permit charges @ Rs.10/- per MT as fixed by the Government in GO Ms.no.35, EFS&T (For-I) dept. dt.06.02.2010 for the permits issued for transportation of laterite on quarterly basis shall be paid through DD in favour of the District Forest Officer, Kakinada for using the existing road.
- h. Administrative cost at the rate of Rs.10/- per MT of Laterite transported shall be paid by the user agency on quarterly basis for meeting the administrative expenses like maintenance of records, conveyance and communication charges, supervision and monitoring charges etc., to the District Forest Officer, Kakinada through DD.
- i. Pollution control measures shall be taken up by the user agency in the nearby villages at the cost of user agencies.
- j. The User Agency is willing to provide one vehicle to forest department for monitoring and evaluation purpose. A copy of the willing letter furnished by the User agency is submitted herewith.

This is submitted for favour of information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-I.K.V.Raju
District Forest Officer,
Kakinada Division, Kakinada.

Copy submitted to the Collector and District Magistrate, Kakinada District, Kakinada for favour of kind information.

Copy to the Forest Range Officer, Yeleswaram for information and necessary action. He is directed to ensure that no work in violation of F(C) Act, 1980 takes place. He is requested to see that the said proposed work is not commenced in anticipation of the permission.

Sd/-I.K.V.Raju
District Forest Officer,
Kakinada Division, Kakinada.

// t.c.b.o.//

G. Surekha 17/4/2023
Technical Officer