



Letter No. 15178./OMC/F&E/2021
7th October, 2021

To

Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar (Wildlife) Division,
Anandapur

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safety zone (excluding 95.60 ha of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land being proposed for diversion in separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari ML) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar District, Odisha) M/s OMC Ltd. during Mining lease period as extended under the amended provision MMDR Act.

Ref: (i) Letter No. 8-28/2015-FC, dt. 01.04.2019 by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India (Copy enclosed).
(ii) Letter No. 8-28/2015-FC, dt. 06.08.2021 by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India.
(iii) Memo No. 14609/F&ECC dt. 17.08.2021 by State Govt.
(iv) Letter No. 3178/3WL (Lease)/2019 dt. 01.10.2021 by DFO, Keonjhar (WL), Anandapur.

Sir,

MoEF & CC, Govt. of India vide letter under reference (ii) has requested the State Govt. to upload complete supporting information/documents on the PARIVESH portal in response to Ministry's letter dt. 01.04.2019 for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

In this context it is submitted that,

- a. MoEF & CC vide letter under reference (i) communicated the Minutes of Meeting held between MoEF & CC and ICFRE, Dehradun to carry out the study "to assess mineable reserve, duration for the extraction from already opened up area (96.50 ha), environmental stability, comparative statement of environmental loss & benefit accrued and possible technological intervention without disturbing the green cover in Daitari Iron Ore Mine Lease for Odisha Mining Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, Odisha" as recommended by FAC. In the same letter it has also been requested that State Govt. may take action under intimation to the Ministry. The brief of the MoM is given as under:

- The study will be completed in five components

Component-I: Study area delineation and preparation of thematic maps (ICFRE & WII).

Component-II: Assessment feasibility of mineable iron ore reserve and time duration of its extraction from already opened up area (96.50 ha) (ICFRE).

Component-III: Environmental stability in the area, if expansion of mining activity is allowed beyond already broken up area.

Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.

(A Gold Category State PSU)

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Component-IV: Assessment of environmental losses/ benefits (both tangible and intangible) in monetary terms, if expansion is allowed beyond already opened up area (Terrestrial forest/faunal and avi, aquatic biodiversity and socio-economic-ICFRE & WII)

Component-V: Exploration of possibility of specific technical interventions for iron ore extraction without disturbing green cover (ICFRE).

- The total cost of the study is Rs. 327.93 lakhs.
 - The total cost of the study will be borne by OMC.
 - As per the payment schedule, 50% of work value to be paid on acceptance of work order.
- b. After issuance of letter by MoEF & CC vide letter under reference (i), OMC vide letter no. 6743/OMC/F&E/2019 dt. 17.04.2019 requested Special Secretary to Govt., F&E Dept. to move ICFRE to get the information regarding whether the amount will be deposited with ICFRE and WII separately.
 - c. Special Secretary to Govt., F&E Dept. vide letter no. 10F (Cons) 37/2018 7875/F&E dt. 18.04.2019 requested ADG (EM), ICFRE to intimate whether the amount of Rs. 327.93 lakhs as per the payment scheduled shall be deposited with ICFRE and WII separately and also intimate the mode of payment with details of beneficiary.
 - d. ICFRE Dehradun vide letter dt. 30.04.2019 confirmed that payment needs to be made exclusively in favour of ICFRE, Dehradun. In turn, the ICFRE will make payment to the WII Dehradun back to back. Vide same letter ICFRE have also provided the account details for payment.
 - e. On receiving the demand from State Govt., OMC deposited Rs 163.965 lakhs (50% of work value as per the terms and conditions of ICFRE) vide UTR NO-ANDBN19234579677 dt. 20.05.2019.
 - f. OMC intimated Special Secretary to Govt. vide letter no. 8422/OMC/F&E/2019 dt. 23.05.2019 regarding payment to ICFRE.
 - g. Special Secretary to Govt. vide letter no.10692 dt. 04.06.2019 intimated the same to ADG (EM) regarding payment by OMC.
 - h. After deposit of the requisite payment by OMC, a team of scientists of ICFRE heads by Dr Sudhir Kumar, DDG, ICFRE visited Daitari Iron Ore Mines five times (July, 2019, October, 2019, January, 2020, February, 2021 and July-August, 2021) to complete the carrying capacity study. The wildlife experts of WII, Dehradun also collected information during the said period. Information sought by ICFRE from time to time has been provided by OMC, State Forest Department and OFDC. Several round of discussion has been made by ICFRE related to the study with concerned DFOs and OMC during their visit to Daitari Mines site. ICFRE, Dehradun is now finalizing the report basing on the observations during site visit, inputs by OMC and State Forest Department.

It is requested to kindly recommend the above information to higher quarter for information of MoEF & CC.

An early action is highly solicited.

Encl: As above.

Memo No. 15179/OMC/F&E/2021 dt 07.10.2021.

Copy forwarded to RM, Daitari for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


07/10/2021
Executive Director (F&E)


07/10/2021
Executive Director (F&E)