

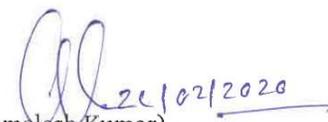
## **Justification for locating the Project in forest land and details of alternatives**

Barjora (North) Coal Mining Lease has been granted to the prior allottee, DVC-EMTA by the Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal for 30 years vide lease grant order no. 230-CI/o/Coal/38/07/MI. Later on, as per the vesting order under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, the same has been de-allocated to WBPDCCL on 4th August, 2015.

Coal is naturally occurring structurally controlled organic sedimentary deposit. So, the project is site specific. Out of total lease area, a revised mining plan was prepared only for the non-forest land of 260.14 ha and was approved by MoC on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Environmental clearance was obtained from MoEF&CC by WBPDCCL on 31st May, 2018. Recently another revised mine plan over an area 683.04 including forest and non-forest land was approved by Ministry of Coal, Government of India, on 26/09/2019. As per approved recent mine plan o Barjora (North) Coal Mine, total geological reserve is 91.67Mt. Out of the total geological reserve, about 6.11MT of coal has already produce by the previous leasee. Thus, the remaining geological reserve is about 85.56MT. Out of total reserve, 42.88MT coal are reserved under the forest land.

As there is a huge demand of coal for the Power generation Plant of WBPDCCL therefore, winning of this coal below the forest land is highly essential. Moreover, due to the exposure of coal of the non-forest land by the prior allottee, spontaneous heating has already been taking place and which may extent up to the coal below forest land causing spontaneous heating resulting environmental degradation. Therefore, for conservation, safety and environmental point of view the extraction of coal below forest land is highly essential.

The project shall not be economically viable also if the coal of forest land not excavated scientifically.

  
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