

## CHECK LIST-NO-10

### JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST LAND

Bhubaneswari OCP is an operating Opencast coal mine and This project lies in the integrated block (Bhubaneswari, Arkhapal-A & Sakhigopal block) which is located in the eastern part of the Talcher coalfield in Odisha state. It spans over an area of 14.55 sq. km between Latitude 20°57'47.779" & 20°59'19.442" North and Longitude 85°08'48.990" & 85°12'36.312" East. Bhubaneswari mining block comprising of an area of 6.38 sq.km is surrounded by NH 23 and Sakhigopal block in the east, Lingaraj and Ananta Expansion project in the south, Subhadra block in the west & Arkhapal block in the north which belong to MCL. The block is covered under Survey of India Toposheet No.F45T1 on R.F. 1:50000 and special toposheets nos. D1, D2, E1 & E2 on R.F. 1:10000 and falls within Angul district. Owner of the mine is Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, a Central Public Sector company. MCL operates its coal mines within the State of Odisha, which has two major coalfields, Talcher & Ib-valley. Bhubaneswari mine is in Talcher coalfield, situated on the western part of Brahmani River, in the Mahanadi River basin.

Bhubaneswari OCP has proposed for a mining plan of 14.55 square kilometer of block area, out of which 6.58 square kilometer was approved & Mining Plan also approved in April'2022. The geology of the Project is based on "Integrated Geological Report on Coal Exploration of Bhubaneswari, Arkhapal-A & Sakhigopal-A Blocks" prepared by CMPDI RI-VII in December, 2016" by CMPDIL on full payment basis from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

The net coal reserve in the proposed geological are is 419.15 Mt. Mineable coal reserve is 396.52 Mt, while the extractable coal reserve is 396.52Mt. Coal reserve that is depleted is 272.06 (as on 01.04.2022) and Balance Extractable reserve is 124.76 Mt.

Since Coal is site specific, the proposed expansion of Bhubaneswari OCP in Bhubaneswari block and Arkhapal block with mine lease area of 658.724 ha which also involves 132.904 ha of forest land is vital. The total land involved for entire life of the project is 658.724 Ha (525.82 Ha Non forest + 132.904 Ha Forest). Diversion proposal for 132.904 Ha of required forest land was submitted to MOEF&CC in 2002. However, as per directives of MoEF&CC while granting EC for 20 MTY, forest land involved for 25 years of operation was assessed and accordingly FC was granted for 112.521 Ha in 2004 against the proposal of 132.904 Ha. and it was also directed that time to approach the MoEF&CC for the balance 20.383 Ha forest land after consumption of granted forest land (i.e. 112.521 Ha) in the mine area.



To cope up with the increased demand of the nation, the EC of the project was enhanced from 10 MTPA to 20 MTPA, 20 MTPA to 25 MTPA and 25 MTPA to 28 MTPA within the lease area. Now there is acute shortage of excavation area in Bhubaneswari OCP. Therefore, to continue uninterrupted coal production and supply of coal to the power plants and to meet the energy demand of the nation and to narrow the demand-supply gap, it is now urgently required to divert the balance forest land of 20.383 Ha (DLC Forest) for proposed Bhubaneswari OCP 30 MTY Project.



If analyzing on the cost benefit ratio, the project benefits Rs 7847,74,48,439/- to the nation's economy while losing an amount of Rs.56,21,84,667/- on grounds of Forests. So, the Cost - Benefit Ratio is 1: 139.59

The total area of the project is 658.74 Ha out of which the total forest land is only 132.904 Ha. However, an area of 112.521 has already been diverted for Bhubaneswari OCP in 2004. The balance forest land of 20.383 Ha is now required to be diverted for mining purpose as the already diverted forest land is consumed and excavation area in proposed expansion is almost completed and also as per MoEF&CC guidelines vide Office Memorandum No. F.No.IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E 177258] dated 11th April 2022 for granting Environmental Clearance (EC) under 7ii(a) of EIA Notification, 2006, Bhubaneswari OCP is now proposed from 28 MTY to 30 MTY in 658.724 Ha. The location of the site for coal mining operation fully depends upon nature's deposit of minerals and geological structure of the coal seams. Hence question of exploring alternative site for the purpose does not arise.

  
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