

Remind with CD  
29/9/25

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area,  
AT/PO, Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



Ref No.: MCL/MLA/GM/E&F/2025-2026/ 396

Date: 08/09/2025

The Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division,  
District: Sundargarh, Odisha.

**Subject:** Proposal for non-forestry use of 227.62 ha of forest land within a total mining lease area of 523.92 ha within Basundhara (West) Extension Opencast Coal mining project by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

**Ref. No.:** Memo No. 4796/4F(Misc) dated 20.08.2025.

**Respected Sir,**

With reference to the subject cited above on compliance of EDS raised by your good offices, the point-wise reply is as follows:

**1. Point No. (5): The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution has not been submitted.**

➤ **Reply:** The details regarding the evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution is as follows:

**Evacuation/transportation plan of the coal**

Transportation of coal will be done by coal transportation road (length- 1500 m) etc. and coal will be transported to Sardega Railway siding and its associated RLS for rail dispatch. The OB will be backfilled into the voids of the Basundhara (West) OC Expn following the same route. The route has been duly marked in the plan attached herewith as "**Annexure A**".

**Electricity Transmission**

The substation will consist of 33kV outdoor switchyard, control room & 6.6 kV outgoing arrangement. The two 6.6 kV switch boards will cater exclusively to HEMM, Pumping, lighting, colony & water supply and workshop etc. The location of the substation has been duly marked in the plan attached herewith as "**Annexure A**".

**Water Demand and supply Arrangement**

The potable water requirement will be met from Basundhara (East) OCP old Quarry. Industrial water demand will be met from the sump water of proposed mine: The breakup is as follows:



	Water Demand
Potable (In Kld)	500
Industrial (In Kld)	1510
<b>Total (In Kld)</b>	<b>2010</b>

The proposed pumping system has been designed to dewater the inflow of water due to precipitation falling within the active pit limit during the monsoon season to enable the mining activity to continue round the year. Coal and OB working faces and the haul roads shall be maintained free of water as far as possible. Water garland drains shall be developed in advance for each stage of mine working so that water is collected by the garland drains. The location of the mine sump has been marked duly on the plan attached herewith as "Annexure B". The drainage map considering core and buffer zone is also attached herewith as "Annexure C".

2. **Point No. (6) (i):** The project area of the Basundhara west extension Coal Mining Project was acquired under CBA Act-1957. The Section-11(2) of CBA Act, stipulates "Where the rights under any mining lease acquired under this Act vest in a Government Company under Sub-Section (2) of Section-11, the Government company shall, on and from the such vesting, be deemed to have become the lessee of the State Government, as if a mining leave under the Mineral concession rules had been granted by the State Government to the Government company for the entire lease period permissible under these rules. All rights and liabilities of the central government, in relation to the lease or the land covered by it shall, from the date of vesting, be deemed to have become the rights and liabilities of the Government Company". Hence, the action taken by you against non-forestry work, solid structures, road and cultivation land visible in the proposed forest patches from date of vesting of rights to you needs to be submitted.
  - **Reply:** As per OM No.11-599/2014-FC issued by MoEF&CC on 10.11.2015 (attached herewith as "Annexure D"), MoEF&CC has made it clear that "in case of mining leases having forest land in part or full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mine and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained."
- MMDR Act, 1957, being the mother Act & MCR, 1960, being the rule for the MMDR Act, 1957, all the provisions & orders thereunder, related to MMDR Act, 1957 & the MCR,**



# MCL

1960 shall also be applicable for mining leases acquired under any different Acts and rules.

Therefore, it can be easily inferred that the concerned user agency shall have valid mining lease for any project only after final approval under the Section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, even though the land is acquired under CBA Act, 1957.

Moreover, the afore-mentioned file of MoEF&CC further states that "the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once stage-I approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The State Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurs on the forest land."

Moreover, DIGF (CENTRAL), MoEF&CC, BBSR has clearly stated the following in her recommendations (copy attached herewith as "Annexure E") and has already proposed the following actions:

1. *Strict action needs to be initiated against erring officials of Revenue Department, being the custodian of the revenue forest land, for not being able to stop illegal mining in Revenue Forest land despite information by the DFO and RO on illegal mining.*
2. *The exact area of on-going illegal mining needs to be calculated and penal NPV and penal CA as applicable, needs to be imposed on the State Government's Revenue Authority. Immediate steps need to be taken to stop illegal mining in the area.*

In addition to this, DDGF (Central) has also recommended the project and the copy of the recommendation letter is attached herewith as "Annexure F".

Thus, based on the above recommendation from DIGF (CENTRAL), MoEF&CC, BBSR, the proposal may kindly be accepted.

3. **Point No. (6) (ii): No objection certificate from the Irrigation/ Water Resource Department, has not been submitted.**

➤ **Reply:** The Superintending Officer from Water Resources Department, Sundargarh has been requested to issue the NoC stating that the eastern boundary of the actual excavation area of the proposed coal mining project lies at a distance of approximately 118 meters from Basundhara River (letter attached herewith as "Annexure G").



**MCL**

However, it is hereby being undertaken that as soon as the NoC is obtained, the same will be submitted for your kind reference. The undertaking is hereby being attached as "Annexure H".

4. **Point No. (6) (iv): The component wise KML file has not been uploaded in Parivesh Portal.**

➤ **Reply:** The component wise kml file has been duly uploaded at point no. M-2 under the head "Upload a copy of map of the outer boundary of mining lease area" in Parivesh 1 Portal. The proof of the same is attached herewith as "Annexure I".

5. **Point No. (6) (v): As observed, regarding proposed CA land-cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible. Necessary compliances to be submitted through DFO Koraput.**

➤ **Reply:** The CA land site inspection has already been completed in 2022. The site inspection (attendance sheets attached herewith as "Annexure J") was attended by DFO, Koraput, concerned Ranger of the Forest Range, Forester, MCL officials and the DGPS consultant (ORSAC empanelled agency). The proposed CA land under Koraput forest division was thoroughly inspected by DFO Koraput taking into consideration the temporary structures available on the identified CA land.

**DFC, Koraput** after considering the above circumstances, **granted** the **suitability certificate** (attached herewith as "Annexure K") for carrying out **compensatory afforestation** on the above land and has **mentioned** that the "**degraded forest lands are free from encroachments and encumbrances**".

Therefore, in context of the above, the necessary compliance along with the documents are hereby being submitted for your kind acceptance and onward submission to MoEF&CC for consideration of FAC.

Your co-operation will be highly solicited from our end.

Thanking you.

Enclosure: As above.

Yours truly,

**General Manager,**

General Manager of  
Mahalaxmi Area.

Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
महानदी कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
(A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area  
AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
District: Sundargarh (Odisha)

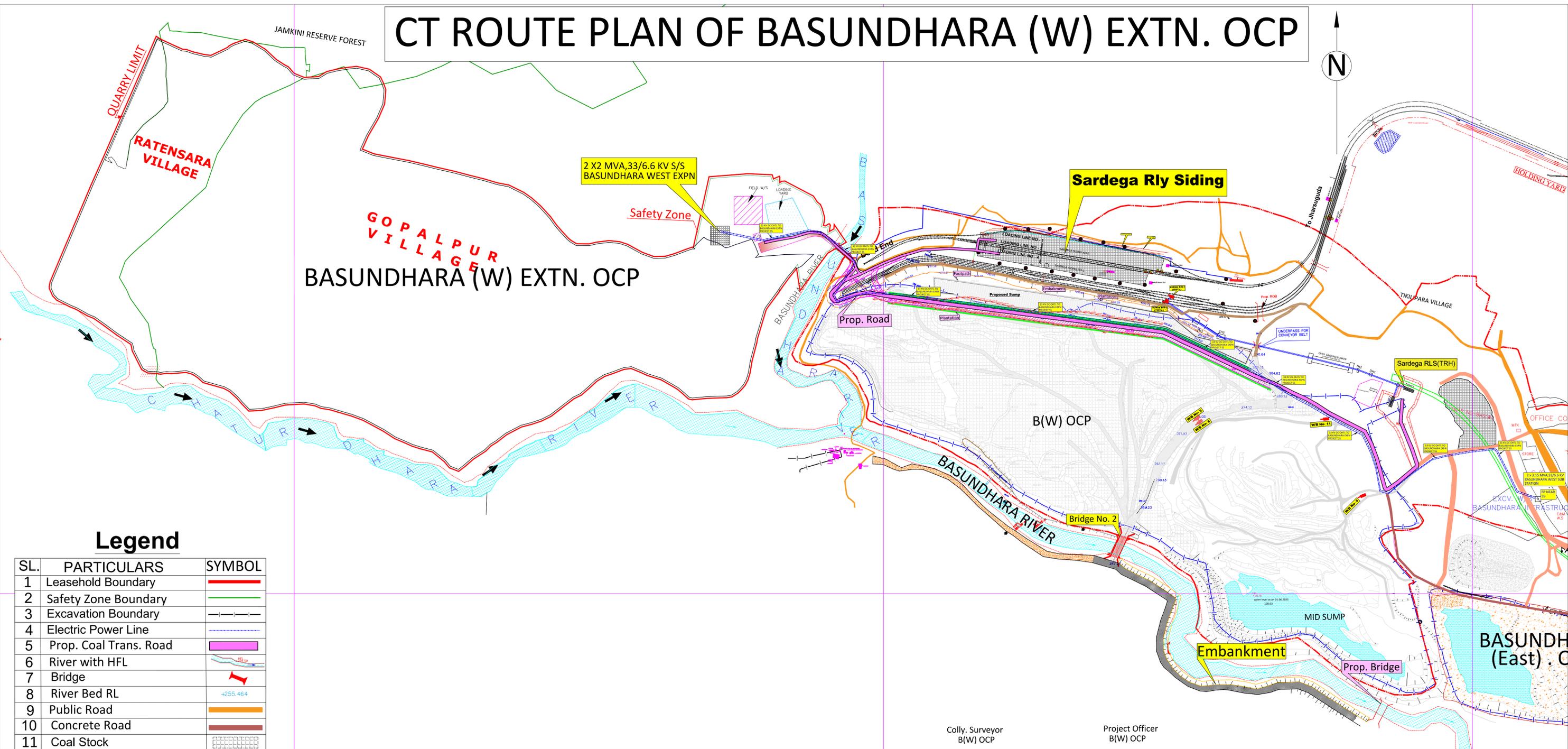


**MCL**

**Copy to:**

1. PCCF, BBSR: For kind information.
2. RCCF, Rourkela- For kind information.
3. GM (E&F), MCL.: For kind information.
4. P.O., B(W)OCP, MCL.: For kind information.

# CT ROUTE PLAN OF BASUNDHARA (W) EXTN. OCP

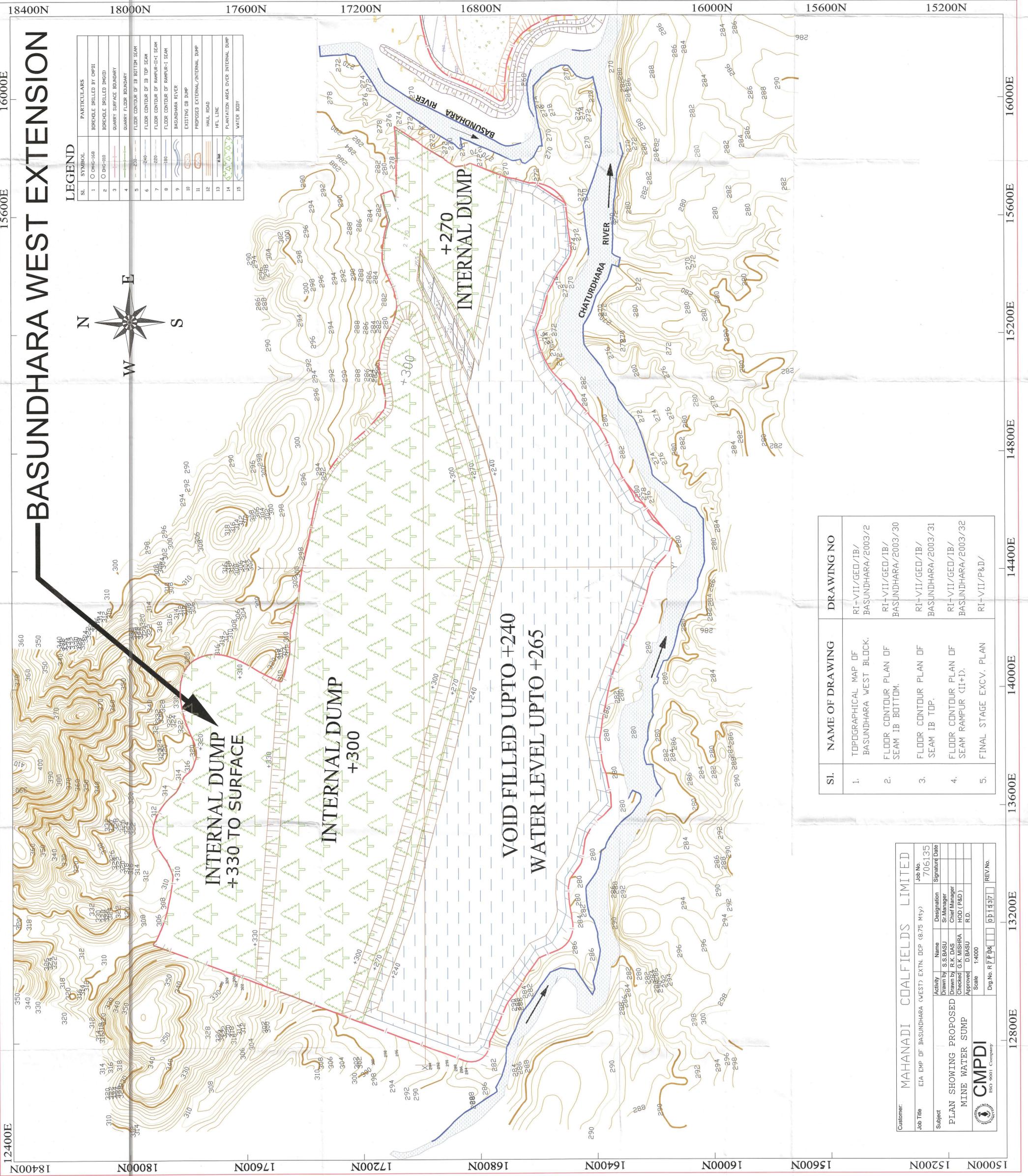


## Legend

SL.	PARTICULARS	SYMBOL
1	Leasehold Boundary	
2	Safety Zone Boundary	
3	Excavation Boundary	
4	Electric Power Line	
5	Prop. Coal Trans. Road	
6	River with HFL	
7	Bridge	
8	River Bed RL	+255.464
9	Public Road	
10	Concrete Road	
11	Coal Stock	

Colly. Surveyor  
B(W) OCP

Project Officer  
B(W) OCP



# BASUNDHARA WEST EXTENSION

**LEGEND**

Sl.	SYMBOL	PARTICULARS
1	○	CHP-168 BOREHOLE DRILLED BY CMPDI
2	○	DRG-100 BOREHOLE DRILLED DRGCD
3	—	QUARRY SURFACE BOUNDARY
4	—	QUARRY FLOOR BOUNDARY
5	—	FLOOR CONTOUR OF IB BOTTOM SEAM
6	—	FLOOR CONTOUR OF IB TOP SEAM
7	—	FLOOR CONTOUR OF RAMPUR-1+1 SEAM
8	—	FLOOR CONTOUR OF RAMPUR-1 SEAM
9	—	BASUNDHARA RIVER
10	—	EXISTING DB DUMP
11	—	PROPOSED EXTERNAL/INTERNAL DUMP
12	—	HALL ROAD
13	—	HFL LINE
14	—	PLANTATION AREA DIVER INTERNAL DUMP
15	—	WATER BODY

Sl.	NAME OF DRAWING	DRAWING NO
1.	TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF BASUNDHARA WEST BLOCK.	RI-VII/GED/IB/BASUNDHARA/2003/2
2.	FLOOR CONTOUR PLAN OF SEAM IB BOTTOM.	RI-VII/GED/IB/BASUNDHARA/2003/30
3.	FLOOR CONTOUR PLAN OF SEAM IB TOP.	RI-VII/GED/IB/BASUNDHARA/2003/31
4.	FLOOR CONTOUR PLAN OF SEAM RAMPUR (II+D).	RI-VII/GED/IB/BASUNDHARA/2003/32
5.	FINAL STAGE EXCV. PLAN	RI-VII/P&D/

Customer: MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED

Job Title: EIA EMP OF BASUNDHARA (WEST) EXTN. DCP (875 M<sup>2</sup>) Job No: 706135

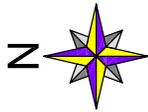
Activity	Name	Designation	Signature	Date
Drawn by	S.S.BASU	Sr. Manager		
Checked by	R.K. DAS	Chief Manager		
Approved	G.K. MISHRA	HOD (P&D)		
Scale	1:4000			
Dwg.No.	R77/04			
REV.No.	01/15/17			

**CMPDI**  
REG. 9001 Company

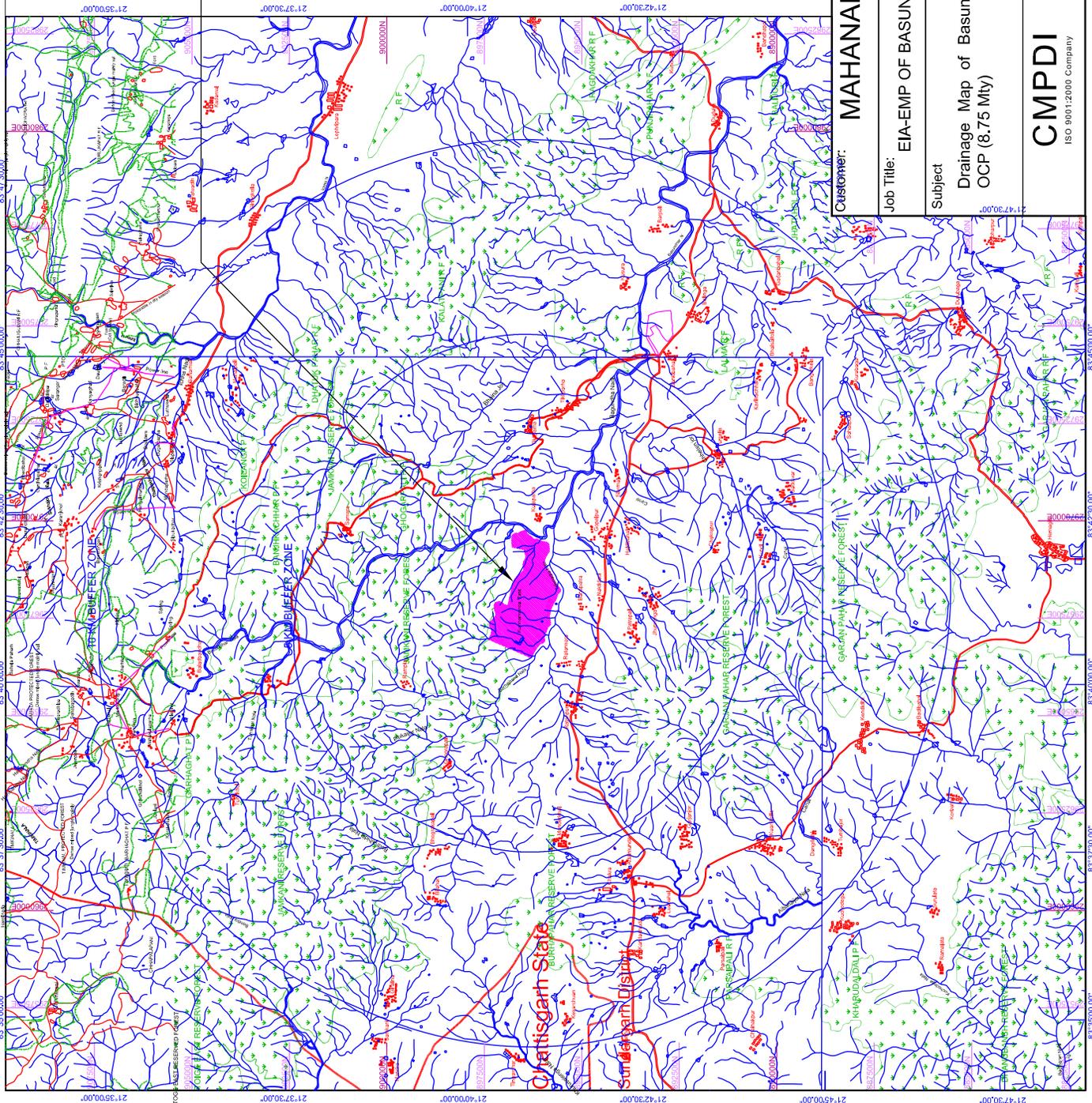
18400N 18000N 17600N 17200N 16800N 16400N 16000N 15600N 15200N

12400E 18000E 17600E 17200E 16800E 16400E 16000E 15600E 15200E

16000E 15600E 15200E 14800E 14400E 14000E 13600E 13200E 12800E



**Basundhara (W) Extn. OCP (8.75 Mty)**



**LEGEND**

-  STATE HIGHWAY / MDR
-  COAL TRANSPORTATION ROAD
-  OTHER ROAD
-  INFRASTRUCTURE
-  VILLAGE/SETTLEMENT
-  RIVER / NALLAH / NADI / JHOR

Note: Forest Boundaries taken from SOI Toposheets

<b>Customer:</b> MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED		<b>Plate No. V</b>	
<b>Job Title:</b> EIA-EMP OF BASUNDHARA (W) EXTN. OCP (8.75 Mty)		Job No. 706135	
<b>Subject:</b> Drainage Map of Basundhara (W) Extn. OCP (8.75 Mty)		<b>Activity</b>	<b>Name</b>
Processed	Manish Yadav	<b>Desig.</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Processed	B. G. Ray	Asst.Mgr. (Env)	
Checked	T. K. Das	Asst.Mgr. (Gen)	
Approved	S. K. Srivastava	HOD (Operations)	
		R.D. (R/H)	
<b>Scale</b>		<b>Sheet</b>	<b>Date</b>
Drg.No.	R7 GMIT	1 of 1	REV.No. 0

**CMPDI**  
ISO 9001:2000 Company

F. No. 11-599/ 2014-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

To

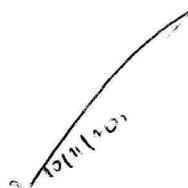
**The Principal Secretary (Forests)**  
All State Governments / Union territory Administrations

**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980- Submission of proposals to obtain approval for diversion of entire forest land located within a mining lease.

Sir,

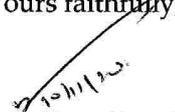
I am directed to refer to para 4.4 of the consolidated guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by this Ministry which *inter-alia* provides that if a project involves forest as well as non-forest land, work should not be started on non-forest land till approval of the Central Government for release of forest land under the afore-mentioned Act has been given, and to say that this Ministry has received representation to appropriately amend the said guidelines to permit commencement of mining in non-forest areas in the coal blocks having both forest and non-forest land.

After careful examination of the matter in this Ministry and in partial modification of the said para 4.4 of the consolidated guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide letter of even number dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 on the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to say that in case of mining leases having forest land in part or in full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. However, the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once stage-I approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The State



Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurs on the forest land.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

**Copy to:-**

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all States/UTs.
7. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all States/UTs.
8. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
9. Joint Secretary, In-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF.
10. PS to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
11. Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all States/UTs.
12. Member-Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all States/UTs.
13. All Directors/ Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC.
14. All Advisors/ Directors/ Dy. Directors in the Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC.
15. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), MoEFCC. .
16. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC with a request to place a copy of this letter on website of this Ministry.
17. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
18. Sr. PPS to Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
19. Sr. PPS to Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
20. Sr. PPS to Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
21. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Regional Office, Bhubaneswar  
ए ३, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur  
भुवनेश्वर - ७५१ ०२३ / Bhubaneswar - 751 023



Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453. E-mail: [roez.bsr-mef@nic.in](mailto:roez.bsr-mef@nic.in)

No.5-ORA 687/2016-BHU

28.05.2025

सेवा में,

अपर वन माहनिदेशक  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु पारिवर्तन मंत्रालय,  
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन,  
जोरबाग रोड, अलीगंज,  
नई दिल्ली - 110003

विषय : Site inspection report in respect of proposal for diversion of 227.62 ha of forest land within mining lease area over 323.92 ha of Basundhara (West) Extension Open Cast Coal Block of Mahalaxmi area of M/s Mahanadi Coal field Limited in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh district under section-2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

संदर्भ: Ministry's letter datd 14.01.2025.

महाशय,

उपरोक्त विषय के संबंध में मुझे सूचित करने का निर्देश हुआ है कि यह परियोजना का दिनांक 25.03.2025 और 26.03.2025 को आधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा स्थल निरीक्षण किया गया । इस परियोजना से संबंधी स्थल निरीक्षण रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु संलग्न कर भेज जा रहा है ।

संलग्न : उपरोक्त

भवदीय,

**पद्मा माहान्ती**

(डॉ पदमा माहान्ती)

उप वन महानिरीक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

**Recommendations for the proposed project site of Basundhara (West) Extension:**

1. Strict action needs to be initiated against erring officials of Revenue Department, being the custodian of the revenue forest land, for not being able to stop illegal mining in Revenue Forest land despite information by the DFO and RO on illegal mining (copy enclosed as Annexure-I).
2. **The exact area of on-going illegal mining needs to be calculated and penal NPV and penal CA as applicable, needs to be imposed on the State Government's Revenue Authority. Immediate steps need to be taken to stop illegal mining in the area.**
3. The Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan considering the importance of the area from wildlife point of view as mentioned in the Working Plan document and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan as mandated in 1.22 (i) of the consolidated guidelines of the Adhiniyam which states that "2% of total project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and/or 0.5% of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as the case may be, shall be charged from the user agency and deposited into the account of CAMPA and the same may be intimated to the MoEF&CC for the purpose of obtaining approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980" shall be prepared.
4. The Regional Wildlife Management Plan as per the approved norms of the State Govt. shall be prepared by the State Govt. at the cost of user agencies operating in that area with proportionate contributions from all the user agencies as being done in Bonai Forest Division in Sundargarh district & Keonjhar Forest Division and as per Ministry's conditions detailed in approvals of various mining projects. 5 mines of MCL are operating in the Sundargarh Forest Division along with 4 other mines of other user agencies. The Regional Wildlife Management Plan shall follow landscape level approach with special emphasis to mitigate adverse impact on wildlife present in the landscape with efficient mitigation measures.
5. The CA site should be made encroachment free, adequately fenced before taking up plantation by the State Forest Department. The justification from the State Govt. regarding the CA site selection may be furnished in accordance with the provisions mentioned in Chapter 2 point 2.1 and 2.2 (xiii) of consolidated guidelines of Adhiniyam.
6. Baseline survey of all ecological and hydrological factors needs to be carried out on the proposed site before carrying out the mining operation which will aid in planning the restoration strategy for the area both for progressive and final mine closure.
7. The standard conditions 2 (1) (ii) & (iii) pertaining to reclamation and restoration schedule and surrender of forest land for future management by State Forest Department should also hold good for the instant project proposal of Basundhara West extension of total 323.92 ha of which 223.92 ha is forest land. The 96.30 ha of non-forest land could be designated as "OECM" as per MoEF&CC guidelines, 2022 which would ensure the restoration of eco-system services in the mined out area once the minerals are mined out and mine is exhausted and closed.

**With these aforesaid conditions, the proposal is recommended.**

*Padma Mahanti*  
28/5/25  
(Dr. PADMA MAHANTI)  
DIGF (CENTRAL)

Encl: Annexures.

Recommendations of DDGF (Central) for the proposed project site of Basundhara (West)

Extension (FP/OR/MIN/QR/521279/2025)

Based on the findings of the site inspection, the recommendations of the State Government, and the site-specific nature of the project, the proposal is recommended for consideration, subject to the following conditions and the standard conditions applicable to such projects:

1. The State Government shall ensure that the compensatory afforestation (CA) land is free from encroachments, and that CA is carried out in accordance with the MoEF&CC directive dated 17.02.2025. Any shortfall in the plantation target shall be met in degraded forest land (DFL) or protected forest (PF)/reserved forest (RF) areas at the cost of the User Agency (UA).
2. In view of the presence of wildlife in the vicinity of the project area, a site-specific Wildlife Management Plan, duly approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, shall be implemented by the State Government at the cost of the UA.
3. As the compensatory afforestation is not being undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the proposed diversion area, the UA and the State Forest Department (SFD) may explore the possibility of incorporating elements of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM), as per the MoEF&CC Guidelines, 2022, to support biodiversity in the progressive mine reclamation plan, at the cost of the UA, in consultation with expert agencies, if required.
4. The UA shall submit the progressive reclamation plan, restoration schedule, and the schedule for surrender of forest land, as specified under Standard Condition 2(1) of the standard conditions applicable to such projects.
5. As the UA has previously operated the Basundhara West OCP and East OCP mines adjacent to the proposed area, and mining activities in these locations have concluded, the competent authority may consider imposing a condition requiring the UA to hand over the mined-out forest area reclaimed by them to the SFD for bringing it under core forestry management. Further, the UA shall prepare a schedule for the surrender of the mined-out and biologically reclaimed forest land, in accordance with the existing mining plan. The UA must also submit this schedule along with an undertaking that the said areas will be surrendered to the SFD as per the approved timeline.
6. The relocation and rehabilitation of affected persons shall be undertaken by the UA in accordance with the relevant rules in force.
7. An appropriate soil and moisture conservation plan may be implemented by the SFD at the cost of the UA.

  
(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)  
DDGF(Central)

ମହାନଦୀ କୋଲଫିଲ୍ଡସ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍  
 Mahanadi Coalfields Limited  
 (A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Office of The General Manager,  
 Mahalaxmi Area,  
 AT/PO: Basundhara -770076  
 District: Sundargarh (Odisha)



**MCL**

Ref. No.: MCL/MLA/GM/2025-26/ 375

Date: 29/08/2025

To,

The Executive Engineer/Superintending Engineer,  
 Office of the Executive/ Superintending Engineer,  
 Sundargarh Irrigation Division,  
 Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha,  
 Sundargarh: 770020, Odisha.

**Subject:** NoC regarding the permission for operation of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, MCL, the eastern boundary of which falls within 100 m buffer of Basundhara River.

Ref. No.: MCL/MLA/GM/E&F/2025-2026/366 dated 21.08.2025.

Respected Sir/Madam,

This is to bring to your kind notice that Basundhara (West) Extension OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL is an upcoming opencast coal mining project with a peak capacity of 8.75 MTY and the total mining lease area of the project is 323.92 ha. The proposal for environmental clearance was considered in the 26<sup>th</sup> EAC (Expert Appraisal Committee) meeting for environment appraisal of coal mining projects held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 through video conference and during the meeting the EAC recommended the project proponent to hire a third party expert (other than CMPDI) for Basundhara River conservation plan and identify its hot spot in a stretch of least 25 km to assess the impact of each mines of MCL with contribution of each mine in budget allocation (relevant pages attached herewith as "Annexure A").

Accordingly, the work for study of hydrological regime of Basundhara River and its rivulets was awarded to M/s Kalinga Commercial Corporation Limited and after the completion of the report, the same was sent to the Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha for vetting and verification. The report was duly vetted by the Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha (copy attached herewith as "Annexure B") and the Under Secretary to Govt. of Odisha, Department of Water Resources had conveyed to the undersigned vide letter No. 22930/WR dated 02.09.2022 (copy attached herewith as "Annexure C") that no river straightening is needed and the adopted design flood discharges at various points of Basundhara River are in order.

Based on his recommendation, the forest clearance of the adjacent mine of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP had been accorded. However, during the appraisal of the forest proposal of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, MCL by MoEF&CC, the Assistant Inspector

General of Forests and subsequently the DFO, Sundargarh vide his Memo No. 4796/4F(Misc.) dated 20.08.2025 (copy attached herewith as “**Annexure D**”) had asked for a no-objection certificate from the irrigation/water resources department regarding the operation of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, MCL, the eastern boundary of which falls within 100 m buffer of Basundhara River.

Accordingly, Staff Officer (E&F), Mahalaxmi Area, MCL and Staff Officer (Civil), Mahalaxmi Area, MCL had visited your good offices on 21.08.2025 regarding the issuance of NoC at the earliest. However, you had advised to submit a plan showing the shortest distance of the eastern boundary from Basundhara River. This is to be noted that though the eastern boundary comprising of the infrastructure and safety zone area of the upcoming project lies within 100 m from the Basundhara River, but the nearest point of the excavation boundary to the river bed, i.e., within which the actual mining activities will be carried out, is situated at a distance of 118.64 meters from the Basundhara River Management plan. The details of the same is as follows:

Sl. No.	Nomenclature of points	Latitude	Longitude	Distance from river bed, i.e., Basundhara River
1	Point No. 1	22.068960	83.703780	118.64 meters
2	Point No. 2	22.069302	83.703581	123.36 meters

The map showing the points No. 1 and point no. 2 is attached herewith as Plan 1. Moreover, two nearest points have been considered for further reference.

This is to also bring to your kind notice once again that you have already been requested by Mahanadi Basin, Burla for providing DPR along with the cost estimate regarding the implementation of Basundhara River Management Plan (copy attached herewith as “**Annexure E**”) as the work of implementing the Basundhara River Management plan is being exclusively done by Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha. Moreover, the Under Secretary to Govt. of Odisha, Water Resources has already recommended the Basundhara River Management study considering the **five projects**, i.e. Siarmal OCP, Kulda OCP, Basundhara (West) OCP, Garjanbahal OCP and **Basundhara (West) Extension OCP** with the observation that “**the adopted design flood discharges at various points of Basundhara River are in order**”.



# MCL

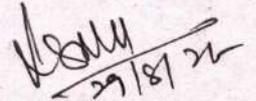
Thus, in context of the above, you are hereby humbly requested to kindly issue a no-objection certificate regarding the permission for operation of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, MCL, the eastern boundary of which falls within 100 m buffer of Basundhara River.

Your co-operation will be highly solicited from our end.

Thanking You.

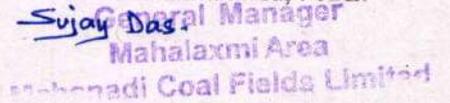
**Enclosure:** As above.

Yours truly,

  
27/8/22

General Manager,

Mahalaxmi Area, MCL.

  
Sujay Das  
General Manager  
Mahalaxmi Area  
Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited

**Copy to:**

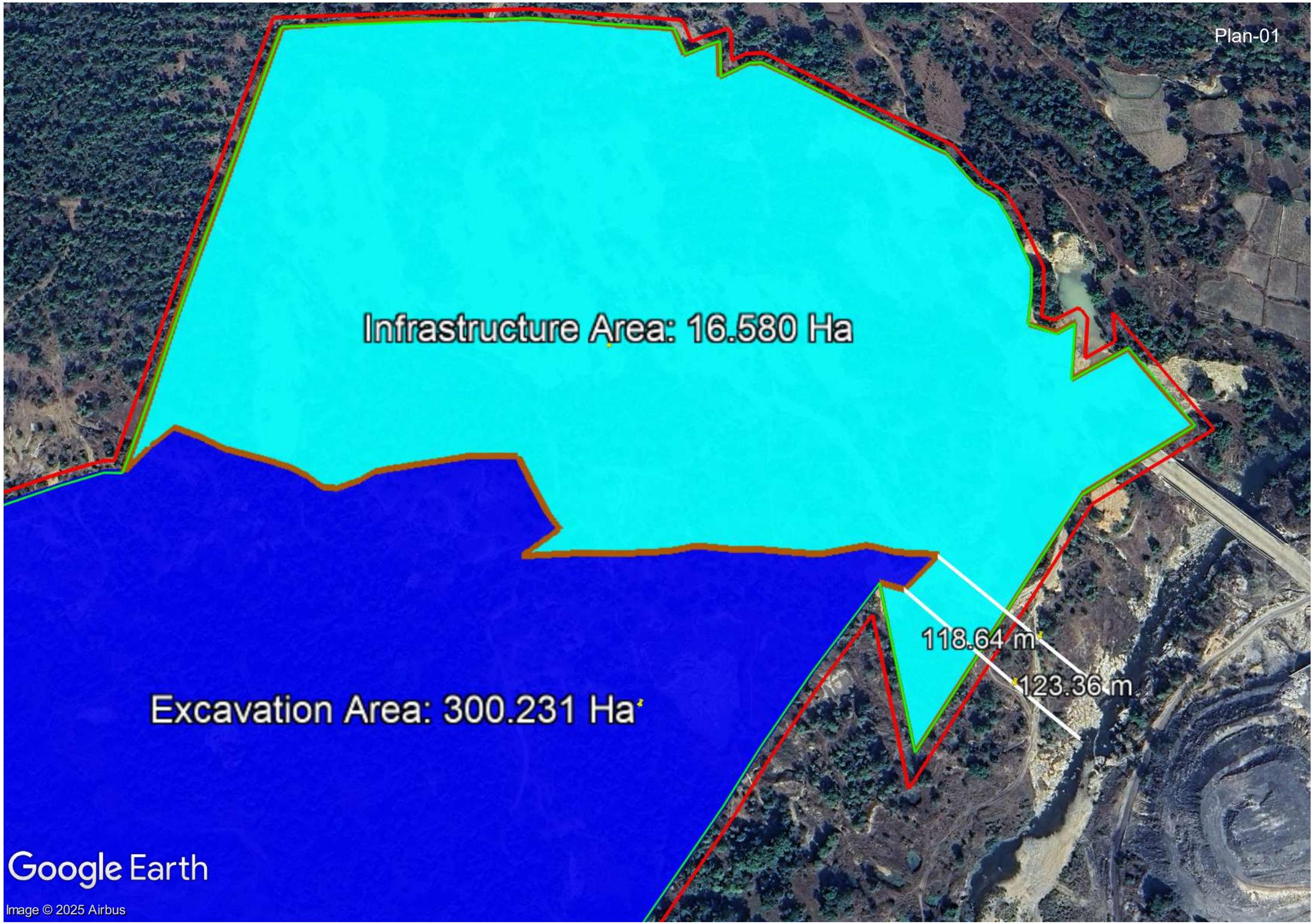
1. Engineer in Chief, Water Resources Department, Rajiv Bhawan, Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751001.
2. General Manager (E&F), MCL HQ.
3. Project Officer, Basundhara (West) OCP.
4. Area Environment Officer, Mahalaxmi Area.

Infrastructure Area: 16.580 Ha

Excavation Area: 300.231 Ha\*

118.64 m

123.36 m



**MINUTES OF 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL OF COAL MINING PROJECTS HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

**Confirmation of the Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EAC (Coal) held on 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022:** The minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EAC held during 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 as confirmed by the Chairman.

**Opening Remarks of the Chairman:** At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Expert members & other participants and requested to start the proceeding as per the agenda adopted for this meeting.

**Consideration of Proposals:** The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for coal mining projects was held on, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 through video conferencing with support NIC team due to Covid-19 lockdown. The EAC considered proposals as per agenda adopted for the meeting. List of participant attended the meeting is annexed. The details of deliberations held & decisions taken in the meeting are as under.

**Agenda No. 26.1**

**Giddi Opencast Project of production capacity 1 MTPA (Peak) of M/s Central Coalfields Limited located at south Karanpura Coalfield in Mandu Development Block of District Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) - For Environmental Clearance (Under Violation category) –reg.**

**[Online proposal No. IA/JH/CMIN/74323/2018; F No. 23-245/2018 (III) V]**

**26.1.1** The proposal is for Environment Clearance of Giddi Opencast Project with production capacity of 1 MTPA (Peak) in an ML area of 187.98 Ha of M/s Central Coalfields Limited located at south Karanpura Coalfield in Mandu Development Block and in villages Gidi & Kurkutta of District Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)

**26.1.2** The details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

- (i) The project is covered in Survey of India toposheet no. 73-E/6 and is bounded by latitudes 23° 40' 56" N to 23° 41' 58" N and longitudes 85° 20' 46" E to 85° 21' 56" E.
- (ii) Coal linkage of the project is proposed through basket linkage for various power plants and other industries.
- (iii) No Joint venture cartel has been formed for the project.

The proposal is *deferred* on above lines.

**Agenda No. 26.5**

**Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of 8.75 MTPA capacity in a mine lease area of 323.92 ha by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located in village(s) Gopalpur (Part) and Ratansara in Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundergarh (Odisha)– For Reconsideration of Environmental Clearance – reg.**

**[Online Proposal No. IA/OR/CMIN/63468/2017; F. No. J-11015/26/2017-IA-II(M)]**

**26.5.1** The proposal is for Environmental Clearance to Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of 8.75 MTPA capacity in a mine lease area of 323.92 ha by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited located in village(s) Gopalpur (Part) and Ratansara in Tehsil Hemgir, District Sundergarh (Odisha).

**26.5.2** Earlier, the project was deliberated on 52nd EAC meeting held on 24th January, 2020 for grant of Environmental Clearance wherein EAC desired certain information and the proposal was returned in present form due to large number of deficiencies. Also, site visit was proposed to be conducted, however due to Covid-19 site visit could not be completed. PP has now submitted the compliance of observations of EAC and provided additional information which are enlisted below:

S. No.	Observation of EAC	Reply by PP
1	Brief Compliance of each ToR conditions and further referencing for details of compliance shall be provided correctly	Brief compliance of each ToR condition has been further detailed out with reference and incorporated in revised EIA/EMP.
2	Form#2 on Parivesh should be filled with all details and correct information	Revised Form 2 has been filled in PARIVESH portal with new proposal number.
3	Stage-I FC for forest land of 227.62 ha for diversion of non-forestry activity shall be submitted.	Total Forest land involved in proposed project is 227.62 Ha. Form A part I application has been submitted on 22.07.2016. DGPS survey of CA land has been completed. Form A Part II will be submitted by Feb 2022.

- Monitoring: -
  - Number of sampling location monitored is 9. Baseline result indicates that the maximum and minimum values of PM<sub>10</sub> are in the range of 98.54 ug/m<sup>3</sup> to 60.65 ug/m<sup>3</sup> , and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the range of 57.80 to 24.77 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively. Further SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are in the range of 21.71 to 8.40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and the NO<sub>x</sub> are in 34.89 to 11.80 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The incremental increase in the values were projected to be 19.18 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub>, 5.30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 0.27 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for SO<sub>2</sub>, and 38.49 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>x</sub> respectively. The value of Total GLC is 117.60 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub>, 62.00 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 21.56 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for SO<sub>2</sub>, and 72.13 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>x</sub>. The observed pollutant levels were compared with CPCB National Ambient Air Quality Standards and found to be within limit.
  - Number of Surface water monitoring locations is 3 at Basundhara River U/s, Basundhara River D/s & Gaddawar pond water and values of pH varied from 6.9 to 7.0, TDS ranges from 60 mg/L to 80 mg/L, Total hardness ranges between 24 to 32 mg/L. DO ranges between 6.8 to 7.1 mg/L respectively. BOD value is 2 mg/lit.

*26.5.4 The EAC, after deliberations observed that PP has not submitted the compliance of earlier observation specifically to ToR conditions though PP informed that it is incorporated in EIA/EMP report regarding corrective action and remedial measures with regard to the observation of sub-committee. It was observed that the Basundhara West (Extension) is lying in IB valley and though is a green field project but is located adjacent to Basundhara (west) OC expansion from which the PP will also take the required machinery. As the proposed mine is extension of Basundhara (West) OC expansion mine in a new area so EAC enquired about its Life of mine and compliance of its existing EC. The PP informed that the life of mine is almost exhausted on which EAC further ask the PP to furnish the details of mine closure activities of Basundhara (west) OC expansion. Also, clarity is required regarding other projects in the name of Basundhara East and earlier Basundhara (West) expansion.*

*EAC also found that the Forest Clearance is not yet obtained by PP and asked to expedite it. EAC further enquired about the OB dump to explore the possibility of the external dump from Kulda, Garjanbahal and Basundhara (West Extension) OC in already existing voids of Basundhara (West) OC expansion mine and can be backfilled.*

*EAC asked clarification for not considering this project as expansion in lieu to a new mine, as it is named as extension. PP justified that as the Basundhara River was flowing towards the east of the existing Basundhara (West) OC expansion mine so not to disturb it, PP has proposed for the new mine. EAC also observed that PP needs to prepare a proper River Conservation Plan along with fund and timeline as the plan prepared by PP is not satisfactory. **The EAC recommend the PP to hire a third party expert ( other than CMPDI) for Basundhara River conservation plan and identify its the hot spot in a stretch of least 25 km to assess the impact of each mines of MCL with contribution of***

*each mine in budget allocation.*

*Though the carrying capacity of the region has been carried out considering the other coal mines but PP has to draw the conclusion with past CEPI score with state action plan for reducing CEPI score in IB valley by adopting the stringent EMP measures.*

*EAC noted that adequate evacuation plan is required for group of mines in the area which also include this mine. Finding that there is inadequate submission of PP to provide the compliance to observations of earlier sub-committee and also noting that recently EC for Kulda OCP, Garjanbahal OCP has been granted with upcoming project of 50 MTPA of Siarmal OCP, the EAC proposed for site visit of sub-committee to check the overall environmental scenario of this area as per earlier observation given in Minutes of meeting. This site visit will facilitate in prescribing suitable condition to other projects requiring superior environment protection.*

*Based on above, EAC desired following information from PP*

- (i) Site visit to be conducted by Sub-committee of EAC as early as possible.*
- (ii) PP shall submit mine closure report of Basundhara (West) expansion, Basundhara (East) with pictures and list of activities completed vis-à-vis approved Mine Closure Plan.*
- (iii) PP shall provide the details of methodology adopted for carrying capacity study in Flowchart and specific conclusion derived.*
- (iv) PP shall explore the possibility of filling OB dump of other mines to fill mine void Basundhara (West) & East instead of creating external dump on virgin land.*
- (v) PP shall submit Social Impact Assessment since it is not included in EIA/EMP Report*
- (vi) PP must provide a separate budgetary provision for public hearing with time bound action plan instead of merging it with CER under EMP*
- (vii) A detailed of capital and recurring cost of the project with revision in EMP cost is to be provided with proper budget management and as per the DPR of the proposed activities*
- (viii) PP must carry out one-month additional monitoring of base line data and the monitoring location chosen should be as per the CPCB guidelines and a comparative analysis must be provided with the one carried on 2017-2018*
- (ix) PP shall submit the latest of approval of Stage –I FC for forest land involved in the project*
- (x) PP shall submit certified compliance of EC of existing Basundhara (West) OC expansion mine from IRO Bhubaneshwar along with the details of Mine closure activities followed.*
- (xi) PP shall prepare detailed River Conservation Plan taking Expertise of third party along with fund and timeline to protect pollution of Basundhara River with identification of Hot spots, indicating a collective responsibility of all the mines of MCL with annual distribution of fund by adoption of 25 km of River stretch.*
- (xii) PP to consider the state action plan for mining as the Project fall in IB valley which is a severely polluted area for adopting the EMP measures*

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OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,  
WATER RESOURCES, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR,  
Phone - 0674-2390180, 2392486 (Fax) e-mail : eic-wr.od@nic.in

Letter No. WG- MCL-3/21- 21707/WE \*\*\*\*\* Dt. 26/8/22

From

Er. B.K. Mishra  
Engineer-in-Chief, WR

To

Special Secretary to Govt,  
Department of Water Resources,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Submission of study reports by M/s MCL ltd. to develop an integrated approach for the protection of Basundhara River from the proposed mining area.

Ref: (i) DoWR letter no-21680 dt. 20.08.2022.  
(ii) Letter no-695 dt. 16.08.2022 form MCL.  
(iii) Letter no-192 dt. 12.03.2022 form MCL.

Madam,

In inviting a kind reference to the subject cited above, it is to state that as intimated by M/s MCL ltd. vide his letter under ref-(iii), According to condition No.5 of Para-A of forest Advisory Committee of MoEF&CC:-

*"Chattajor nalla located in the area has been proposed to be straightened by the user agency. Also a number of mines are operational in the area which may be caused threat to hydrological regime viz., Basundhara River and its rivulets, therefore, considered opinion of Water Resources Dept. of the State on the proposed straightening of Chattajor nalla and proposed mitigating measures may be informed by the State. Further State Govt. may submit its plan and vision to develop an integrated approach for the protection of the Basundhara River from the proposed mining in the area".*

In connection to this M/s MCL ltd. vide his letter under ref-(ii) reported to DoWR that Chhatajore nalla located in mining area will not be straightened by Sairimal Open cast Coal Mining project of M/s MCL and the study has been under taken towards the protection of the Basundhara river & its rivulets.

The study reports submitted by M/s MCL Ltd. to develop an integrated approach for the protection of Basundhara River from the proposed mining area has been submitted to Chief engineer, Planning for his views.

In response to this Chief engineer, Planning has furnished his views (copy enclosed) and the observations of Chief Engineer, Planning reported are as follows

- As mentioned in the letter under ref-(iii), no provision of river straightening of Chattajore nalla has been addressed in the report as per the FAC comments to condition no. 5 of Para-A. Instead, provision of river bank strengthening/stability of Basundhara river & its rivulets has been carried out in the report.
- Besides the five open cast coal mines spreading over an area of 43.395 sqkm, it is observed that there are other coal mines (covering about 6 sqkm) which are also operating inside the Basundhara Sub- Basin near Manoharpur in Hemagiri block of Sundergarh district, near Garianalla (tributary of Basundhara river at about 18 km d/s of the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla), therefore the same along with proposed any other river in the same area should be incorporated in study.
- The adopted design flood discharges at various points of Basundhara river are in order.
- There are two ISS proposals and one barrage proposal located at about 10-16 KM downstream across the Basundhara River for harnessing the surface water of the basin. As the proposed ISS are meant to meet the domestic need of the surrounding region, the water quality should be strictly maintained with the BIS Standards for not to adversely affect the purpose of ISS.
- Ecological and Environmental damages if any arise during and after strengthening & protection work of river/nalla shall be the sole responsibility of M/s MCL for which they shall be treated as per the law.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

  
Engineer-in-Chief, WR

Encls: As above

(P.T.O)

Memo No. 21708

/ Dated. 26/8/22

Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer, Planning with reference to your letter no. 2406 dated 26.08.2022 for information and necessary action.

  
Engineer-in-Chief, WR

dc



Office of the Chief Engineer (Planning)  
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
Email- wrceppf@gmail.com



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CE (P) WPP -43/2022 / ... 24.06 ..... Date- 26.08.2022

From

Er. Sagar Mohanty  
Chief Engineer, Planning,

To

The Engineer-in Chief, Water Resources  
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar.

NG  
26/8/22

Sub: Submission of study report by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited to develop an integrated approach for the protection of Basundhara River from the proposed mining area.

Ref: 1.Letter no. MCL/GM/MLA/2022/192 dated 12.03.2022 to EIC, WR from GM, MCL  
2.Letter no. 18407 dated 21.07.2022 from EIC, WR to CE, Planning (forwarded 1)  
3.Letter no. WG-MCL-3/21-20905 dated 20.08.2022 from EIC, WR to CE, Planning.  
4.DoWR Memo No - 21690/ WR dtd. 20.08.2022.

Sir,

In inviting a kind reference to the above noted subject, it is to state that after being receiving letter from DoWR, Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources has requested this office to examine the study reports on the above subject submitted by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

According to condition No. 5 of Para-A of Forest Advisory Committee of MoEF&CC :-

"Chattajor nallah located in the area has been proposed to be straightened by the user agency. Also a number of mines are operational in the area which may be cause threat to hydrological regime viz., Basundhara River and its rivulets, therefore, considered opinion of Water Resources Department of the State on the proposed straightening of Chattajor nallah and proposed mitigating measures may be informed by the State. Further State Government may submit its plan and vision to develop an integrated approach for the protection of the Basundhara River from the proposed mining in the area".

M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has intimated vide letter No 192 dtd. 12.03.2022 that for compliance of the decision of the FAC, it is proposed by Siarmal OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL to undertake the "Study of hydrological regime viz. Basundhara River due to proposed straightening of Chhatajor nallah for mining of coal in upcoming Siarmal OC Project of Mahanadi coalfields Limited in Sundergarh district, odisha and study of hydrological regime viz. Basundhara river and its rivulets due to upcoming Siarmal OC Project and other operational OC Projects in the area for submission of plan and vision to develop an integrated approach for the protection of the Basundhara river from the proposed mining in the area".

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But, M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has reported vide Letter No 695 dtd. 16.08.2022 to DoWR that Chhatajor nallah located in the mining area will not be straightened by Siarmal Open Cast Coal Mining Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and the study of the hydrological regime has been undertaken towards the protection of the Basundhara river & its rivulets. After engaging the consultant, the details of study conducted by field surveys, plan and vision, the Agency submitted the study reports of Siarmal OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL for considered opinion of Water Resources Department on the above study.

As per the letter under reference (1), Siarmal Open Cast Coal Mining Project (Siarmal OCP) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundergarh District is an upcoming mining project. The proposal was deliberated in FAC of MoEF& CC, Gol on 21.02.2022. However, the proposal was deferred as the user agency proposed to straighten the Chhatajor Nalla located in the mining area. Since there are a number of mines operational in the area, FAC sought opinion of WRD of the State on the proposed straightening and proposed mitigation measures. For compliance to FAC, Siarmal OCP undertook the study. After carrying out the study, a report on "Basundhara River Management Plan" was communicated to this office vide letter under reference (3) for necessary views.

The following are the observation on the report "Basundhara River Management Plan".

1. The report was prepared considered five open cast coal mines-Siarmal, Basundhara (west) expansion, Basundhara(west) extension, Kulda and Garjanbahal spreading over an area of total 43.395 sqkm located adjacent to the Basundhara River and its tributaries (Chhatajor nallah and Chatudhara nallah).

From Google Imageries, it is observed that there are other coal mines (covering about 6 sqkm) which are operating inside the Basundhara Sub-Basin near Manoharpur in Hemgiri Block of Sundargarh district near Garianalla (tributary of Basundhara River at about 18 km downstream of the confluence of Chhatajhar nallah). The same along with other proposed (if any) should also be incorporated in the study.

2. Five aspects has been addressed in the report-
  - a. River drying due to diversion of surface water into the mine pits  
*[Mitigation Measures- Embankment strengthening with buffer zone between river and mine pits has been suggested.]*
  - b. Reduction of carrying capacity of the river due to deposition of overburden from mine pits into the river bed.  
*[Mitigation Measures- Embankment strengthening will stop coal dust/eroded soil entry.]*
  - c. Breaching of river embankments due to instability that might be caused of mine pits location in close proximity.  
*[Mitigation Measures- 3-5m high embankments with provision of Geo Mattress filled with sand and natural vegetation in the river side slope has been suggested.]*
  - d. Change of river course due to mine activity.  
*[Mitigation Measures- Embankment Strengthening and buffer zone with mines have been suggested.]*
  - e. Change of quality of river water due to mining activities.  
*[Mitigation Measures- For mine water, treatment plants will remove the objectionable material to conform to the standards of CPCB & OPCB. For storm water, garland drains, treatment plants and settling ponds have been suggested.]*

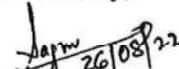
However, as mentioned in the letter under reference (1), no provision of river straightening has been addressed in the report as per FAC comments to condition no 5 of

Para-A. Instead, provision of river bank strengthening/stability study has been carried out in the report under which the impact of deep excavation on HGL line has been studied. A gradient of 4:1 for HGL line has been adopted and based on the depth of top soil at various bore holes, a minimum buffer zone of 25-55 m has been suggested at the periphery of mine pits located near river embankments.

3. From planning point of view the design flood assessed at various point for finalization of HFL has been verified. The adopted design flood discharges computed at various points are in order.
4. There are two ISS proposals and one barrage proposal located about 10-16 km downstream across Basundhara River for harnessing the surface water of the basin. The ISS proposals are primarily meant for meeting the domestic need of the surrounding region. Since, about 49.4 sq km of the catchment is under mining activity, it has to be strictly ensured that the water quality is maintained with the BIS Standards [IS 10500 (2012)] for not to adversely affect the purpose of ISS.
5. Ecological and environmental damages if any arises during and after strengthening & protection work of river/ nallah shall be the sole responsibility of M/s MCL for which they shall be treated as per law.

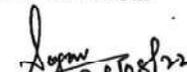
This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours Faithfully,

  
26/08/22  
Chief Engineer, Planning

Memo No. 2407 /Date. 26.08.2022

Copy submitted to the Engineer-in-Chief (P&D), Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information.

  
26/08/22  
Chief Engineer, Planning



**Government of Odisha  
Department of Water Resources**

\*\*\*\*\*

No. 22930 /WR.,

Date: 2/9/2022

*Irr.-II-WRC-229/2022*

From

Sri B.C. Rout,  
Under Secretary to Government

To

The General Manager, MCL, Mahalaxmi Area,  
At/PO- Basundhara, Dist:- Sundargarh-770076

Sub: Reply to study report of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited to develop an integrated approach for the protection of Basundhara River from the proposed mining area.

Ref:- (i) Your Letter No- 695 dated 16.08.2022.

(ii) Your Letter No- 192 dated 12.03.2022 addressed to EIC,WR, Odisha..

Sir,

In inviting reference to the subject and letter cited above, I am directed to say that after careful consideration Government in Department of Water Resources have suggested following points to develop an integrated approach for the protection of Basundhara River from the proposed mining area:-

- a. As mentioned in the letter under ref-(ii), no provision of river straightening of Chattajore nalla has been addressed in the report as per the FAC comments to condition no. 5 of Para-A. Instead, provision of river bank strengthening /stability of Basundhara River & its rivulets has been carried out in the report.
- b. Besides the five open cast coal mines spreading over an area of 43.395 sqkm, it is observed that there are other coal mines (covering about 6 sqkm) which are also operating inside the Basundhara Sub- Basin near Manoharpur in Hemagiri block of Sundergarh district, near Garianalla (tributary of Basundhara river at about 18 km d/s of the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla), therefore the same along with proposed any other river in the same area should be incorporated in study.

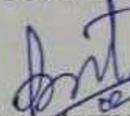
P.T.O.

- c. The adopted design flood discharges at various points of Basundhara River are in order.
- d. There are two ISS proposals and one barrage proposal located at about 10-16 KM downstream across the Basundhara River for harnessing the surface water of the basin. As the proposed ISS are meant to meet the domestic need of the surrounding region, the water quality should be strictly maintained with the BIS Standards for not to adversely affect the purpose of ISS.
- e. Ecological and Environmental damages if any arising during and after strengthening & protection work of river/nalla shall be the sole responsibility of M/s MCL for which they shall be treated as per the law.

The report submitted by EIC,WR, Odisha is enclosed herewith for reference.

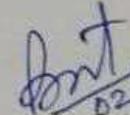
Encl:-As above

Yours faithfully,

  
02/09/2022  
Under Secretary to Government

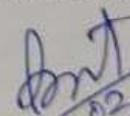
Memo No. 22931 /WR, Dtd. 2/9/2022

Copy forwarded to the Sr. PS to Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., DoWR for kind information of Additional Chief Secretary.

  
02/09/2022  
Under Secretary to Government

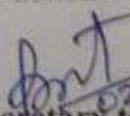
Memo No. 22932 /WR, Dtd. 2/9/2022

Copy forwarded to the PS to Special Secretary to Govt., DoWR for kind information of Special Secretary.

  
02/09/2022  
Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 22933 /WR, Dtd. 2/9/2022

Copy forwarded to the EIC, WR, Odisha, Secha Sadan, BBSR/ Chief Engineer, Planning, BBSR/ Chief Engineer, Designs, BBSR for information and necessary action.

  
02/09/2022  
Under Secretary to Government



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,  
SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION**

Phone No-06622-Phone No-06622-272243, E-Mail- [dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in](mailto:dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in)



No. 4796 /4F (Misc.) /Dated. 20 /08/2025

To

**The General Manager,  
Mahalaxmi Area of MCL.**

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of 227.62Ha of forest land for Basundhara (West) Extension Coal Mining Project of M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL). (**Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRV/521279/2025**)  
**-Submission of EDS Compliance report.**

Ref: - 1) Memo No.1398 dt.18.01.2025 of CCF(Nodal).  
2) This Office letter No.368 dt.18.01.2025  
3) Your letter No.319 dt.11.07.2025.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above and on verification of EDS compliance, the following discrepancies are pointed out, which is furnished below: -

**Point No. (5):** - The evacuation/transportation plan of the coal, along with provision of electricity transmission and water distribution has not been submitted.

**Point No. (6) (i):** - The project area of the Basundhara west extension Coal Mining Project was acquired under CBA Act-1957. The Section-11(2) of CBA Act, Stipulates "*Where the rights under any mining lease acquired under this Act vest in a Government Company under Sub-Section (2) of Section-11, the Government company shall, on and from the such vesting, be deemed to have become the lessee of the State Government, as if a mining lease under the Mineral concession rules had been granted by the State Government to the Government company for the entire lease period permissible under these rules. All rights and liabilities of the central government. in relation to the lease or the land covered by it shall, from the date of vesting, be deemed to have become the rights and liabilities of the Government Company*".

Hence, the action taken by you against non-forestry work, solid structures, road and cultivation land visible in the proposed forest patches from date of vesting of rights to you needs to be submitted.

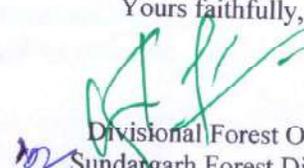
**Point No. (6) (ii):** - No objection certificate from the Irrigation/ Water Resource Department, has not submitted.

**Point No. (6) (iv):** - The component wise KML file has not been uploaded in Parivesh Portal.

**Point No. (6) (v):-** As observed, regarding proposed CA land-cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible. Necessary compliances to be submitted through DFO Koraput.

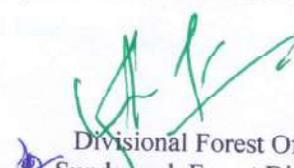
Hence, you are requested to submit the EDS compliance on the above points to this Office at earliest for taking further action.

Yours faithfully,

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

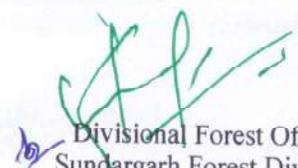
Memo No. 4797 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & NO) FC-Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for favour of information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

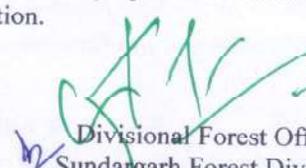
Memo No. 4798 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela for favour of information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

Memo No. 4799 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Division for information and necessary action. He is requested to clarify regarding cultivation land, unmetalled road, man-made water body and some solid structures are visible within the proposed CA land as per the EDS point no.6(v) of MoEF & CC, GoI after proper field verification.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

Memo No. 4800 /4F (Misc.)/ Dt. 20/08/2025

Copy forwarded to the Range Officer, Gopalpur Range for information and necessary action. He is directed to contact with MCL authority of Basundhara West Extension OCP to conduct joint verification

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Sundargarh Forest Division.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER  
MAHANADI BASIN, BURLA-768 017, DIST. SAMBALPUR(ODISHA)**

E-mail Id: [cebmumburla@rediffmail.com](mailto:cebmumburla@rediffmail.com)

Letter No-CE&BM/UMB/W/M/377(30A2)/2023: 5760  
To

/Dated : 14.12.2023

The Superintending Engineer,  
Sundargarh Irrigation Division, Sundargarh

Sub: Request for providing DPR and cost estimate regarding Basundhara River management Plan for the compliance of Stage-II forest Clearance condition, accorded in favour of Siarmal OCP, Mahalaxmi area, MCL.

Ref: (I) Letter No-34002/WE Dated-17.12.2022 of the EIC,WR, Odisha  
(II) This office Letter No-8430(WE) Dated-21.12.2022  
(III) This Office Letter No-2730 dated-22.05.2023  
(IV) This Office Memo No-5002(2) dated-27.10.2023

Sir,

With reference to the letter and subject cited above, I am directed to intimate that the required information on "Providing DPR and cost estimate regarding Basundhara River management Plan for the compliance of Stage-II forest Clearance condition, accorded in favour of Siarmal OCP, Mahalaxmi area, MCL" has not been received by this office till date.

It is therefore requested to give due importance in the matter and submit the DPR along with cost estimate regarding Basundhara River management Plan for the compliance of Stage-II forest Clearance to this office at an early date for onward transmission to higher authority.

This is for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
14/12/23  
**Asst to Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,  
Mahanadi Basin, Burla**

Memo No: 5761 /Dated : 14.12.2023  
Copy submitted to the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Odisha, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Letter No-34002/WE Dated-17.12.2022 and this office Memo No-2731 dated-22.05.2023.

*[Signature]*  
14/12/23  
**Asst. to Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,  
Mahanadi Basin, Burla**

Memo No: 5762 /Dated : 14.12.2023  
Copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla for information and necessary action with reference to this office Memo No-8432(WE) Dated-21.12.2023 and this office Memo No-2732 dated-22.05.2023.

*[Signature]*  
14/12/23  
**Asst. to Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,  
Mahanadi Basin, Burla**

PO, S.O.  
PO, B (W) OCP  
SO (CE&B)  
NO (CE&B) / NO (RMP) S.D. Chittam  
File - 16  
22/12/23



Ref. No.: MCL/MLA/GM/E&F/2025-2026/ 1557

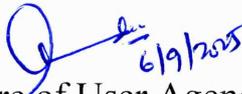
Date: 06.09.25

**UNDERTAKING FOR SUBMISSION OF NOC FROM**  
**IRRIGATION/WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**

I/We, the Project Officer of Basundhara West OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited hereby undertake to submit the NOC (No Objection Certificate) from Irrigation/Water Resource Department regarding the operation of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of Mahalaxmi Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited which is at a distance of 118 meters from Basundhara River, before the final approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Date:

Place:

  
(Signature of User Agency)

Project Officer, Basundhara (W) OCP  
परियोजना अधिकारी, बसुंधरा (प) ओसीपी



**FORM-A**  
**Form for seeking prior approval of Central Govt. under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 for diversion of fresh Forest Area.**  
**PART-I**

Note : Fields marked with(\*) are mandatory. Upload only PDF file wherever required.(Size of file should not be greater than 20 MB and do not use any special symbol(i.e space , & , \_ , ? , \$ , #.... etc.)in naming of PDF file).

Help

Click on **ADD** to ADD,Click on **UPDATE** to UPDATE and ,Click on **DELETE** to DELETE



Your Proposal no. is FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016 and use this no. for future reference.

**M. Mining Details**

**M-1. Details of Mineral Concessions**

Whether the forest land is aquired under Coal Bearing Areas Act\* : Yes ▾

Total area of the mining lease\* : 323.92 (ha.)

Area of forest land located in the mining lease\* : 227.62 (ha.)

**M-2. Details of Mining Plan**

Date of approval of mining plan\* : 22/03/2017

Approval authority\* : Ministry of Coal

Upload a copy of approval of mining plan\* :  
Choose File No file chosen  
Delete  
(.pdf Only)

Upload a copy of approved mining plan\* :Delete  
Choose File No file chosen  
1011261211214W29DRcompressed\_combinepdfofB(W)OCP.pdf  
(.pdf Only)

Nature of mining (underground/opencast)\* : Opencast ▾

Upload a copy of the detailed land use plan in 1:4,000 scale prepared by using DGPS10112612131216AQG8Ecompressed\_LandUsePlan.pdf  
or Total Station\* :Delete  
(.pdf Only)

Upload a copy of map of the outer boundary of mining lease area\* :  
Choose File No file chosen  
9118125312117M97Componentwisekmlfile.kml  
Delete  
(.kml Only) Generate KML File

**M-3. Details of prospecting undertaken to assess mineral reserves.**

Whether detailed prospecting to assess mineral reserve in the lease has been undertaken\* : No ▾

Annexure H

**FOREST AND REVENUE OFFICERS PRESENT DURING SURVEY**

Survey Project  
User Agency/Office  
Surveyed by ORSAC/Vendor  
Vendor's Name & Address

Steps survey of temporary Afforestation  
at and at Kanapet Forest Division for Prasanthara(w)  
Submittal for the survey work. No. 1/2011  
Dated 2nd Dec 2011, Hyderabad

Date of Survey	Site of Survey	Forest/Revenue Dept. Officials Present			
		Name	Designation	Address	Signature
20/05/22	Semiliguda Range Dallageda Forest P.R.F. Pattal & Co	L. G. N. Prasad	Forester	Sunki	 20/05/22 FORESTER Sunki Section
					 20/05/22 Forest Range Officer Semiliguda Forest Range

FOREST AND REVENUE OFFICERS PRESENT DURING SURVEY

Survey Project : DGPS Survey of Compensatory Afforestation.  
 User Agency/Office : Land at Koraput Forest Division for Bagumthara (W)  
 Surveyed by ORSAC/Vendor : Subudhi Technoengineers Pvt. Ltd  
 Vendor's Name & Address : OMFed Backside, Bhubaneswar.

Date of Survey	Site of Survey	Forest/Revenue Dept. Officials Present			
		Name	Designation	Address	Signature
19/09/21 \$ 20/09/21	Koraput Range, Chandalguda Forest Area.	Dambanudhar Gadaba	Forester	Podagoda Koraput	<del>Handwritten Signature</del> Forester Podagoda Section
		Handwritten Signature	Forester	Koraput	<del>Handwritten Signature</del> Forest Range Office Koraput Forest Rang Koraput

FOREST AND REVENUE OFFICERS PRESENT DURING SURVEY

Survey Project

User Agency/Office

Surveyed by ORSAC/Vendor

Vendor's Name &amp; Address

: DGPs Survey of Compensatory Afforestation  
 : Land at Koraput Forest Division for Basundhary  
 : Subuchi Technoengineers Pvt. Ltd  
 : omfed Back Side, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Date of Survey	Site of Survey	Forest/Revenue Dept. Officials Present			
		Name	Designation	Address	Signature
4/09/21 /	Similguda Range, Kavindmal R.F	Name			
5/09/21		Mr. R.L. Khill	Forester	Nandapur	 Forester Nandapur Section
					
		Forest Range Officer Semilguda Forest Range			

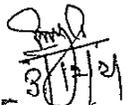
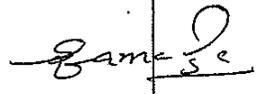
FOREST AND REVENUE OFFICERS PRESENT DURING SURVEY

Survey Project : DGPS survey of Compensatory Afforestation.  
 User Agency/Office : Land at Koraput Forest Division for Basundhara  
 Surveyed by ORSAC/Vendor : Subudhi Technoengineers Pvt. Ltd.  
 Vendor's Name & Address : on Fed Backside, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Date of Survey	Site of Survey	Forest/Revenue Dept. Officials Present			
		Name	Designation	Address	Signature
17/09/21 ♀ 18/09/21	Similguda Range, SUNKI Forest Area.	P. G. N. P. Singh	Forester	Sunki	 Forester Sunki Section
	 Forester Sunki Section		 Forest Range Officer Semilguda Forest Range		

FOREST AND REVENUE OFFICERS PRESENT DURING SURVEY

Survey Project : DGPS Survey of Compensatory Afforestation  
 User Agency/Office : Land at Koraput Forest Division Basundhara (W)  
 Surveyed by ORSAC/Vendor : Subudhi Techno Engg Pvt. Ltd  
 Vendor's Name & Address : 5m Fed Back side, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Date of Survey	Site of Survey	Forest/Revenue Dept. Officials Present			
		Name	Designation	Address	Signature
20/11/2021 \$ 21/11/2021	Balda Range, Malibhimdal R.F	Sambay Ku. Jayasingh.	Forester	Balda Section	 Forester Balda Section
22/11/21 \$ 23/11/21	Balda Range, Mendhabhal R.F	Sambay Ku. Jayasingh	Forester.	Balda Section	 Forester Balda Section
		Dambandh Gamage	Dy. R.O	Balda	 1/C FOREST RANGE OFFICER BALDA RANGE

**LAND SUITABILITY CERTIFICATE.**

This is to certify that **457.22 Ha.** of degraded forest land in Sunki-PRF-45.160 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-I)-100.229 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-II)-94.979 ha., Ralegeda PRF(Patch-III)-21.090 ha. of Semiliguda Range, Bhimdol-RF -107.078 ha., Kavidimal RF-41.006 ha. of Balda Forest Range and Chandalguda RF-47.678 ha. of Koraput Range in Koraput Forest Division identified for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of 227.62 ha. of forest land for diversion of Basundhara (West) Extension OCP of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. is suitable for plantation from Management of point of view and the degraded forest lands are free from encroachments and encumbrances.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Koraput Forest Division.