## F. No. 8-01/2016-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi: 110003,

Dated: 6th August, 2018

The Principal Secretary (Forest), Government of Jharkhand Ranchi

## Sub: Diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in Village Ichra, Mechuya and Tilaitand, Tehsil Dhalbhumgarh, District East Singhbum Jharkhand by M/s Uranium Corporation of India Limited. Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jharkhand's letter Van Bhoomi -21/2015-362 dated 22.01.2016 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, *In-principle* approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 11.05.2017 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government of Jharkhand vide their letters No. VAN BHOOMI - 21/2016-3290 dated 04.08.2017 and VAN BHOOMI-21/2015/2695 dated 27.06.2018, *Stage-II/Final* approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in Village Ichra, Mechuya and Tilaitand, Tehsil Dhalbhumgarh, District East Singhbum Jharkhand by M/s Uranium Corporation of India Limited subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) The State Govt. ensure that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (iii) The State Govt. ensure that the project proponent shall carryout development works on 14 points as demanded by the villagers/Gram Sabha of Mechua and others during the lease period in coming years under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on priority, for which UCIL has given their consent/assurance vide their letter dated 20.03.2018;
- (iv) The State Govt. ensure that this approval is valid upto the end of the period of lease i.e 15/10/2027.
- (v) The State Govt. ensure that the fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area] shall be done within three year at the project cost from the issue of Stage-II Clearance. Besides this afforestation on identified degraded forest land measuring one & a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost;

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- (vi) The State Govt. ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- (vii) The State Govt. ensure that the User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed.
- (viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and under strict supervision of the State Forest Department, and all possible efforts will be made to retain tree growth.
- (ix) Following activities as per approved plan shall be implemented by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost:
  - a) Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.
  - b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
  - c) Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
  - d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 280; and
  - e) No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- (x) The State Govt. ensure that the user agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall implement approved gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- (xi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall implement the approved plan for desilting of identified existing village tanks and other water bodies located within five km. from the mine lease boundary, so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies;
- (xii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (xiii) The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xiv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall provide alternate fuel to the labourers working at the site to avoid damage / felling of trees.
- (xv) The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- (xvi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

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- (xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person.
- (xviii) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall carry out afforestation along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- (xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall take up protection and conservation measures for wildlife found in the areas in consultation with State Forest department at the project;
- (xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions and also to the conditions stipulated in Stage-I clearance to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- (xxi) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other condition that the Regional Office, Ranchi of this Ministry, may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxii) The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

## Copy to:

- 1. The PCCF, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
- 2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Ranchi.
- 3. The Addl. PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
- 4. User Agency.
- 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.
- 6. Guard File.

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Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)