

Proposal for diversion of forest land in favour of SUNFLAG IRON & STEEL COMPANY LIMITED in Loharadodngri Iron Ore Block, Taluka Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur in the state of Maharashtra

**JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST
LAND AND DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVES EXAMINED**

INTRODUCTION

During the year 1959 the officers of the Expert Committee had reservation of areas of iron ore and manganese ore, to be developed by the public sector in the state of Maharashtra have also reported that the reserves iron ore in the Lohara area is of the order of 21 million tons. There has been no exploitation of iron ore at present in this area.

In order to assess the true reserves of the iron ore deposits at Lohara, Tahsil Brahmapuri, district Chanda, for catering the requirements of the proposed pig Iron Plant to be set up in Vidarbha division of the Maharashtra State, the Department of Geology and Mining took up detailed prospecting by drilling of the Lohara iron ore deposits, in this field season 1962-63. The area under investigation is included in Toposheet No. 55P/11.

Prior the commencement of drilling operations the area was mapped on 1 : 1000 large scale topographical map. Later on, the area was further mapped on 30.48 m x 30.48 m grid map showing there in all the out crops of the iron ore body and the associated rocks. In all 9 bore holes were drilled and the total drilling is 291.75 m. Besides drilling, 12 pits were sunk in the float area to ascertain the extent of the float ore. Two diamond drills, Min drill F.20 and Min drill F.60 were deployed to complete the prospecting work in the area. On an average the iron ore of Lohara area has shown 65% Fe content, low phosphorous, low

sulphur and low TiO₂. On the basis of the data obtained from detailed mapping, drilling and pitting, the reserves of iron ore now estimated, are 1.48 million tons.

The field party consisted of Shri B.S. Karkare, Geologist, Officer in-charge, and Shri Phatak, Geological Assistant, Surveyor, Drilling staff etc. Shri D.s. Phatak, Geological Assistant being the camp in-charge of the prospecting work at Lohara remained in the field throughout the investigations. Shri D.S.Karkare, Geologist Officer-in-Charge of the work, visited Lohara area periodically to guide the prospecting work. The main party remained in the field from February, 63 to August, 63.

LOCATION AND APPROACH

Lohara iron ore deposit situated about 1.5 km South of Lohara village (20°23'54'' : 79°44'21'') in Brahmapuri tahsil, Chandrapur district, is actually located on a hill 315.16 m (20° 23' : 79° 44'). The deposit is 4 km NE of Alewahi village (20°22':79°42') which is also a railway station on Nagbhir-Chanda narrow gauge line of the south eastern Railway. Alewahi is approachable by a Kachha road off milestone 77/7 (near Palasgaon) on the Nagpur-Chanda Main Road (via Nagbhir and Mul). The road from Alewahi to can be approached by fair weather road, from Lohara to site is a kachha road. From Nagpur is distance about 130 km. The Nearest railway station is Alewahi at about 4 km. The Nearest airport is at Nagpur at a distance of 130 km.

Now, the Directorate of Geology and Mining (DGM), Government of Maharashtra, pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the "Act") and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (the "Auction Rules"), issued the notice inviting tender dated, 01 February, 2019 to commence the auction process for grant of mining lease for Loharadongri Iron Ore Block located in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has auctioned Loharadongri Iron Ore Block for mining lease. M/s Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Ltd. has participated in the auction of Mineral Block. On offering highest price M/s Sunflag Iron and Steel Company Ltd. has been declared Preferred Bidder by the Government of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has issued Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore in Loharadongri, Tal. Brahmapuri, Dist.

Chandrapur on 35.73 Ha for a period of 50 years vide the Government of Maharashtra, Industries, Energy and Labour department, Mantralaya letter number MMN-0719/C.R.42(Part-8)/IND-9, dated 13.09.2019 in pursuance to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the “Act”) and Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (the “Auction Rules”).

The justification for locating the Iron Ore Mining Project in the Forest area is on an account of the fact that mining is a site-specific activity and can be only located where the mineral deposits exist. Therefore, the above mentioned area proposed for mining.

Hence, this detailed Justification note is for forest clearance under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

For Sunflag Iron & Steel Co. Ltd

(Naveen Manchandia)
Section Head–Mines
Authorised Signatory