

**Justification for locating the project in forest area of Kurmitar Iron & Manganese Mines of Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.**

Mining of a particular ore deposit is always site specific irrespective of the land classification. Kurmitar Iron Ore mining lease of OMC Ltd. covers an area of **651.00 ha** which is of forest category. The exploration conducted so far has proved substantial increase in the resource of iron ore confined to forest areas. There is no non-forest area in the retained area. Therefore selection of alternative non-forest land within the lease area for undertaking mining activities is out of picture. The annual production target is envisaged to be around **6.0 million tons** which would cater the need of the Sponge Iron Plants and Steel Plants. Iron ore of this deposit is suitable for the steel industry. This demands continuation and expansion of the mining operation on a large scale in this mining lease area.

The current operation is confined to **133.112 ha** of forest land in accordance with the final approval No.8-113/2000-FC, dt 10.04.2007 granted by MoEF, Govt of India. Since iron ore production from this mine has been planned to enhance up to **6.0 million tonnes** per annum to cater the requirement of the steel plants with which State Government has signed MoUs, the mining is required to be extended by developing large quarries. However, a scientific and judicious method of mining is proposed to be adopted requiring forest land likely to be exploited more specifically for mining purpose. The forest area proposed for mining is required for exploitation of mineable reserve over **26 years**. Keeping in view the extent of overburden that will be generated in the process of mining over **26 years**, an area of **45.648 ha** of forest land is additionally required for safe and systematic dumping of the generated overburden by maintaining proper slope and terracing. In addition **(i) 379.558 ha** is proposed for mining, **(ii) 41.600 ha** is proposed for sub-grade stack yard, **(iii) 8.63 ha** is proposed for infrastructure for crushing, stacking conveyor belt etc. **(iv) 33.060 ha** is proposed for mineral stack yard and **(v) 9.392 ha** is prohibited and protected as safety zone area for this mine. The continuation and expansion of the mining operations, as proposed, is going to enhance the revenue earnings both for the State and the Central Government. This project will also be a major source of earnings for the local tribal community.

  
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