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**Odisha  
Coal and  
Power  
Limited**

**Odisha Coal and Power Limited**  
(A Government of Odisha Company)  
CIN: U10100OR20155GC015623  
Website : www.ocpl.org.in

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA**

### **Introduction:**

Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL) is a company incorporated under the Companies Act 2013, India. OCPL is a Government company of State of Odisha and was formed as a Joint Venture Company of Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) and Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC), with a shareholding pattern of 51% and 49% respectively.

### **Background:**

Manoharpur & Dip-side of Manoharpur coal blocks were earlier allocated to Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) by Ministry of Coal (MoC) on 25.07.2007 to meet the coal requirement of its 4 x 660 MW expansion power plant located at Banaharpali, District – Jharsuguda, Odisha. Subsequent to cancellation of coal blocks by Supreme Court of India, these coal blocks have been allotted to Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL) to supply coal exclusively to expansion power plants (4 x 660 MW) of OPGC.

Manoharpur coal blocks was explored and Dip-side Manoharpur coal block is regionally explored at the time of allotment. Now, the exploration of Dip-side Manoharpur coal block has been completed and the Integrated Geological Report (IGR) of Manoharpur & Dip-side Manoharpur coal blocks has been prepared by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI). The net geological reserve of Manoharpur and Dip-side Manoharpur coal block is 978.470 MT and mineable reserve is 664.239 MT.

Forest clearance (Stage I & II) for 276.655 Ha (including 76.19 Ha area which is to be treated as forest as per dictionary meaning) of Manoharpur Coal Block has been obtained from MoEF&CC vide letter no. F.No.8-63/2011-FC dated 20.08.2014 by the prior allottee (OPGC).

  
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Odisha Coal and Power Ltd.

Since, this 76.19 Ha of land is Govt. non forest land, the same has been acquired through OGLC Act, 1962. However, all the requirement of FC Act has been complied. The forest clearance allotted to OPGC was transferred to OCPL vide letter no. F.No.8-63/2011-FC dated 30.11.2015.

Further, 86.527 ha of land falling outside the coal block, which includes 57.078 Ha of forest land were acquired by OPGC for pit head infrastructures & coal stock yard etc. under the head of MGR (Merry Go Round). The entire non-forest land was transferred in favour of OCPL by IDCO and the entire forest land were transferred in favour of OCPL vide MoEF&CC Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Bhubaneswar vide letter no. 5-ORA155/2012-BHU dated 17.10.2017.

Thus, the total forest land diverted & transferred in favour of OCPL comes out to 257.543 (200.465 Ha + 57.078 Ha) excluding 76.19 ha forest land treated as forest as per dictionary meaning as mentioned above.

Further in addition to above, OCPL has obtained the forest clearance (Stage 1) from MoEF&CC for the left out forest land i.e. 15.701 Ha for development of Manoharpur coal block vide letter no. File No.8-63/2011-FC dt. 20.10.2021. Also, forest clearance (stage 1) has been obtained from MoEF&CC (IRO, Bhubaneswar) for the construction of 33 kV power transmission overhead line (i.e. 5.777 Ha) from NTPC Darlipali to OCPL sub-station for use in Manoharpur Coal Mine Project vide letter no. File No. 5-ORC421/2020-BHU dt. 31.07.2020.

**Justification:**

Forest land is required for mining, dumping, construction of allied infrastructure. During the preparation of mine plan, it was found that the overall stripping ratio is increasing due to increase in depth in Dip-side Manoharpur coal block and thus increasing the amount of overburden. Requirement of internal & external dumping has been changed due to variation in overburden quantity & increased volume of overburden. Hence, overburden dump area and quantity has been changed. Further, the project area and accordingly surface layout plan has been changed considering relocation of some of the infrastructure & increase in OB dump area. As per the new IGR and approved Mining Plan vide dt. 26.09.2019 & subsequent

  
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corrigendum dt. 01.10.2019, Garia Nalla passess through the Manoharpur and Dip-side Manoharpur coal block is found to be lying on coal bearing area. Hence, diversion is proposed for the nalla passes through the blocks and shifted to non-coal bearing area. This has resulted in modification of Surface Master Plan. The quarry boundary has been extended further towards west upto final allotted block boundary of Dip-side Manoharpur coal block resulting into change in excavation area and lease area.

Moreover, an online application has been filed to MoEF&CC for the diversion of 353.53 Ha of forest land for Dip-side Manoharpur coal block on 14.12.2018. However, after approval of Mining Plan including Mine Closure Plan (Rev III) on 26.09.2019, the forest land comes to 345.356 Ha. Further as per DGPS survey, the forest land comes to 342.87 Ha. Accordingly, the above said proposal was updated on 31.12.2019 for diversion of 342.87 Ha forest land.

Dip-side Manoharpur coal block is spread over in four villages namely Durubaga, Katarbaga, Kathfali, Parmanandpur and two Reserve forests named as Hundarkhol & Kanhupahar. As per the Approved Mining Plan, the total land planned for the development of Manoharpur and Dip-side Manoharpur coal block is 1848.379 Ha, out of which approx. 1067.939 Ha has already been acquired by OCPL and acquisition of remaining 780.44 ha (Inside block: 684.62 Ha + Outside block: 95.82 Ha) is under process. Therefore, this diversion proposal is prepared for the additional forest land of 342.87 Ha (Inside block: 278.73 Ha + Outside block: 64.14 Ha) and being applied for use in non-forest purpose under the provisions of Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

  
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