

**Justification for locating the project in forest area – Diversion of 65.52 ha under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act 1980 within Surda Mining Lease**

Surda Mining Lease with in an area of 388.68 ha, comprising of 149.03 ha of forest land & 239.65 ha non-forest land, encompasses copper ore deposit up to a depth 801 m from surface as per the exploration done so far. Out of 149.03 ha of forest land, diverted forest land is 83.51 ha & balance 65.52 ha still requires diversion. The copper ore deposit have been extracted within this lease area through underground method of mining only. As mining is a site-specific activity, as such to continue underground mining operation further, diversion of balance 65.52 ha of forest land within the Surda Mining Lease of 388.68 ha is essential.

Further, as required under clause 3.5 of Chapter 3 of Handbook of guidelines for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 published by MoEF&CC on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Study of Surface strain predicted by 3-D subsidence prediction model has also been conducted through IIT-ISM, Dhanbad, as specified in clause 7.8 (a) of the above said handbook of guidelines and the value of surface strains at different stages of mining appear as 3.3m/m, 4.3 mm/m, 5.5 mm/m, 3.9 mm/m, 2.4 mm/m, 6.7 mm/m, 2.76 mm/m & 2.14 mm/m only. Considering these values, surface strain predicted by 3-D subsidence prediction model has been considered by Forest Deptt, Jharkhand as 5mm/m to 10mm/m.

Furthermore, the proposals does not involve any felling of trees on forest land or a portion thereof during any stage of mining operation.

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