

Sub.: Forest Land- Nagpur

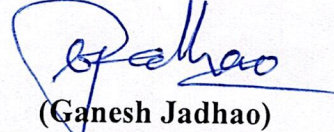
Diversion of 15.811 ha. Forest land under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of WCL Limited for Transportation Network for Dinesh Open Cast Project in Tehsil-Umred, Dist. Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra.

PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary In charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the
State Government**

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No.FLD-3421/ CR-195/ F-10
Dated: 23/03/2022



(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Place: Mumbai

Date: 23/03/2022

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-3421/CR-195/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Madame Cama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.
Date:23.03.2022

To,
Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India, Civil Lines,
Nagpur-440 001.

Subject: Forest Land- Nagpur

Diversion of 15.811 ha. Forest land under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of WCL Limited for Transportation Network for Dinesh Open Cast Project in Tehsil-Umred, Dist. Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra.

Sir,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted proposal for diversion of 15.811 ha. Forest land under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of WCL Limited for Transportation Network for Dinesh Open Cast Project in Tehsil-Umred, Dist. Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra. The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under: -

Sr. No.	Item of Work proposal	Village	Khasra No.	Area (in ha)	Legal Status of Land
1	For conveyor	Sukali	27	0.26847	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
			28	0.63161	
			56	4.36601	
			72	0.77818	
			73	0.60595	
			95	1.03232	
[A] Total Area (in ha.)				7.68254	
2	For conveyor	Sayaki	216	0.20646	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
			219	0.01606	
[B] Total Area (in ha.)				0.22252	

3	For conveyor	Dahegaon	95	0.31514	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
			106	0.40501	
[C] Total Area (in ha.)				0.72015	
4	For Rail loop	Dahegaon	102	0.07102	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
			105	1.84819	
			106	1.56203	
			107	0.25421	
			108	0.60698	
			110	0.96478	
			111	0.27137	
[D] Total Area (in ha.)				5.57858	
5	For Rail loop	Makardhokra	26	0.29305	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
			31	1.29393	
[E] Total Area (in ha.)				1.58698	
6	For SILO	Dahegaon	106	0.02000	Zudpi Jungle Charaee
[F] Total Area (in ha.)				0.02000	
Grand Total [A]+(B)+[C]+[D]+[E]+[F]				15.811	

2.0 The project has initiated by the Area General Manager, Western Coal Filed Limited, Umrer Area for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The existing Dinesh (Makardhokra-III) OC Mine is being operated by hiring of HEMM with Shovel- Dumper Combination at the rated capacity of 4 MTY. The Umrer Butibori railway line passes through the southern boundary of Dinesh (Makardhokra-III) OC as well as through the northern boundary of Makardhokra-1 OC and exhausted Makardhokra-II OC mine. The occurrence of coal was proved by department of geology and mining (DGM) in 1984 over a strike length of 11 km in Makardhokra block in the western side of Umrer OC beyond Amb River. Makardhokra-I block located in the west side of Makardhokra-II block and south side of Umrer Butibori Railway line was explored by MECL during 1996-1997. The Makardhokra-III Open Cast Project belonging to Western Coalfields Limited is approved by the Government of India for production of coal @ 8.00 MTPA (Million Tonne Per Annum) for 13 year life. The project is planned to liquidate the mineable reserves at a faster pace with available resources, infrastructure and land with reduced life.

2.1 Presently, the annual coal production of the mine is 4 MTPA (Million Tonne Per Annum). The entire coal production is crushed to (-) 100 mm size by the suitable crushers. The crushed coal is transported to the existing Umrer siding located at a distance of about 7 Kilo meters by various trucks and then the coal is loaded into wagons by Pay Loader (mechanical loading). Finally the coal dispatches to the various thermal power stations located in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Andhra, Karnataka etc. states of India. This entire system is called as RCR (Road cum Rail) mode of transportation and dispatch. The system involves heavy movement of trucks regularly plying (24x7) to a distance of 7 Kilometers with the coal dust suppression arrangement. Further the system creates high accident potential due to heavy movement of the trucks about 400 - 500 trucks in a day to handle 4 MT of coal production.

2.2 The mines of WCL are under constant pressure to meet the increasing demand of non-cocking coal of power houses and other bulk consumers from western as well as southern parts of the country. To meet the coal demand, the production capacity of Dinesh OC mine is increased from 4 MTPA to 8 MTPA in August, 2019 by approving revised project report by WCL board and sent for information to the Ministry of Coal, Government of India. When the coal production is increased, there is high pressure of coal dispatch and its evacuation system. The existing RCR (Road cum Rail) mode of dispatch has a capacity of dispatching 5 to 6 rakes of coal to cater the coal dispatch services for other mines of Umrer Area (Umrer open cast mine, Gokul open cast mine, Makardhokda I open cast mine). On increase of the existing capacity of Makardhokda III mine, it is planned to establish the faster/rapid coal loading system and its dispatch through the Mary Go Round (MGR) system of rail dispatch. This system involves the modification of the railway siding and construction of big coal bunkers called SILO located at the western side of the project at a distance of about 6 to 7 kilometers. Following activities are planned to present heavy & frequent trucks movement in restricted area at concentrated place of railway siding to eliminate accident potential.

- Construction of Coal Handling Plant and ground bunkers.
- Installation of conveyor belt from the mine to the coal loading point i.e. SILO for a length of 6 to 7 kilometers.

2.3 As such the total coal transportation will be handled by conveyor belt system and rapid loading system into railway wagons at a rate of 4000 tonnes loading only in an hour time. This system entirely prevents dust and noise pollution during the transport of coal to a distance of 6 to 7 kilometers. To accommodate the linear length of the belt (6 to 7 kilometers), ground bunker, the SILO, length of the railway track we need acquisition of forest land of 15.81 ha which is already approved in the project report.

2.4 The total non-forest land involved in the project is 27.27 ha.

3.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nagpur has certified that:-

3.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.

3.2 The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density below 0.4 (Open forest)

- 3.3 There are 510 trees of various species and trees is involved in implementation of the Project. The Girth wise break up is as under:-

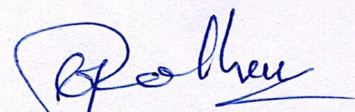
Tree Girth in Cm.								
0-30 cm	31-45 cm	46-60 cm	61-75 cm	76-90 cm	91-105 cm	106-120 cm	121-150 cm	Total
14	324	103	33	13	5	1	0	510

- 3.4 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 3.5 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 3.6 The proposed area for the project is within 10.00 km from the protected area (Sanctuary and National Park) i.e. 14.5 km from Umred-Karhandala Wildlife Sanctuary and 4.5 km from Munia Conservation Reserve.
- 3.7 Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nagpur has proposed compensatory afforestation over 35.797 ha degraded forest land in Survey no.528,530 at village Bhojapur, Tal. Umred, Range North Umred, Round-Kuhi District. Nagpur (Area 9.997 ha.) and in Survey No. 21 at Village Butibori, Tal. Butibori, Range Butibori, Round Butibori East, Dist. Nagpur (Area-25.80 ha.) and certified that it is suitable for afforestation and management purpose also it is free from encroachment and encumbrance.
- 3.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 3.9 The proposed alignment of belt conveyor system in combination with ground bunker and SILO rapid loading system, there is no other alternative for the proposed area.
- 4.0 **The User Agency has submitted an undertaking:-**
- 4.1 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
 - 4.2 to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed under diversion.
 - 4.3 to submit the compliance under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006.
5. User Agency has given justification as under:-
- The linear acquisition of forest land to 50 meters width is required for the reasons as mentioned below:-
 - Two sets of conveyor belt to transport the high capacity coal production of 8 MTPA.
 - The laying of 3 railway tracks by Central Railway below the loading bunker in a loop shape to facilitate the rapid coal loading into wagons and to provide the scope of keeping additional track as a standage rake for loading. This would ensure

continuous loading at branch line of railway track is from Butibori Railway Station about 32 Kilometers away.

- Maintenance of the Conveyor belt and railway track, free movement of machineries for the maintenance.
 - Provision of electrical apparatus and electrical substation require space all along the belt and railway track.
 - The smooth running of belt and operation of the railway track requires the proper drainage system which has to be accommodated in the 50 meter width forest land.
 - The inspection route has to be maintained all along the conveyor belt up to the SILO on both side of the conveyor belt system.
 - Any other alternative of coal transportation like Arial Ropeway system of pipe bolting system requires the same alignment as what proposed for belt transportation system as it is the location where no mining activities including OB (overburden) dumping are proposed in PR. Location of belt structure, bunker, Silo should be in collaboration with Railway department as such its location should not be disturbed till the end of life of mine.
6. User Agency needs 137.66 ha. Forest Land for Dinesh Open Cast Mine project. WCL has mentioned that out of 137.66 ha. Forest land 15.811 ha. is proposed for diversion and balance land will be taken up after acquisition of 15.811 ha. Linear forest land. MoEF&CC has issued guidelines regarding standalone mining projects vide letter dt.23.08.2021. In this regard, APCCF & Nodal Officer has conveyed that the proposed project is standalone and linear in nature.
7. As per the 'Tiger Corridor of Eastern Vidarbha Landscape' published by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun Sukali, Sayaki, Dahegaon, and Makardhokra villages are part of Tiger Corridors. Hence, the project requires Wildlife Clearance under section 38 (O) (i) (g) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
9. Under the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted on the conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, be obtained and communicated to this Government.


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Certificate regarding minimum demand for forest land for the project
3. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of compensatory Afforestation & Net Present Value of the Forest land
4. Brief note of the project from the project authority
5. Maps
6. Site Inspection Report
7. Certificate that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
8. Certificate in Part V.

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O. (Maha-CAMPA), Nagpur.
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/Nagpur/12933/1298/2021-22, Dt.20.10.2021.
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Nagpur.
5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nagpur.
6. Area General Manager, Western Coalfield Limited, Umred Area, Nagpur.
7. Select File.