

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN THE FOREST LAND

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 10 (B) of the MMDR Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules 2015 and The Mineral Auction Rules 2015 notified there under, and, Supreme Court judgement, Government of Karnataka had identified "C" Category Iron ore mines for electronic auction for grant of mining lease.

Accordingly, auction of Sri HG. Rangangouda (ML No: 2148) one of the "C" category Mines was held on 06.9.2018. Based on the auction process M/s MSPL Limited was declared as preferred bidder vide Letter of Intent no: DMG/MLS/AUCIC-2148/2018-19 dated 06.10.2018 issued from the office of the Commissioner and Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka. Subsequently after the submission of Performance Security and approved Mining Plan, Department of Mines & Geology has issued LOI to acknowledge MSPL as successful bidder vide letter no.: DMG-17012/8/2018/2019-20/5843 dated 23.12.2019.

The mining lease will be granted, once all the Clearances, Permits, Consents, NOCs are submitted to sign the Mine Development & Production Agreement. Therefore, to commence the above-mentioned process, we have submitted online application for diversion of forest land vide proposal no. FP/KA/MIN/39986/2019 dated 26.04.2019, to obtain the prior approval of Govt. of India under section 2 (ii) of forest (Conservation) act, 1980, for the mining lease area and existing approach road. Overall applied Forest land is 64.86Ha (ML area 60.66HA & Approach Road 4.20Ha).

Environmental Clearance for this mine lease obtained by the previous lessee has been transferred in favour of M/s MSPL Limited vide letter number, SEIAA 8 Misc-2019 dated 13.05.2019 for expansion of production capacity from 1.50 to 5.00 MPTA.

Simultaneously M/s MSPL Limited is in the process of establishing an Iron Ore Beneficiation and Palletisation Plant at Village Somlapur in Sandur Taluk. Iron Ore produced from the mines will be transported to this plant for beneficiation and palletisation.

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING DOWN HILL CONVEYOR IN FOREST LAND:

The transportation of Iron ore using Pipe conveyor has many advantages:

- Best means of transportation to ensure zero spillage and save precious mineral resources.
- It is pollution free transportation as there is no dust, fugitive emissions as in case of any other means of transportation thus extremely high environmental friendliness.
- Saves fossil fuel which otherwise would be used for road transport.
- Reduces burden on the transport infrastructure such prevents accidents.
- Reduces emissions associated with road transport such as gaseous pollutants, dust and particulate matter.
- Minimal particulate emissions at loading and unloading points.
- Faster means of transportation and saves times and resources.
- Flexibility in transportation and continuity of conveying.
- Hassle free transportation and least logistic issues.
- Less strain on the existing government infrastructure and facilities.



We have evaluated various options for selecting suitable route for laying of the Pipe Conveyor System from mines to proposed plant which lies on western side of the lease. To optimize the conveyor profile with existing ground profile, choice of route is restricted as :

1. Mining Lease of m/s SMIORE (ML No. 2678) falls on the southern side of the proposed route hence pipe conveyor system cannot be installed on this side.
2. Steep cliff exists on the Northern side of the proposed route where laying of pipe conveyor is technically not feasible. If pipe conveyor is planned on this side after the cliff portion requirement of forest land will be very high.
3. Therefore, proposed route has been planned where pipe conveyor can be installed with minimum use of forestland.

The corridor for the downhill conveyor is kept bare minimum. In addition, there were some inherent limitation because of typical project components making restriction on the turning radius of the downhill pipe conveyors. In addition, The Hon'ble Supreme Court has through its order dated 21st March 2017 has instructed all the Mine Owners to install closed pipe downhill conveyor systems for category A/Category B leases with MPAP of 1.0 MMT and above and for auction category 'C' leases with MPAP of 0.75 MMT and above for transportation of Iron Ore from mines.

Any conveyor utility to reach to proposed plant must be through this forest area hence the best alignment for the conveyor belt and service road from mines to proposed plant location passing through the forest is selected based on the extensive drone survey which will affect negligible area.

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING APPROACH ROAD IN FOREST LAND:

The approach road is the crucial component for transporting of men and machinery and it will also facilitate the installation and commission of Down Hill Pipe Conveyor system and its future maintenance. The profile of the forest land from the lease to downward side is steep and installation of trestles will become difficult without any other mean to access and install on such a steep terrain. Therefore, approach road has been proposed to be in forestland only.

Based on the above facts we have proposed Downhill pipe Conveyor System with an forest area of 19.17 Ha (DHPC corridor which include Approach & service road 18.92Ha & Infrastructure 0.25Ha) in the forest area and hence applied for diversion under Forest Conservation Act 1980.

For MSPL Limited,



K. Madhusudhana

Vice President – Mines & CC