

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

Gopalpur sector of Ib-valley coalfield forms the north western part of Ib River coalfield which is a greenfield area with huge mining potential. Detailed exploration was undertaken by CMPDI, a Public Sector Undertaking of Govt. of India, to assess the quarriable potentiality of coal seams with primary view of opening up of new mining projects to the extent possible. This sector has high potential for opencast mining operations including the proposed project namely Kulda Expansion Opencast Project.

The Ib River coalfield lies in between latitude 21°31' to 22°14' North and longitude 83°32'00" to 84°10'00" East and falls mainly in Sundergarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Odisha. Kulda geological block is located in the north-western part of Ib valley coalfield in Sundergarh district in the state of Orissa. It is situated between latitudes 22°01'02" to 22°03'03" North and longitudes 83°43'28" to 83°45'35"

Kulda is a potential block having mineable reserves of about 266.49 million tonnes. Kulda Expansion OCP is a running project and has obtained all statutory clearances. Kulda OCP started its mining operations in 2007-08. Coal extracted till 31.3.2020 is 86.70 Mt and OB removed till 31.3.2020 is 54.90 Mcum.

In earlier approved Mining Plan of Kulda Expn. OCP (Revision-1) (10 Mty to 15 Mty), mining operation was carried out in two

phases. In Phase-I, surface boundary was restricted within notified lease area for which forest clearance has been obtained i.e. excluding Lalma Reserve Forest. In Phase-II, remaining part of the block was to be worked after obtaining forest clearance for this area. With the increase in demand, MCL now wants to expand the mine in Lalma forest area so as to enhance the production capacity to 18.75 Mty from this mine.

Stage-I forestry clearance was received for land required for a period of 20 years from MOEF in two stages for 50.72ha on 25.07.2001 and 177.17ha on 22.01.2002 respectively. Stage-II clearance was obtained on 08.08.2007 for 227.89 ha of land for 20 years of mine workings.

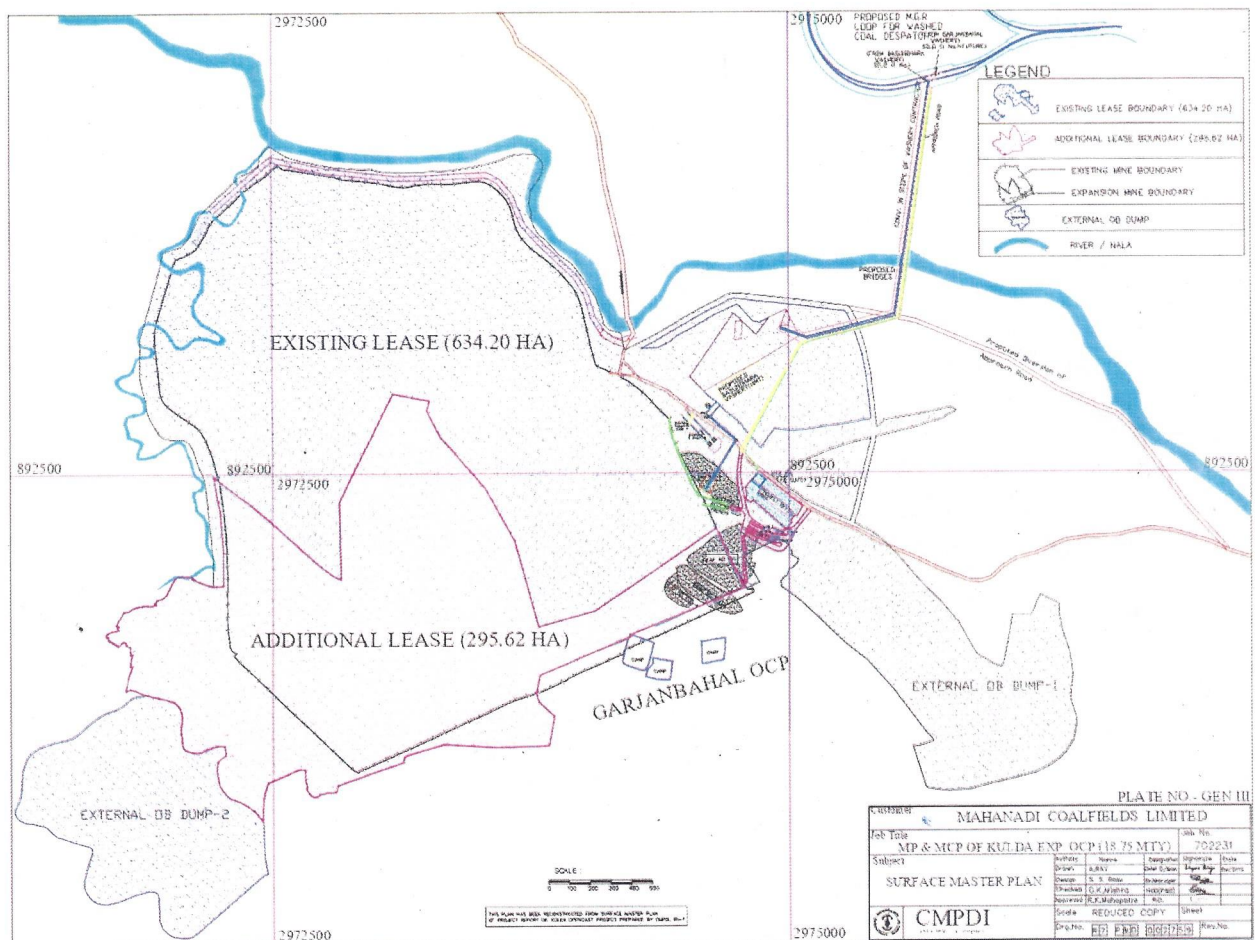
Coal demand from Ib-valley coalfield has increased many fold due to its strategic location with Howrah-Mumbai railway line passing through the coalfield. Coal of this coalfield is suitable for thermal power plants.

The location of the site for Coal Mine operation is fully depending upon nature's deposit of mineral & geological structure of the coal seams. Hence question of exploring alternative site for the purpose does not arise.

The Coal bearing Area of the Project with Reserves of about 266.49 M Te (Mineable reserves) partially falls under the above forest land. The Opencast method of Mining has been chosen

due to geo mining conditions for extraction of coal to meet the heavy demand of coal.

The Mining Plan and method of working had been prepared by Central Mine Planning And Development Institute a Public Sector Undertaking of Govt. of India. As per the Mining Plan of Kulda Expansion OCP, 134.69 Hectare of Forest Land is to be diverted for working of the mine.



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