

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha has accorded administrative approval for acquisition of private land in favour of M/s NTPC Limited vide letter No. 1247/En, Bhubaneswar dtd 10.02.2016 for the establishment of Railway Siding. The coal requirement for the plant is around 8MTPA and is linked to Dulanga coal mining project of NTPC Ltd for coal supply of 7MTPA. NTPC needs to connect with MCL Railway line for meeting the balance coal requirement at Kechobahal and Laikera end and also for transportation of oil rakes to the power plant. In principle approval has been obtained from MCL for the same.

This corridor passes through

- i) 05 revenue villages (Laikera, Chuabahal, Kalamegha, Bihajore and Kanaktora) of Sundargarh District.
- ii) 02 revenue villages (Chichinda and Kechobahal) of Jharsuguda District.


During the site selection process care has been taken:

- I. To avoid forest land as far as possible.
- II. To avoid Non-Forest land having forest growth or higher vegetative density.
- III. To avoid displacement of population.

But in order to maintain the continuity of the Railway Siding it is necessary to divert certain forest land which comes in the path. Out of the total land requirement of the project of 59.90 Ha, only 19.43 Ha of Forest land is proposed for diversion purpose which is the barest minimum requirement.

The Railway Siding and its surroundings do not form a part of National sanctuary, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor etc. No rare or endangered species of flora and fauna are found in and around the Pipeline Corridor.

In view of the above it is pertinent to mention that the route finalized after thorough survey is the best possible route and it involves the minimum forest land.


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