

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF FOREST LAND FOR RAJBAR E&D COAL MINES LATEHAR

Introduction

Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited (TVNL) is a power generating company incorporated on 26.11.1987 under Indian Company's Act, 1956. TVNL, a Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking is having its Head Quarter at Ranchi. The TVNL, presently, have functional 2 x 210 MW in Lalpania village near Tenughat Reservoir in Bokaro District of the State of Jharkhand.

Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Government of India has allotted Rajbar E & D Coal Block, situated in District Latehar in the State of Jharkhand to Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited (TVNL), a Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking, vide Order no.103/19/2015/NA, dated 30.06.2015. The coal produced from the mine will be for captive use of extension power units (660 MW x 2). The proposed expansion power units shall also be stationed at Lalpania village, near Tenughat Reservoir in Bokaro District of the State of Jharkhand.

Justification for diversion / use of Forest Land for Mining

Ministry of Coal, Government of India approved the Mining Plan (Including Mine Closure Plan) vide letter no. 34011-18-2017-CPAM, dt.13.03.2019. The coal mine shall be operated through opencast mechanised mining technology. Further, with regard to Environment Clearance, Terms of Reference (ToR) has been granted by MoEF&CC, GoI vide F.No.IA-J-11015/44/2017-IA-II(M), dt.28.03.2022.

The life of the project is 48 year. The extractable coal from the coal mine is 420.22 Million Tonnes and the peak rated capacity is 10 Million Tonnes, which will be achieved in the 8th year of production. The average grade of coal is G-11 and the distance from End use plant from the pit head of the project is 159.7 kms.

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The allotted area of the coal mine is 1487 Ha. However, as per approved Mining Plan the mining lease / project area covers an area of 1351 Ha., where the Non-Forest land covers an area of 786.10 Ha and Forest area covers 564.90 Ha [about 535.45 Ha is notified forest & 29.45 Ha is deemed forest (Jungle-Jhari)]. The coal reserves within Rajbar E&D Coal Mines are distributed in non-forest land as well as in forest land. As mining is a site-specific task, for that to extract coal from the forest land through opencast mining, forest area is proposed for diversion within Rajbar E&D Coal Mines. There is no alternative for developing the block and extracting the coal reserves without diversion of forest.

The locational advantage of the mine is that it is not situated in an eco-sensitive zone and the core & buffer zone is free from the following-

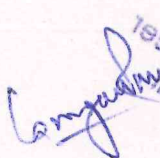
- a) Historical archaeological monuments.
- b) Places of religious interest.
- c) National Highway/ National Park/ Wildlife sanctuaries/ Bio-reserves.
- d) Tourist spots.
- e) Heritage areas etc.

Without extracting the coal under the forest area, there is no viability of the project. Hence, forest clearance is essential for the project.

Justification for development of Project

Development of this block will be beneficial to the development of the socio-economic condition & lifestyle of the local people mostly comprising of tribal population. This will be source of earning for state exchequer also.

The mode of mining operation will ensure safe working and better operational management. The major forest area is coal bearing zone. Out of the total 420.22 MT Extractable Reserve, approximately 176 MT of Extractable Reserve of Coal is available beneath the Forest Area.

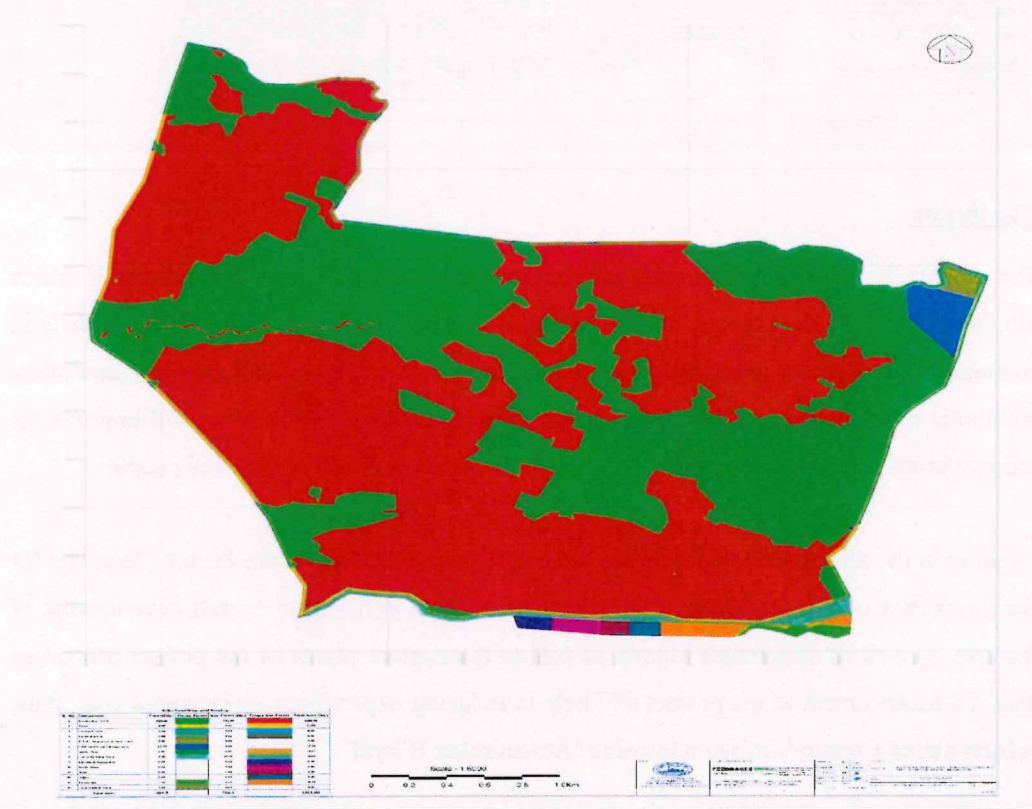

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Development of the project is justified on account of-

- 1) Development of the coal block will be source for uninterrupted supply of fuel for the captive plants of the project proponent.
- 2) Direct as well as indirect employment opportunity will be generated for the local people comprising mostly of tribal population, by development of the coal mine.
- 3) On implementation of the project, there is scope for improvement of socio-economic conditions of the local tribal population along with better health & educational facilities.
- 4) State government will be benefitted by the earnings from statutory payments as premium, Royalty, Cess, DMF, Taxes etc.

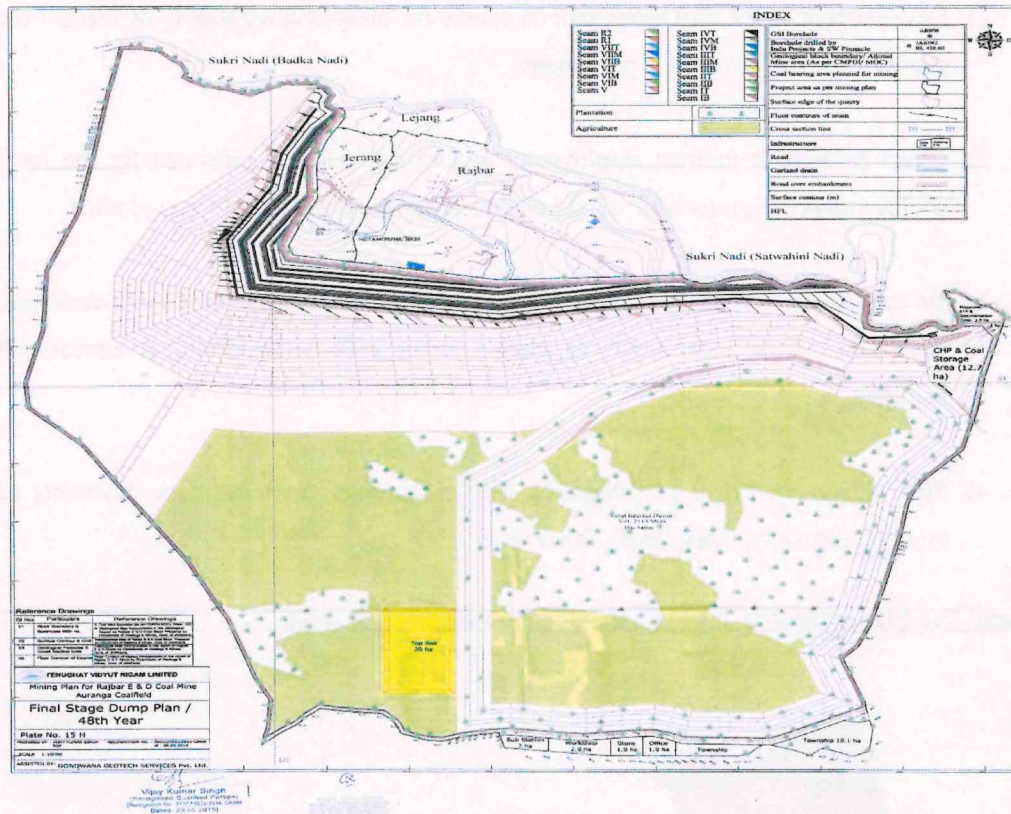
Land Use Plan of Rajbar E&D Coal Mines showing Forest Area



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Final Stage Dump Plan (48th Year) of Rajbar E&D Coal Mines




Conclusion

The coal to be produced from this coal mine would help in generation of power which ultimately shall promote the growth of industries and industrial production. This will help in economic development and more income to the State of Jharkhand besides generating additional revenues for employment. Further, mining operation in this area shall improve the infrastructure facilities and enhance the socio-economic condition of the local people.

Looking at the above advantages of the project, it is proposed to obtain Forest Clearance for the forest area within the Rajbar E&D Coal Mines. This will ensure overall development of the area as well as sustainable supply of fuel to the captive plants of the project proponent also. Commencement of the project will help in reducing dependency on imported coal, thus, substantiating Country's mission towards "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Longman


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