

Justification for locating the project in Forest area.

Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest has granted final approval (Stage-II) under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 over 23.581 ha excluding safety zone area over 3.505 ha (1.695 ha along the Mining Lease boundary and 1.81 ha along the diverted transportation road) vide File No. 8(21)28/2003-FCE, dt. 30.12.2005.

It is mentioned that, the earlier diversion proposal was applied since long back i.e. in the year 2000-2001 on the basis of the then mineral grade and market conditions. During the said proposal a road adjacent to 7.5 mtrs safety zone along the ML boundary (from pillar no. L to M and B to H) and another internal road (southern-eastern forest part of the ML area) was taken diversion for mineral transportation over an area of 0.67 ha and along the road at an area of 1.81 ha was abide for safety zone excluding ML boundary safety zone of an area of 1.695 ha. within the forest area.

Subsequent period, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur has declared that the cutoff grade of Iron ore will be taken as below 45% the market condition and cutoff grade of Iron ore and the deposit of the said area is increased after detailed exploration and considering the cutoff grade both in laterally and depth wise. As per approved mining plan the left out area along the ML boundary L & M is found as a mineralized zone, therefore, for mineral conservation point of view, the said materials has to be extracted leaving safety zone of 7.5 mtrs. along the ML boundary from L to M and the left out area along the ML boundary B to H is non-mineralised area, part area of the above will be required for lateral expansion leaving safety zone of 7.5 mtrs. along the ML boundary, so that mineral can be extracted from the maximum depth of the pit and rest area will be utilized for expansion of waste dump. Further, the area left out along the internal road near south-eastern part of the forest part is a flat area and also adjacent to non-forest land will be utilized for stacking of the sub grade ore (45 to 55%) properly, which will be blended with high grade ore and dispatch to onward destination.

Hence to carry out the mining and ancillary activities in forest land proposal is being given for diversion. However, the mining and ancillary activities have been proposed in a conservative and scientific way to meet the minimum requirement only which is to be located in forest land as no alternative is there and at the end of the mining, the entire utilized area will be reclaimed & rehabilitated with plantation as per Mine Closure Plan & Reclamation Plan. This would definitely enhance the financial resources of the State in shape of royalty and other taxes etc. Moreover, the project is site specific as mineral deposits do occur in the appropriate site.



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