



**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forests Force), Maharashtra State**  
**Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,**  
**Van Bhavan, D wing 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001**  
Tel.No.: 0712- 2556916 , E-mail: apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

No.Desk-17/Nodal/1/ID-12417/(14-15)2024-25/1003  
Nagpur - 440 001, Date: 28/07/2025

To,

**The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),  
Government of India, Ministry of Environment,  
Forests and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division),  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110003**

**Sub:-** Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam. 1980 for diversion of 12.07 forests land Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No.R603 in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State.

**Ref:-** 1. Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi, dt. 20.03.2025  
2. Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Nodal Officer, Mah. State, Nagpur vide letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Nodal/PID-12417/2844/24-25 dated: 20.03.2025.  
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle, Chandrapur vide letter No. Desk-3(1)/ Land/Sr. No.44 /2024-25/589 dated 18.07.2025.  
4. Dy. Conservator, Central Chanda, Chandrapur vide letter No. Desk-14/Sur/Land/1132 dated 17.07.2025.

Sir,

The Government of India accorded 'In-principle' approval on the basis of fulfillment of condition No.1 Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur vide letter under reference No.3 has submitted the compliance to the conditions to this office which is being submitted as under:

S.No.	Condition	Compliance
i.	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking has been enclosed with this compliance report <b>Page No. 1</b>
ii.	The State shall initiate and take up the matter for the correction of digital forest boundaries with FSI in case of the non-forest area, which is within forest boundary as per DSS Analysis in the instant project:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the KML file of the entire mine lease boundary along with the KML file of the approved forest land within the lease is uploaded on PARIVESH Portal the same KML file CD is attached.



iii.	Safety zone with effective green belt around the entire mining lease area shall be maintained as per guidelines in the matter;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that as per consolidated guideline no. 7.9(i) of MoEF& CC, 7.5-meter -wide peripheral safety zone is to be maintained all along the inner boundary within the Mining Lease Area. User Agency Undertaking & Plan enclosed as <b>Page No. 4 to 7</b>
iv.	Mitigation measures as suggested by the NBWL/SBWL/Wildlife Management plan as applicable shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the Project Affected area is not under DSS Corridor. But Mitigation measures as suggested by the NBWL/SBWL/Wildlife Management plan User Agency shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency. undertaking has been enclosed <b>Page No. 8</b>
v.	The state shall intimate the exact number of trees involved in forest area and ensure that the minimum tree felling is done in a phased manner;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the no trees felling involved in this diverted forest area. <b>Page No. 9</b>
vi	<b>COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION (CA)</b>	
	a. Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest area of 25 ha in Compt. No. 452 of Ballarshah Range, Maharashtra State shall be raised at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department and afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the fund of ₹ 2,64,17,891/- towards 25 Ha. CA has been deposited to CAMPA account vide UTR NO: SBINR12025060487781850 dated 04.06.2025 through challan generated through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Copy of the challan and payment details enclosed in <b>Page No.10 to 13A</b>
	b. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the funds for Compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with this Office have been deposited to CAMPA account through challan generated as above <b>Page No.10 to 13A</b>



	c. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, it required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No. 2-3.</b>
	d. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on Survey of India topo-sheet map of 1:50,000 scale;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the area of CA is clearly shown on the 1:50,000 scale Survey of India topo-sheet map is uploaded on PARIVESH Portal and same attached in <b>Page No 89</b>
vii.	<b>NET PRESENT VALUE (NPV)</b>	
	a. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the an amount of Rs.1,15,60,405/- towards NPV has been deposited to the account of CAMPA vide RTGS Payment Unique Transaction Reference (UTR) No: SBINR 12025060487781850 dated 04.06.2025. An Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No. 10 to 13A</b>
	b. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No. 14</b>
viii.	All the funds received from the user agency under the proposal shall be transferred/ deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the all the funds have been deposited to CAMPA account through challan generated through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Copy of the challan and payment details enclosed in <b>Page No. 13A</b>



xi.	The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and the accepted area for raising compensatory afforestation in the e-Green watch portal of FSI, before handling over forest land to the user agency;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the KML file of compensatory afforestation has been uploaded in the e-Green watch portal of FSI before handling over forest land to the user agency. KML file in CD is attached with the compliance report.
x.	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act; 1986; if required;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the copy of Environment Clearance enclosed in <b>Page No. 17-31</b>
xi.	The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area. The User Agency shall prepare a detailed plan for life of project as per mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees. Felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due for mining as per mining plan. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;	<p>As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the user agency has submitted that the Mining is going to be conducted in Phased Manner: As per Pouni II Expansion Project Report June 2015 mining is to be carried in a phased manner initiating afforestation /reclamation work in the mined-out area of first phase before commencing mining in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. An undertaking and copy of the dumping schedule from the approved Project report Chapter-8, page 36 is enclosed as <b>page No. 32-33</b></p> <p><b>Tree Felling:</b> No tree felling is involved in the proposed forest land in 12.07ha.</p> <p><b>Reclamation:</b> As per the mine closure plan, Internal Dumping is proposed to fill the void created due to mining for land reclamation. As per the approved Project Report of 2015, the opencast mine has been planned upto a maximum depth of around 200m. For Coal and Overburden, keeping the bench height of 10 m, the width of working and non-working benches are kept as 30 m and 20 m respectively. Financial Provision of Rs.11496.56 Lakh (Chapter 18-Point No.59).has been kept in Mine Closure for the OB Dump Reclamation. The dumps and other area shall be properly planted as a part of reclamation. As per Approved project report (Chapter 18 – Point No.11). Rs.92.942 Lakh financial provision has been kept in Mine Closure Plan. For Biological Reclamation &amp; Plantation over cleared area obtained after dismantling around quarry area and in safety zone and plantation over the external OB Dump. Copy enclosed as <b>Page No. 34</b></p>



xii.	The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule to the MoEF&CC before grant of 'Final' approval under the Adhiniyam for diversion of the said forest land;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the land Surrender Schedule in accordance with mining plan and an Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No.35-37</b>
xiii.	The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed <b>Page No. 38</b>
xiv.	Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:	
	a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the. State Forest Department:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed as <b>Page No.40</b> and Scheme attached as <b>Page No. 5 to 7</b>
	b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed as <b>Page No. 40</b>
	c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed and Scheme attached as <b>Page No.41</b>
	d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed and Scheme attached as <b>Page No.42</b>



xv.	Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department	
	a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed and a Plan to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream enclosed as <b>Page No.43 to 46</b>
	b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed and a Plan for plantation of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds is enclosed as <b>Page No. 47 to 49</b>
	c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking and a Plan for construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to is enclosed as <b>Page No. 50 to 53</b>
	d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 280; and	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency has agreed that Overburden will be stored in designated locations within permissible height as per the approved Project Report / Mining Plan. Garland Drains and Trenches are provided along the toe of the dumps to arrest any flow of silt and soil beyond the designated. An undertaking is enclosed for the same as <b>Page No. 54 to 57</b>
	e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking and a Top Soil Management Plan is enclosed as <b>Page No.58 to 60.</b>

xvi.	The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period coterminous with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User agency has given an undertaking complying with the given condition is enclosed as <b>Page No. 70.</b>
xvii.	The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the no forest land within 100 meter outer perimeter of the mining lease as mentioned in this condition. However, User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No.72</b>
xviii.	The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking enclosed at <b>page no.72</b> for desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary. A geo-tagged map showing village tanks and water bodies within 5 km radius of the Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) and the GPS Coordinates of village tanks / water bodies also enclosed as <b>Page No.73</b>
xix.	The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.78</b>
xx.	Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.74</b>



xxi.	The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted to the Regional Office along with the 'in-principle approval;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the scheme for comprehensive soil conservation measures is submitted An Undertaking enclosed <b>Page No. 76</b> and Scheme enclosed as <b>Page No. 43 to 60</b>
xxii.	The R&R Plan shall be implemented as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking against the same is enclosed as <b>Page No.77</b>
xxiii.	The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the no tree felling is involved in this diversion. An undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.78</b>
xxiv.	The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.79.</b>
xxv.	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the copy of Environment Clearance enclosed as <b>Page No.15 to 31</b>
xxvi.	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the laborers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.80</b>
xxvii.	The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User



	high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;	Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.81</b>
xxviii	The layout plan of the mining plan/proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.82</b>
xxix.	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.83</b>
xxx.	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.84</b>
xxxi.	The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.85</b>
xxxii.	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the once the forest land is handed over for mining purpose, WCL will submit Annual Self-Compliance Report by the end of March every year regularly. An undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.86</b>
xxxiii	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife:	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.87.</b>



xxxiv	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry on dated 29.12.2023;	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that the User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.88</b> .
xxxv.	The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ).	As per the Compliance submitted by Dy. Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submitted that he is agree & compliance report uploaded on e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ).

This is for your information and further necessary action.

Encl: As above

*Naresh Zurmure*, 28/12/25

(Naresh Zurmure)  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forests & Nodal Officer, Nagpur

Copy Submitted for information to:-

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forests Department, Mantralaya Mumbai-32.

Copy for information.

1. The Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur.
2. Dy. Conservator, Central Chanda, Chandrapur.
3. Sub Area Manager/ Project Proponent, Pauni Sub Area, Ballarpur Area.





State of Maharashtra Forest Division



**Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Chandrapur Circle, Chandrapur**

Chandrapur Forest Academy of Administration, Development & Management,  
Chandrapur Premises, Mul road, Chandrapur- 442401



Tel. No .07172-256279, 252232 E-mail id:- ccfchandrapur@gmail.com, ccfchandrapur@mahaforest.gov.in

No. : Desk-3(1)/Land/Sr.No.44/2025-26/589

Dated :- 18/07/2025

To,

**The Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer,  
Mah. State, Nagpur**

Sub :- Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 1(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land of Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R603 in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Ltd. in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State (Proposal No. FP/MH/MIN/8832/2024)

Ref :- 1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi, Dt. 20.03.2025  
2. Your Office letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/ID-12417/24-25/2844, Dt. 20.03.2025  
3. Regional Manager, WCL, Ballarpur area, Chandrapur vide letter No. WCL/144/ dated 13/06/2025.  
4. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur, vide letter No. Desk-14/Surv/land/542, Dated 17.07.2025

With reference to the above mentioned subject the Govt. of India has decided to give Stage-I sanction for diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land of Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest subject to fulfillment of some conditions.

The User Agency has submitted the compliance report vide their letter No. 3 under reference. The compliance report was scrutinized and submitted to this office by Deputy Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur his letter No. 4 under reference.

The Compliance report is being submitted herewith in 4 copies for information and necessary action.

Encl :- As above

(R.M.Ramanujam)

**Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Chandrapur Circle, Chandrapur**

Copy to- Deputy Conservator of Forest, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur for information.

1462  
22/07/25





महाराष्ट्र शासन  
वनविभाग

उपवनसंरक्षक मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, यांचे कार्यालय मुल रोड, चंद्रपूर

दुरध्वनी क्र 250561/253508-07172 .

E-mail :- dycfcentralchanda@mahaforest.gov.in

क्रमांक -कक्ष/सर्व्हे/जमीन/2024-25/184 542

मुख्य कार्यालय, चंद्रपूर, दिनांक :- 17/07/2025  
आवक क्र. 7278 दिनांक 17-7-25  
47 JUL 2025  
क.सचे नाव  
प्रशासकीय अधिकारी, मुख्य वनसंरक्षक

प्रति,

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक,

चंद्रपूर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपूर.

विषय - Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhimyam 1980 for diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land of Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No R603 in favour of M/S Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District in of Maharashtra State. (Proposal No. FP/MH/MIN/8832/2024)

संदर्भ .१ -Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi, dt. 20.03.25

२ .अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक तथा केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी नागपुर .रा.म ,यांचे पत्र क्रमांक कक्ष- /चंद्रपूर/नोडल/१७ID-12147/२०२४२८४४/२५-, दिनांक २०/०३/२०२५

३. प्रकल्प यंत्रणेचे पत्र क्रमांक वेकोली/बक्षे/क्षेमहाप्र/१४४, दिनांक १७/०६/२०२५

केंद्र शासनाचे संदर्भिय पत्र क्र .१ अन्वये वन (संवर्धन) अधिनियम १९८० अंतर्गत साखरी ईरावती ओपन काष्ट माईन करीता १२ .हे ०७.वनजमीन वळतीकरण करणे बाबतचे प्रस्तावास अटिचे अधिन राहून तत्वतः मान्यता प्रदान केलेली आहे .संदर्भिय पत्र क्र .१ मध्ये नमूद अटिची पुर्तता प्रकल्प यंत्रणेनी संदर्भिय पत्र क्र. ३ अन्वये केलेली असून, सदरहु पुर्तता अहवाल खालील प्रमाणे सादर करण्यात येत आहे

Sr. No.	Conditions	Compliance
i.	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;	User Agency undertaking has been enclosed with this compliance report <b>Page No. 1</b>
ii.	The State shall initiate and take up the matter for the correction of digital forest boundaries with FSI in case of the non-forest area, which is within forest boundary as per DSS Analysis in the instant project:	The KML file of the entire mine lease boundary along with the KML file of the approved forest land within the lease is uploaded on PARIVESH Portal the same KML file CD is attached as <b>Annexure-1</b>
iii.	Safety zone with effective green belt around the entire mining lease area shall be maintained as per guidelines in the matter;	As per consolidated guideline no. 7.9(i) of MoEF& CC, 7.5-meter -wide peripheral safety zone is to be maintained all along the inner boundary within the Mining Lease Area. User Agency Undertaking & Plan enclosed as <b>Page No. 4-7</b>



iv.	Mitigation measures as suggested by the NBWL/SBWL/Wildlife Management plan as applicable shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency.	Project Affected area is not under DSS Corridor. But Mitigation measures as suggested by the NBWL/SBWL/Wildlife Management plan User Agency shall be implemented at the cost of the user agency. undertaking has been enclosed Page No. 8
v.	The state shall intimate the exact number of trees involved in forest area and ensure that the minimum tree felling is done in a phased manner;	No trees felling involved in this diverted forest area.
<b>vi. Compensatory Afforestation (CA)</b>		
a.	Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest area of 25 ha in Compt. No. 452 of Ballarshah Range, Maharashtra State shall be raised at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department and afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department:	Fund of ₹ 2,64,17,891/- towards 25 Ha. CA have been deposited to CAMPA account vide UTR NO: SBINR12025060487781850 dated 04.06.2025 through challan generated through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Copy of the challan and payment details enclosed in Page No.10-13
b.	The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal:	Funds for Compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with this Office have been deposited to CAMPA account through challan generated as above
c.	The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, it required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;	User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as Page No. 2-3.
d.	The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on Survey of India toposheet map of 1:50,000 scale;	The area of CA is clearly shown on the 1:50,000 scale Survey of India toposheet map is uploaded on PARIVESH Portal and same attached in Page No 89
<b>vii. Net Present Value (NPV)</b>		
a.	The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines;	An amount of Rs.1,15,60,405/- towards NPV has been deposited to the account of CAMPA vide RTGS Payment Unique Transaction Reference (UTR) No: SBINR 12025060487781850 dated 04.06.2025. An Undertaking has been enclosed as Page No. 10-13
b.	At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India:	User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as Page No. 14
viii.	All the funds received from the user agency under the proposal shall be transferred/deposited in	All the funds have been deposited to CAMPA account through challan generated through e-



	CAMPA account only through e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;	portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ). Copy of the challan and payment details enclosed in <b>Page No. 10-13</b>
ix.	The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and the accepted area for raising compensatory afforestation in the e-Green watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;	KML file of compensatory afforestation has been uploaded in the e-Green watch portal of FSI before handing over forest land to the user agency. KML file in CD is attached as <b>Annexure-1</b>
x.	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act; 1986; if required;	Copy of Environment Clearance enclosed in <b>Page No. 15-31</b>
xi.	The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area. The User Agency shall prepare a detailed plan for life of project as per mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees. Felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due for mining as per mining plan. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;	<p>The user agency has submitted that the Mining is going to be conducted in Phased Manner: As per Pouni II Expansion Project Report June 2015 mining is to be carried in a phased manner initiating afforestation /reclamation work in the mined-out area of first phase before commencing mining in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. An undertaking and copy of the dumping schedule from the approved Project report Chapter-8, page 36 is enclosed as <b>page No. 32-33</b></p> <p><b>Tree Felling:</b> No tree felling is involved in the proposed forest land in 12.07ha .</p> <p><b>Reclamation:</b> As per the mine closure plan, Internal Dumping is proposed to fill the void created due to mining for land reclamation. As per the approved Project Report of 2015, the opencast mine has been planned upto a maximum depth of around 200m. For Coal and Overburden, keeping the bench height of 10 m, the width of working and non-working benches are kept as 30 m and 20 m respectively. Financial Provision of Rs.11496.56 Lakh (Chapter 18 – Point No.59).has been kept in Mine Closure for the OB Dump Reclamation. The dumps and other area shall be properly planted as a part of reclamation. As per Approved project report (Chapter 18 – Point No.11). Rs.92.942 Lakh financial provision has been kept in Mine Closure Plan. For Biological Reclamation &amp; Plantation over cleared area obtained after dismantling. around quarry area and in safety zone and plantation over the external OB Dump. Copy enclosed as <b>Page No. 34</b></p>
xii.	The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land	Land Surrender Schedule in accordance with mining plan and an Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No.35-37</b>



	as per such schedule to the MoEF&CC before grant of 'Final' approval under the Adhiniyam for diversion of the said forest land;	
xiii.	The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed <b>Page No.38</b>
xiv.	Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:	
a.	User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;	User Agency undertaking enclosed as <b>Page No.39</b> and Scheme attached as <b>Page No. 5 to 7</b>
b.	Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;	User Agency undertaking enclosed as <b>Page No.40</b>
c.	Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and	User Agency undertaking enclosed and Scheme attached as <b>Page No.41</b>
d.	The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.	User Agency undertaking enclosed and Scheme attached as <b>Page No.42</b>
xv.	Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:	
a.	Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;	User Agency undertaking enclosed and a Plan to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream enclosed as <b>Page No.43 to 46</b>
b.	Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;	User Agency undertaking enclosed and a Plan for plantation of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds is enclosed as <b>Page No. 47-49</b>
c.	Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;	User Agency undertaking and a Plan for construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to is enclosed as <b>Page No. 50 to 53</b>
d.	Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the	User Agency has agreed that Overburden will be stored in designated locations within



	approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 280; and	permissible height as per the approved Project Report / Mining Plan. Garland Drains and Trenches are provided along the toe of the dumps to arrest any flow of silt and soil beyond the designated. An undertaking is enclosed for the same as <b>Page No. 54 to 57</b>
e.	No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.	User Agency undertaking and a Top Soil Management Plan is enclosed as <b>Page No.58 to 60.</b>
xvi.	The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period coterminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government:	User agency has given an undertaking complying with the given condition is enclosed as <b>Page No. 70.</b>
xvii.	The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;	User Agency Undertaking has been enclosed as <b>Page No.71</b>
xviii.	The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;	User Agency undertaking enclosed at <b>page no.72</b> for desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary. A geo-tagged map showing village tanks and waterbodies within 5 km radius of the Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) and the GPS Coordinates of village tanks / water bodies also enclosed as <b>Page No.73</b>
xix.	The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.74</b>
xx.	Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.75</b>
xxi.	The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted to the Regional Office along with the 'in-principle' approval;	A scheme for comprehensive soil conservation measures is submitted An Undertaking enclosed <b>Page No. 76</b> and Scheme enclosed as <b>Page No. 43 to 60</b>
xxii.	The R&R Plan shall be implemented as per the	User Agency undertaking against the same is



	R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;	enclosed as <b>Page No.77</b>
xxiii.	The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled;	No tree felling is involved in this diversion. An undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.78</b>
xxiv.	The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.79.</b>
xxv.	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;	Copy of Environment Clearance enclosed as <b>Page No.15-31</b>
xxvi.	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.80</b>
xxvii.	The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.81</b>
xxviii.	The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.82</b>
xxix.	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.83</b>
xxx.	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.84</b>
xxxi.	The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project:	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.85</b>
xxxii.	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;	Once the forest land is handed over for mining purpose, WCL will submit Annual Self-Compliance Report by the end of March every year regularly. An undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.86</b>
xxxiii.	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.87.</b>



xxxiv.	Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry on dated 29.12.2023;	User Agency undertaking is enclosed for same as <b>Page No.88</b> .
xxxv.	The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ).	The compliance report uploaded on e-portal ( <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in/">https://parivesh.nic.in/</a> ).



(Swetha Boddu)

Dy. Conservator of Forests,  
Central Chanda Forest Division,  
Chandrapur

Copy to – Area General Manager, Ballarpur Area, Western Coalfields Limited, For information & necessary action