

Ref. No.: MCL/GM/MLA/PO/SOCP/2022-23/ 278

Date: 21/09/2022

To,
The Divisional Forest Officer
Sundargarh (Odisha)

Subject: Compliance of the observations of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India; New Delhi in respect of FC Stage I compliance report for non-forestry use of 349.709 ha forest land in favor of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Siarmal Opencast Coal Mining Project in Sundargarh District (Odisha).

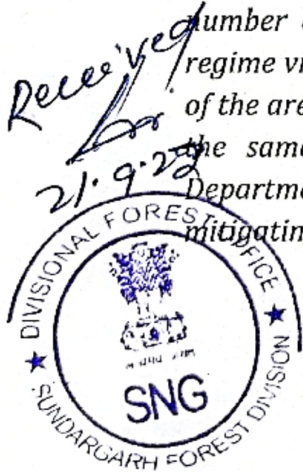
Reference No.: File No. 8-25/2021-FC dated 19.09.2022

Sir,

The point wise compliance of the observations of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India; New Delhi in respect of Stage I FC compliance report of Siarmal OCP, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL is as follows:

1. Comments of Water Resource Department, Odisha in their letter dated 2.09.2022 containing the comments on the proposed mitigating measures on hydrological regimes of the area mentioned that report covers only 5 mines and another 6 mines in the Basundhara sub-basin also needs to be covered in the report. Comments on the said observation of the Water Resource Department may be furnished by the State.

Compliance: In compliance to the above point, it is submitted that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India; New Delhi had accorded the 'in-principle' approval (Forest Stage I clearance) in favour of Siarmal OCP vide File No.8-25/2021-FC (Forest Stage I clearance) on 21.04.2022. One of the points that needed to be complied of Forest Stage I clearance conditions stated that "Chattajor Nallah located in the area has been proposed to be straightened by the user agency. Also, number of mines are operational in the area which may cause threat hydrological regime viz. Basundhara River and its rivulets, therefore, a study on hydrological regimes of the area will be undertaken in consultation with the Water Resource Department and the same shall be submitted along with considered opinion of Water Resource Department of the State on the proposed straightening of Chattajor nallah and proposed mitigating measures before stage II approval".



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The Under Secretary to Government, Department of Water Resources; Govt. of India opined that "Besides the five opencast coal mines spreading over an area of 43.395 sq. km., it is observed that there are other coal mines (covering about 6 sq. km.) which are also operating inside the Basundhara Sub-Basin near Manoharpur in Hemagiri block of Sundergarh district, near Garianalla (tributary of Basundhara river at about 18 km d/s of the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla), therefore the same along with proposed any other river in the same area should be incorporated in study."

It is submitted that, as per google satellite imagery, there are only 2 other mines in the Basundhara Sub-basin instead of 6 mines as pointed out in the observation of MoEF & CC, MoEF & CC, Govt. of India; New Delhi and the "other coal mines (covering about 6 sq. km.)", i.e., Manoharpur Coal mines (under the administrative control of M/s OCPL) and Dulunga Coal mines (under the administrative control of M/s NTPC) which are also operating inside the Basundhara Sub-Basin near Manoharpur in Hemagiri block of Sundergarh district, near Garianalla (tributary of Basundhara River at about 18 km d/s of the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla) are not under the administrative control of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and the confluence point of Garianalla and Basundhara River is at a distance of about 25 kms in downstream from the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla and Basundhara River (**location map is enclosed as Annexure A**). Therefore, the Mines of MCL will not be contributing to any anomalies in the trajectory of the river after it crosses the 25 km trajectory through the Basundhara Coalfields.

Since the "other coal mines (covering about 6 sq. km.)", i.e., Manoharpur Coal mines (under the administrative control of M/s OCPL) and Dulunga Coal mines (under the administrative control of M/s NTPC) does not fall under the administrative control of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and there is no instance of Garianalla flowing through any of the mines of MCL and since the confluence point of Garianalla and Basundhara River is at a distance of 25 kms in downstream from the confluence of Chhatajharana nalla and Basundhara River, the feasibility of carrying out the study for the said portion, where Garianalla meets Basundhara River and does not fall under the purview of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited. The recommendations in the study report conducted by the expert agency pertaining to MCL mines would be implemented appropriately.

2. **In compliance to condition no. A 9(iv) of Stage-I approval, KML file of the degraded forest land identified for raising afforestation in lieu of 1.5 times of safety zone has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted.**

Compliance: In compliance to the above point, it is submitted that the compliance of condition no. A 9(iv) of Stage-I approval, the KML file of the degraded forest land identified for raising afforestation in lieu of 1.5 times of safety zone has already been submitted in the form of a compact disc. However, the same is hereby submitted in the form of a **compact disc** once again.

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3. In compliance to condition no. B (3) of Stage-I approval, the State Government has informed that DGPS survey has been conducted by an empanelled agency of ORSAC over boundaries of forest land of 5.448 ha granted on patta. However, soft copies of the same, stated to be submitted in a CD, has not been received along with the compliance. The same may be submitted by the State.

Compliance: In compliance to the above point and condition no. B (3) of Stage-I approval, the DGPS surveyed maps, .shp files and DGPS surveyed data, as conducted by an empanelled agency of ORSAC over boundaries of forest land of 5.448 ha granted on patta is hereby submitted in the form of a compact disc.

4. Undertakings with regard to conditions no. A. 9 (ii), A. 9(iv) and B (2) may be obtained from the user agency and submitted to the Ministry.

Compliance: In compliance to the above point, undertaking with regards to condition no. A. 9 (ii) has already been submitted as "Annexure XIV" with the Stage I FC compliance report. However, the undertaking is hereby once again attached as Annexure B and the undertakings in respect of 9(iv) and B (2) are hereby attached as Annexure C and Annexure D respectively.

5. KML files of CA land, diverted forest land, SMC works area, WLMP area etc. may be uploaded on e-green watch portal with all requisite details. The same may be uploaded on the Green portal and GPS ID may also be submitted.

Compliance: In compliance to the above point, the kml files of CA land, diverted forest land, SMC works area, WLMP area etc. have been uploaded on e-green watch portal with all requisite details and the same has been uploaded on the green portal and the GPS ID is hereby being submitted as Annexure E.

In view of the above, the compliance of the observations of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India; New Delhi in respect of FC Stage I compliance report of Siarmal Opencast Coal Mining Project of MCL is hereby submitted for your kind perusal and onward transmission for accordance of Stage II FC clearance.

This is for your kind information please.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. J. K. Singh
21/09/2021
Project Officer

Siarmal OCP
MCL, Mahalaxmi Area

Project Officer
Siarmal OCP
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

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Siarmal OCP
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited


Mahanadi Coalfields Limited



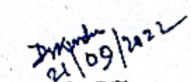
UNDERTAKING

(Condition no. 9 (ii) of Para A of Stage- I Clearance vide file No.8-25/2021-FC, dated 21.04.2022)


I/we do hereby undertake “to ensure the boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitations/roads is properly fenced”.


General Manager
Mahalaxmi Area, MCL

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Mahalaxmi Area
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited


Project Officer
Siarmal OCP, MCL

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23/09/22
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION

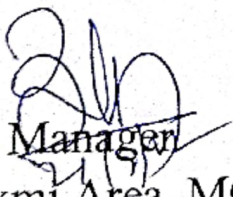


Annexure-C

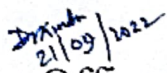
UNDERTAKING

(Condition no. 9 (iv) of Para A of Stage- I Clearance vide file No.8-25/2021-FC, dated 21.04.2022)

I/we do hereby undertake "to pay the demand raised by State Forest Department towards appropriate anticipated increased cost while implementation of the approved scheme for afforestation of degraded forest land in extent one and half times of forest land in safety zone area in respect of Siarmal OCP".


General Manager
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Mahanadi Coalfields Limited


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SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION



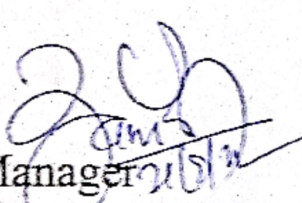
MCL

Annexure-D

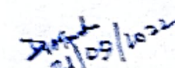
UNDERTAKING

(Condition no. 2 of Para B of Stage- I Clearance vide file No.8-25/2021-FC, dated
21.04.2022)

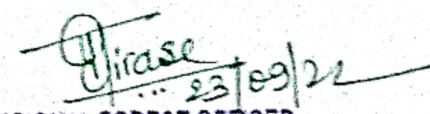
I/we do hereby undertake "to pay the demand raised by State Forest Department towards appropriate anticipated increased cost while implementation of the approved scheme for the compensatory afforestation over double in extent to the forest land being diverted".


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View Remarks on Polygons Uplo: x + egreenwatch.nic.in/Public/FSI/KML.aspx

कैना कोड प्रविष्ट करें.

New Sites for which polygons uploaded

GPS ID	Updated On	Updated By	State	Division	Range	Site/Work/Asset Name	Area(In Ha.)	Download
14033	21/09/2022 17:24:00	DFO Sundargarh	Odisha	Sundargarh	Gopalpur	Siarmal OCP of Gopalpur Range	349.709	
79210	21/09/2022 17:24:00	DFO Sundargarh	Odisha	Sundargarh	Gopalpur	Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan over 357 Ha. (Siarmal OCP MCL)	0.000	
79209	21/09/2022 17:24:00	DFO Sundargarh	Odisha	Sundargarh	Gopalpur	Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan of Siarmal OCP MCL	0.000	
21524	21/09/2022 17:24:00	DFO Sundargarh	Odisha	Sundargarh	Gopalpur	Jamkanti RE	111.000	
21523	21/09/2022 17:24:00	DFO Sundargarh	Odisha	Sundargarh	Satpalia RE		691.558	

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 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
 SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION

Dr. Randa
 Project Officer
 Siarmal OCP
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