

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003.

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No.A5(1).MISC.CR.10/2017-18

dated ೧೫-01-2018

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Forest, Environment and Ecology Department
M.S. Building
Bengaluru - 560 001.

Sir,

Sub: Preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) of iron ore resource in 131.08 ha forest land in Block 6A/CI 16 MMM 2003 of Ramanamalai Block in Ballari District by Geological Survey of India, State Unit: Karnataka & Goa, Bengaluru-reg. **Proposal No. FP/KA/MRL/2/2017**

- Ref: 1. Proposal No. FP/KA/MRL/2/2017 dated 10-10-2017 (resubmitted).
2. Letter No. M1:MNG:GSI:Survey/2017-18 dated 02-12-2017 of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari (uploaded on 02-12-2017).
3. Letter No. M1:MNG:GSI:PEO:CR-8/2017-18 dated 16-12-2017 (uploaded on 21-12-2017; hard copy received on 23-12-2017) of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari.

The Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India, Karnataka & Goa Unit, Vasudha Bhavan, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru vide letter under Reference (1) above has submitted the online proposal in Form-C seeking permission under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 to conduct preliminary exploration of iron ore resource over an extent of 131.08 hectare forest land in Ramanamalai Block (Block 6A/CI 16 MMM 2003). Accordingly, online communication was made to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle to process the proposal. They have submitted the reports vide letters under reference (2) and (3), respectively.

The details of the proposal are given below.

Particulars of forest land requirement:

Sl. No.	Component	Temporary Change (ha)	Permanent Change (ha)	Legal status of forest land
1	Surface Sampling	0.00125	-	Section 4 notified
2	Pitting/Trenching	0.015	-	
3	Drilling of Boreholes	-	-	
4	Road/Path	1.82196*	0.11664**	
5	Other activity	-	-	
	Total	1.83821 ***	0.11664 ****	

* Wrongly shown as 0.91098 ha in Item C of FORM - C on web portal because of technical issues.

** Wrongly shown as 0.065 ha in Item C of FORM - C on web portal because of technical issues.

*** Wrongly shown as 0.91238 ha in Item C of FORM - C on web portal because of technical issues.

**** Wrongly shown as 0.065 ha in Item C of FORM - C on web portal because of technical issues.

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, has inspected the site on 01-12-2017 and furnished the details in Form-C Part-II as under:

1. The requirement of forest land proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
2. The proposed Forest area falls under Eco-Class-III (Dense forest).
3. There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna in the proposed area.
4. There are no trees to be felled on the proposed forest land for preliminary exploration.
5. There are no protected / archaeological / heritage sites or defense establishments or important monuments in the area.
6. The proposed forest area does not form part of any Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve or Elephant Corridor etc.
7. The soil erosion may happen on the slopes; the User Agency is required to take necessary precaution measures to avoid the soil erosion.
8. There is no violation reported under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

The project involves only exploration works and no drilling of boreholes for preliminary exploration for iron ore resources in Ramanamalai Block.

Agreeing with the recommendations of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, has forwarded the proposal for further action.

As per Para (ii) of the GOI FC Guidelines F.No. 11-96/2009-FC Dated 04.07.2014, the area which is likely to experience temporary change in land use is exempted from the requirement of compensatory afforestation and payment of NPV. Forest land which experience permanent change in the land use due to prospecting activity is considered for the purpose of CA and NPV. As the present proposal involves **0.11664 ha** permanent damage due to prospecting, the **NPV for 0.11664 ha needs to be charged upon the User Agency**. Further, as per para 3.2(viii)(b) of the Forest Clearance guidelines, no Compensatory Afforestation land is insisted in cases involving diversion of forest land upto one hectare. Further, as reported by the Deputy Conservator of Forests felling of trees is not required to implement the present proposal.

While agreeing with the recommendation of the field officers, it is requested to move the proposal with the Government of India for according approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for preliminary exploration (G-3 stage) of iron ore resource in 131.08 ha forest land in Block 6A/CI 16 MMM 2003 of Ramanamalai Block in Ballari District by Geological Survey of India, State Unit: Karnataka & Goa, Bengaluru subject to the conditions listed in Appendix 'A'.

The copies of letters (reference 2 & 3) are enclosed for kind reference.

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

Appendix 'A'

1. No civil structures (temporary or permanent) shall be erected in the proposed area.
2. Exploration inside forest land shall be limited to the period from sunrise to sunset only.
3. User Agency shall not sublease the exploration work.
4. No fire will be kindled inside and in the vicinity of the forest area.
5. User Agency shall follow the forest transit regulations while transporting the forest produce (excavated sample material) from the site.
6. User Agency shall be liable for any violations under Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 and Rules, 1969 in addition to other relevant laws in and around the forest area concerned.
7. The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of forest land diverted under this proposal as per orders dated 28-3-2008 and 9-5-2008 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
8. Alignment of fresh roads shall be done in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests. Only clearing of bushes and levelling to specified width shall be done for formation of approved new roads. No metalling or asphaltting shall be permitted.
9. User Agency shall undertake appropriate measures at its own cost to appropriately restore Trenches/ Pits dug for prospecting, wherever required, in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests.
10. Boreholes shall be capped by User Agency at own cost, once the exploration is over.
11. User Agency shall provide a list of authorised officials/ workers engaged in exploration to the Forest Department before commencing the work and also provide the Identity Cards/ Documents to each such official/ worker, to be produced when demanded by the Forest Department.
12. User Agency shall pay the cost of extraction of trees, if required to be felled, as estimated by the Forest Department and User Agency shall be liable to pay the compensatory planting charges in accordance with Para 3.2(viii)(b) of Government of India FC Guidelines and PCCF (HoFF) letter No. A5(3)/GFL/CR-28/2009-10 Dated 04-11-2017.
13. User Agency shall be solely responsible for any injury/ death/ disability, damage, etc., caused or occurred by any means to the persons involved in exploration work under the relevant laws.
14. User Agency shall make available a copy of its research findings, as soon as finalized, to the Forest Department.
15. User Agency shall abide by all the conditions imposed upon by the Government of India, the Government of Karnataka and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF).


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Karnataka