

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ

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.18/2017-18

Date 28-03-2018

To,

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

Madam,

Sub: Prospecting of minerals (exploration) over an extent of 325.74 hectare of forest land in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease (ML No. 2010) of RMML, NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Nagpur -reg.

Proposal No. FP/KA/MRL/9/2017

- Ref: 1. Proposal No. FP/KA/MRL/9/2017 dated: 26-12-2017 (resubmitted).
2. Letter No. M1:MNG:MECL:Survey/2017-18 dated 19-02-2018 of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari (uploaded on 20-02-2018).
3. Letter No. M1:MNG:MECL:Survey:CR-9/2017-18 dated 20-02-2018 (uploaded on 05-03-2018; hard copy received on 27-02-2018 of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari.

1. The Deputy General Manager (Business Development and Commercial Division), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Nagpur vide Reference (1) has submitted the online proposal in Form-C seeking permission under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 to conduct prospecting (exploration) of Iron Ore over an extent of 325.74 hectare in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease of RMML (ML No. 2010) NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District. 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.

2. Particulars of forest land requirement:

The project involves prospecting of minerals exploration and drilling of 33 boreholes for exploration for iron ore resources in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease of RMML (ML No.2010) NEB Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District. Further, the details of forest land requirement are given below.

Sl No.	Component	Temporary Change (ha)	Permanent Change (ha)	Legal Status of forest land
1	Surface Sampling	0.0001	-	Section 4 Notified area
2	Pitting/Trenching	0.01*	-	
3	Drilling of 33 no. Boreholes (4.96 inch dia)	0.165	-	
4	Road/Path	0.72	-	
5	Other activity	-	-	
Total		0.895**	-	

*Wrongly shown as 0.001 hectare in Item C of Form-C on web portal because of technical issues.

**Wrongly shown as 0.886 hectare in Item C of Form-C on web portal because of technical issues.

3. DCF, Ballari Division report: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division has inspected the site on 18-02-2018 and has furnished the details in 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 (Southern Dry Deciduous Forest).
3. There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found 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 defence 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.

4. **CCF, Ballari Circle report:** 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.
5. **CA & NPV:** 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. Further, as per para 3.2(viii)(b) of the FC 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, Ballari Division 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 prospecting (exploration) of iron ore over an extent of 325.74 hectare of forest land in the erstwhile C-category mining lease area of RMML (ML No. 2010) in NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Nagpur 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)

Copy to the Chief Conservators of Forests, Ballari Circle for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservators of Forests, Ballari Division, for information.

Copy to the Business Development, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Maharashtra-440 006 for information.


ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ
ದಿನಾಂಕ 20-3-18

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. Alignment of fresh roads resulting in permanent changes 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.
8. Boreholes shall be capped by User Agency at own cost, once the exploration is over.
9. 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.
10. 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 3.2viii)(b) and PCCF (HoFF) letter No. A5(3)/GFL/CR-28/2009-10 Dated 04-11-2017.
11. User Agency shall be solely responsible for any injury/ death/ disability, damage, etc., caused or occurred during the exploration work under the relevant laws.
12. User Agency shall make available a copy of its exploration findings, as soon as finalized, to the forest department.
13. 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)