

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: 6th October, 2023**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Diversion of 255.177 ha of forest land for underground coal mining of Maori Coal Block in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Ltd. in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/1049/2011) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter no. F-1/480/2008/10-11/3856 dated 24.08.2023 of PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh on the above mentioned subject forwarding the information in reference to Ministry letter of even no. dated 02.12.2014 and inform that the following have been observed in the reply:

- i. The Ministry vide letter dated 02.12.2014 requested the State Govt. to provide their comments on the content of the letter dated 18.10.2014 of user agency (**Copy enclosed**). However same is still awaited and same needs submission.
- ii. The State Govt. vide their letter dated 24.08.2023 has submitted their reply in reference to Ministry letter dated 02.12.2014 i.e. after a gap of nearly 10 years. The justification for delay in submission of information needs submission.
- iii. The KML file of forest land proposed for diversion along with Sol top sheet map and DGPS map needs submission.
- iv. The component wise breakup of forest land proposed for diversion needs submission. The State shall also ensure that the same is in conformity with the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis of the component wise breakup in the proposal with that in the mining plan shall be submitted.
- v. The approved copy of mining lease along with approved copy of the mining plan needs submission.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

**Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj**

**Date: 06-10-2023 17:54:24**

**Reason: Approved**

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;

I/54759/2023

4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

F. No. 8-119/2011-FC  
Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014

To,  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Sub:** Diversion of 255.117 ha. of forest land for underground coal mining of Maori Coal block in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Ltd. in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh.

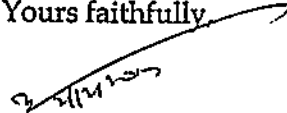
Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of Western Coalfields Limited's letter No. WCL/GM/KAN/PLG/2014-242 dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 on the above-mentioned subject and to say that the Government of Madhya Pradesh may kindly submit their comments on contents of the said letter to this Ministry.

I am further directed to say that Government of Madhya Pradesh may complete the process for settlement of rights in accordance with the provision of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted and submit documentary evidence in support thereof, in the format stipulated by this Ministry vide letter No. 11-9.98-FC (pt.) dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

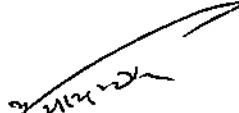
Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

Copy along with a copy of the said letter to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

9

OC ISSUED,  
05/12/2014,



"Under Jurisdiction of Nagpur Court Only"

वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

**WESTERNCOALFIELDS LIMITED**

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

OFFICE OF THE AREA GENERAL MANAGER

KANHAN AREA, PO DUNGARIA

DIST. CHHINDWARA (MP) 480553

Fax 07160-230520

E-mail: cgmkan@gmail.com

URL- <http://westerncoal.nic.in>

पंजी कार्यालय: कोल इस्टेट सिविल लाइन्स नागपुर 440001

REGD OFFICE: Coal Estate, Civil Lines Nagpur - 440001

Ref. No. WCL/GM/KAN/PLG/ 2014- 242

DATE/ 18.10.2014.

To,  
The Asstt. Inspector General of Forest,  
MoEF FC Division,  
Paryavaran Bhavan,  
C.G.O.Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi. 110003.

Sub: Diversion of 255.117 hect. Of forest land for Underground coal mining of Mouri coal block in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh.

Ref: (1) F. No. 8 – 119 / 2011 – FC dtd. 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012 of MoEF, Delhi.  
(2) F. No. 8 – 119 / 2011 – FC dtd. 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2013.

Dear Sir,

With reference to above, it is being submitted that forest land 105.079 hectrs. under lease No. 24 (1) was available under forest compartment No. 471 RF, Range Jamai to the user agency. On account of limited requirement the agency require to reduce the land and applied 48.918 hect. for open cast mine, incline mouth and other surface infrastructure for renewal under MCR, 1960. The mining lease 105.079 hect. Is under mining operation since 1971.

We would like to inform you that stage I clearance under FCA, 1980 for the said land 48.918 hect. has been obtained vide F No. 8-113/2011 FC dtd. 03.07.2013. An amount of Rs. 39281154.00 against NPV for compliance of condition No. V on 12.03.2014 and amount of Rs-41953150/- for compensatory afforestation is also submitted on 19.07.2014 against Condition no- II & IX (i.e. 7.50 meter Safety Zone) of the above referred letter has been deposited through RTGS/CBS/NEFT on Sunder Nagar Branch of Union Bank of India A/c. No. 344902010105423. Also an amount of Rs. 4195314.00 has been deposited with D.F.O.(W), Chhindwara on account of 7.5 mtr. Safety zone. Other conditions stipulated in Stage-I are also under consideration. The compliance report of Stage-I is to be submitted to MoEF, New Delhi for obtaining Stage II clearance.

With reference to above referred letters, No. (1) & (2) it was suggested to delete the revenue forest land 28.123 hect. and 55.028 hect. Revenue land due to geological disturbance as applied by the user agency. In this regard, the user agency submit its stand that since the above said land has already been notified under Sec. 11 (1) of CBA (A&D), 1957, therefore, it is not possible to the user agency to exclude the said land (28.123 and 55.028 hect) from the notified area of 338.268 hect. Whose break up is as under:

255.117 Hect. Forest land, 55.028 hect. Revenue land and 28.123 hect. Revenue forest land .

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A letter vide reference No. वेकोलि/कन्हान/महाप्र/सर्वे/२०१३. १९७ dtd. १७.०७.२०१३. with due respect written to DFO (West), Chhindwara to justify the purpose to move separate proposal for diversion of 255.117 hect. Forest land for mining rights and 48.918 hect. All rights for opening of incline mouth, surface infrastructure etc.

DFO(West), Chhindwara forwarded the proposal to CCF, Chhindwara vide his letter No. 1915 dtd. 24.12.2013. The proposal was sent back to DFO, Chhindwara vide letter No. 136 dtd. 07.01.2014 with a advise to put up a revised consolidated proposal as advised by MoEF, New Delhi vide above referred letters. Accordingly the DFO, Chhindwara sent back the application to the user agency vide letter No. 366 dtd..16.01.2014 and advised to put up a revised consolidated proposal afresh.

As per the above referred letter No. (2) the authenticated hard copy / soft copy of geo-referenced map prepared by using GPS already submitted by APCCF (L&M), Bhopal and on dtd 14.03.2013 the same have already been forwarded to MoEF, New Delhi.

In this regard we would like to submit the following:

- (a) Proposal for diversion of 255.117 hect. Forest land under FCA, 1980, which is under consideration at MoEF, New delhi is a new proposal for underground mining rights.
- (b) Proposal for 48.918 hect. forest land diversion is a proposal for renewal and application under FCA, 1980 , 1st stage clearance of which has already been obtained and NPV Compensatory afforestation and 7.5 mtr. Safety Zone amount paid.
- (c) As stated above, both the proposal can not be combined together as advised vide above referred letters.

It is submitted that production of coal is essential at National interest and therefore diversion of land in question is required at the earliest.

Submitted for kind consideration of 255.117 hect forest land diversion proposal separately which is under consideration at MoEF, New Delhi.

Thanking you,

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

( S.K. Mukhopadhyay),  
Area General Manager,  
Kanhan Area.

Copy to: Director (P&P), WCL Hqrs., Nagpur for his kind information.

Copy to: APPCF, MoEF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.  
Copy to: APPCF, MoEF (L/M), Satpura Bhavan, Bhopal.  
Copy to: CCF, Chhindwara.  
Copy to: D.F.O. (W), Chhindwara.  
Copy to: G.M. L&R), WCL, Nagpur.  
Copy to: APO / ASO(K).