

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 15th November, 2021

To,

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

2. The Regional Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
MoEF&CC,
Bhopal.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 201.079 ha of forest land for Tawa -II underground coal mining in favour M/s Western Coal Fields Limited, Madhya Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/24598/2017)-regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer letter no. F-1/692/2013/10-11/3417 dated 11.10.2021 of Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh and letter no. 6-MPA017/2017-BHO/647 dated 04.10.2021 of Integrated Regional Office, Bhopal on the above subject forwarding the Joint Inspection Report of Tawa-II/UG mine of WCL, Pathakhera area.

In this regard it is to inform that on examination of the said information the following has been observed:

- i. FAC while deliberating the proposal noted that the post facto FC for 195.20 ha including 12.708 ha surface right for infrastructure and approach road on 22.01.1994 was valid for 30 years. The FC expired in 2008 after 30 years of operation and WCL should have obtained FC again for the same area (**Copy enclosed**). Therefore, the action has to be initiated as per condition no. (iii) and (ix) of Stage- I approval letter of even no. dated 14.05.2018. The State Government and IRO, Bhopal shall re-examine the issue in view of above observation and submit the compliance/report on said condition.
- ii. The condition no. (xi) of Stage- I approval letter dated 14.05.2018 reads as “*The in-principle approval will be for the ex-facto regularization of the violation committed by the Western Coalfield Limited for diversion of the forest land over the forest land 201.079 ha of forest land already broken with penal NPV and penal CA for 50 years (30yrs+20yrs) w.e.f. 25.10.1980. Further the in-principle approval will be effective after the payment of NPV and other outstanding dues with WCL in CAMPA account*”. The State Government and IRO, Bhopal shall re-examine the issue in view of above

observation.

- iii. The compliance of condition no. (xxv) of Stage- I approval dated 14.05.2018 has not been submitted.
- iv. The condition nos. (viii) and (xviii) of Stage- I approval which are regarding study on impact of mining on wildlife especially tiger habitat, wildlife management plan and wildlife conservation plan have been imposed by the FAC after due deliberations on the proposal. The reply given by the state govt that the compliance of said conditions is not required, is not justified. The compliance of said conditions shall be submitted.
- v. The condition no. (vii) of stage-I approval refers to payment of compensatory levies in case of another parcel of 90 ha of forest land along with interest @12% per annum. From the payment details available it is not clear whether the entire payment along with interest has been done by the user agency or not. The State govt may submit the details in this regard.

Accordingly, the State Govt and the IRO Bhopal are requested to furnish the above mentioned information for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Asst Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The P.C.C.F & HoFF, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
3. User Agency;
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading on PARIVESH portal.