



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल/ REGIONAL OFFICE, BHOPAL
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File No. 6-MPA005/2023-BHO

Dated : 02 /11/2023.

To,

Additional Director General of Forests (FC)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110 003.

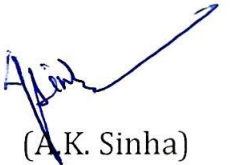
Sub: Site Inspection for diversion of 206.826 ha forest land in the Forest Compartment No. PF-400, 401, 409, 410, 413, 414 & 422 of Damua Range under West Chhindwara Forest Division for the Tandsi Under-ground Coal Mining Project by M/s Western Coalfield Limited(WCL) under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/44238/2020).

Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi Letter No. 8-21/2023-FC dated 30/10/2023.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of 206.826 ha forest land for the Tandsi Under-ground Coal Mining Project by M/s Western Coalfield Limited(WCL) under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Encl : As above.


(A.K. Sinha)

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

Shri Suneet Bhardwaj, AIGF, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Ref: MoEF&CC, (FC Division) letter No. 8-21/2023-FC dated 30.10.2023

The Site inspection was carried out on 01.11.2023.

Officers present during site inspection:

1. A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
2. Shri Vijendra Khobragade, Sub DFO, Parasia Range, Chhindwara West Division.
3. Shri B. Ramarao, AGM, Kanhan area, WCL.
4. Shri Dharmendra Sharma, RFO, Damua Range, Chhindwara West Division.
5. Other Forest & WCL Officials.

Title of the Project:		Diversion of 206.826 ha forest land in the Forest compartment No PF-400, 401, 409, 410, 413, 414 & 422 of Damua Range under West Chhindwara Forest Division for the Tandsi Under-ground Coal Mining Project by M/s Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) in Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State.																		
		Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/44238/2020																		
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Forest Division</th><th>Protected Forest (Ha)</th><th>Reserved Forest (Ha)</th><th colspan="2">Total (in ha)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>West Chhindwara</td><td>206.826</td><td>0.00</td><td colspan="2">206.826</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>206.826</td><td>0.00</td><td colspan="2">206.826</td></tr></tbody></table>				Forest Division	Protected Forest (Ha)	Reserved Forest (Ha)	Total (in ha)		West Chhindwara	206.826	0.00	206.826		TOTAL	206.826	0.00	206.826	
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TOTAL	206.826	0.00	206.826																	
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	The proposed diversion area is for underground coal mining by Western Coalfields Limited. Component wise details are as follows :																		
		<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>No.</th><th>Component</th><th>Forest Area Involved (in Ha)</th><th colspan="2">Revenue Area Involved (in Ha)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1.</td><td>Underground Coal Mining Work</td><td>206.826</td><td colspan="2">166.334</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">TOTAL</td><td>206.826</td><td colspan="2">166.334</td></tr></tbody></table>				No.	Component	Forest Area Involved (in Ha)	Revenue Area Involved (in Ha)		1.	Underground Coal Mining Work	206.826	166.334		TOTAL		206.826	166.334	
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1.	Underground Coal Mining Work	206.826	166.334																	
TOTAL		206.826	166.334																	
3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including	No.																		

	residential) or not.If yes, details thereof:	
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates:	Rs. 12645Lakhs (As per online Part-I)
5.	Wildlife:	<p>As per the SIR of the APCCF, Chhindwara, the proposed area is 6.18 km from Satpura Tiger Reserve & the proposed diversion area is a part of Satpura-Pench Tiger Corridor.</p> <p>As per information given by the local forest officials there is occasional movement of Tiger in the area. The other wild animals in the area include Leopard, Bear, Barking deer, Spotted deer, Sambhar, etc.</p>
6.	Vegetation:	<p>Eco Class-3 and Crown Density is 0.5</p> <p>This is an underground mining project. As per the project, there is no felling involved. However, the main species present in the area are as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Tectona grandis</i>, (ii) <i>Pongamia pinnata</i>, (iii) <i>Azadirachta indica</i>, (iv) <i>Buchanania lanzan</i> (v) <i>Madhuca indica</i> (vi) <i>Adina cordifolia</i> (vii) <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> (viii) <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> (ix) <i>Terminalia chebula</i> (x) <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (xi) <i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (xii) <i>Syzygiun cuminii</i> (xiii) <i>Mangifera indica</i> (xiv) <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i> (xv) Misc. Species
7.	Background note on the proposal:	<p>The proposal is for underground coal mining. The coal seam of about 3.5 m thickness is situated at a depth of about 230 m to 350 m below ground. The coal is of good quality i.e. washery grade IV. It has coal reserve of about 3.36 million tons and accordingly the age of the mine may be 10-12 years. The reserve will be extracted through incline which is situated in a</p>

		revenue land. Since it is an underground method of mining, there is no requirement of any surface rights in the proposed diversion area and also there is no requirement of felling any trees.
8.	Compensatory Afforestation:	Not applicable as the proposal is for underground mining and there is no surface rights involved in the proposed diversion area.
9.	Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:	No
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the SG or not:	No.
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and financial allocation:	A closure plan is already incorporated in the mining plan.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:452.876
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	The proposal is recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (LM) & State Government in Part-IV & Part-V.
15.	Utility of the Project:	The proposal is for underground coal mining. The coal seam of about 3.5 m thickness is situated at a depth of about 230 m to 350 m below ground. The coal is of good quality i.e. washery grade IV. As the coal is of good quality, the same is proposed to be supplied to washeries and then to steel plants. Apart from

		extraction and supply of coal, the project would provide employment to a large number of people.
16.	Whether land being diverted has any socio- cultural/ religious value:	No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. any P.A.	As per the SIR of the APCCF, Chhindwara, the proposed area is 6.18 km from the nearest Protected Area i.e. Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) and is not falling in ESZ of STR. The proposed diversion area is falling in Satpura-Pench Tiger Corridor.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	No
19.	Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer	

The proposed diversion area is for underground coal mining project :

Range- Damua,

Circle-Rampur (Comptt. no. 422 & 414) Bathri (Comptt. No. 400, 401, 410 & 413) & Gope (Comptt. No. 409).

Beat-Dodhara Mau (Comptt. No. 400 & 413), Barudhana (Comptt. No. 401 & 410), Rampur (Comptt. No.422 & 414) & Koyalbadi (Comptt. No. 409).

The area was observed to be highly undulating with a small hillock in the middle. The vegetation in the area is falling in the category of MDF with a density of 0.5. A river called Tambia is also observed to be flowing through the proposed diversion area. The WCL has addressed Water Resource Department of the State to find out whether any effect on underground mining is envisaged due to Tambia River and to suggest any possible safety measures to the underground coal mining. A black top single road is also observed to be passing through the proposed area. The proposed diversion area was demarcated on the ground with boundary pillars painted in white colour and lat-long information written over them. The location of some pillars were verified with GPS and were found to be correct. There was no encroachment noticed in the area. No activity were observed to be undertaken by WCL in the area and hence no violation was observed. The same was confirmed from the local forest officials.

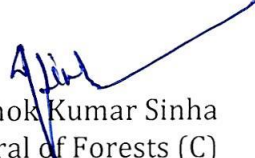
The main species present in the area is as shown in column no. 06.

The main wildlife present in the area is as shown in column no. 05.

As the proposed diversion area is falling in the Tiger Corridor of Satpura-Pench Tiger Reserves, the necessary mitigative measures /approvals may be obtained from the Competent Authority.

As the proposal involves only underground coal mining without any surface rights and no felling of trees, the CA is not required.

20	Recommendations of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	The proposal is recommended for approval as per the observations made above.
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Not Applicable


Ashok Kumar Sinha
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)
IRO, Bhopal.

Photographs

