



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-MPA158/2011-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 255.177 ha 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).

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 255.177 ha forest land for underground coal mining of Maori Coal Block in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd. in 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 Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Ref: MoEF&CC, (FC Division) letter No. 8-119/2011-FC dated 06.10.2023

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 H.L. Kodar, RFO, Jamai Range, Chhindwara West Division.
5. Shri Chandra Mohan Malviya, Circle Officer.
6. Shri Deepak Bharti, Forest Beat Officer.
7. Other Forest & WCL Officials.

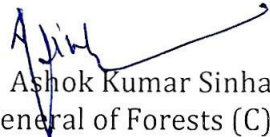
Title of the Project:		Diversion of 255.117 ha of forest land for underground coal mining of Maori Coal Block in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Ltd. in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh																		
		Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/1049/2011																		
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <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>61.675</td> <td>193.442</td> <td colspan="2">255.117</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>61.675</td> <td>193.442</td> <td colspan="2">255.117</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Forest Division	Protected Forest (Ha)	Reserved Forest (Ha)	Total (in ha)		West Chhindwara	61.675	193.442	255.117		TOTAL	61.675	193.442	255.117	
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TOTAL	61.675	193.442	255.117																	
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	<p>The proposed diversion area is for underground coal mining by Western Coalfields Limited.</p> <p>Component details are as follows :</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Component</th> <th>Forest Area Involved (in Ha)</th> <th>Revenue Area Involved (in Ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Underground Coal Mining Work</td> <td>255.117</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL</td> <td>255.117</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				No.	Component	Forest Area Involved (in Ha)	Revenue Area Involved (in Ha)	1.	Underground Coal Mining Work	255.117	0	TOTAL		255.117	0			
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1.	Underground Coal Mining Work	255.117	0																	
TOTAL		255.117	0																	
3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not.If	No.																		

	yes, details thereof:	
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates:	Rs. 6.3232 Crore
5.	Wildlife:	The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km away from the nearest Protected area i.e. Pench & Satpura Tiger Reserves. The said area also does not fall in any Tiger Corridor. The main wildlife found in the area are, Leopard, Spotted Deer, Hyena, Peacock, Hares, Porcupines, etc.
6.	Vegetation:	<p>The proposed diversion area is having open forest with crown density varying from 0.1-0.4. Eco-Class-4A & 4B.</p> <p>This is an underground mining project. As per the project, there is no felling involved. However, the main species present in the field 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:	The proposal is for underground coal mining. The coal seam of about 6.0 m thickness is situated at a depth of about 150 m to 230 m below ground. The coal is of average quality i.e. G-XII grade. It has coal reserve of about 3.85 million tons and accordingly the age of the mine may be 12-15 years. The reserve will be extracted through incline which is situated in an already diverted forest 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 of 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 State Government or not:	No.
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and financial allocation:	The closure & Mining plan are not available in the office records.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:2.41 as per available office records
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	The proposal is recommended by the Addl. 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 6.0 m thickness is situated at a depth of about 150 m to 230 m below ground. The coal is of average quality i.e. G-XII grade. Therefore, the extracted coal is proposed to be supplied

		to the Thermal Power Stations. 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.	The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km away from the nearest Protected area i.e. Pench & Satpura Tiger Reserves. The said area also does not fall in any Tiger Corridor.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	No
19.	Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer	
<p><u>The proposed diversion area is for underground coal mining project :</u></p> <p>Range-Jamai, Circle-Badkuhi, Beat-Shivpur, Comptt. nos.-PF-472B, RF-472 & RF-473</p> <p>The area was observed to be highly undulating with a small hillock in the proposed area. The vegetation in the area is falling in category of open forest with a density varying from 0.1-0.5. The proposed diversion area was demarcated on the ground with carrions painted in white colour. The locations of some of the carrions were verified with GPS and they were found to be correct. There was no encroachment noticed in the area. No activity was observed to be undertaken by WCL in the area and hence no violation was observed. The same was confirmed from the local forest officials.</p> <p>The main species present in the area is as shown in column no. 06.</p> <p>The main wildlife present in the area is as shown in column no. 05.</p> <p>As the proposal involves only underground coal mining without any surface rights and no felling of trees, the CA is not required.</p>		
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
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Ashok Kumar Sinha
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)
IRO, Bhopal.

Photographs

