



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. 8-85/2005-FC Vol/346

Dated : 31 /12/2024.

To,

The 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 Diversion of 53.142 ha forest land in compartment No PF-261, Waidhan Range of Singrauli Forest Division for Khadia Expansion Open Cast Coal Mine Project by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) under Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No FP/MP/MIN/149270/2021) - regarding.

Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi letter no. 8-85/2005 FC Vol/ I/82357 Dated 17.09.2024.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of 53.142 ha forest land in compartment No PF-261, Waidhan Range of Singrauli Forest Division for Khadia Expansion Open Cast Coal Mine Project by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) under Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

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.

Field Inspection Report of A.K. Sinha, IFS, DDGF (C), RO Bhopal

Ref: GoI, MoEF&CC (FC Division), letter No. 8-85/2005-FCVol., Dated-17th September, 2024.

Date of Inspection: 26/11/2024

Officers present at the time of inspection:-

1. A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
2. Shri N.K. Tripathi, Sub-DFO, Waidhan.
3. Shri Bhimsen Saket, Forest Range Officer, Waidhan
4. Shri Rishi Kumar Himanshu, FBO Dudhichua
5. Shri Rakesh kumar Awasthi, AGM In-charge, Khadia Project Officer, NCL
6. Shri Santosh Kumar, Colliery Manager, Khadia Project
7. Shri Rakesh Kumar, General Manager, Environment, NCL
8. Shri Rohit Kumar Gupta, Dy. Manager Environment, Khadia Area, NCL

Title of the Project:		Diversion of 53.142 ha forest land in Compartment no. PF-261 Waidhan Range of Singrauli Forest Division for Khadia Expansion Open Cast Coal Mine project in favour of M/s Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL) under Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/149270/2021)																					
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Protected Forest: 53.142 Ha																					
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	The proposed area is for Open Cast Coal Mining in Khadia Project of NCL in Singrauli District. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><thead><tr><th style="text-align: center;">Sl. No.</th><th style="text-align: center;">Component</th><th style="text-align: center;">Division</th><th style="text-align: center;">Range /Compartment No.</th><th style="text-align: center;">Area in ha</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td>Safety Zone area</td><td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Singrauli</td><td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Waidhan PF-261</td><td style="text-align: center;">1.167</td></tr><tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td>Mining of Coal</td><td style="text-align: center;">51.975</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Total</td><td style="text-align: center;">53.142</td></tr></tbody></table>				Sl. No.	Component	Division	Range /Compartment No.	Area in ha	1	Safety Zone area	Singrauli	Waidhan PF-261	1.167	2	Mining of Coal	51.975	Total				53.142
Sl. No.	Component	Division	Range /Compartment No.	Area in ha																			
1	Safety Zone area	Singrauli	Waidhan PF-261	1.167																			
2	Mining of Coal			51.975																			
Total				53.142																			
3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:	No																					

4.	Total cost of the Project at present rates:	Rs. 6383.243 Lakhs					
5.	Wildlife:	Wild Pigs, Peacocks, Hares, Porcupines, Nilgai, Spotted deer, etc.					
6.	Vegetation:	<p>Eco-Class:-III and Crown Density is 0.5.</p> <p>The main species found in the area are as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Shorea robusta</i>, ii. <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>, iii. <i>Madhuca indica</i>, iv. <i>Azadirachta indica</i>, v. <i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>, vi. <i>Ficus religiosa</i>, vii. <i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>, viii. <i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> ix. <i>Buchnania lanzan</i> x. <i>Phoenix</i> xi. <i>Terminalia arjuna</i> xii. <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> xiii. <i>Bombax ceiba</i> xiv. <i>Cassia fistula</i> xv. <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> xvi. <i>Syzygium cumini</i> xvii. <i>Lannea coromondelica</i> xviii. <i>Butea monosperma</i> xix. <i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> xx. Other misc. Species 					
7.	Background note on the proposal:	<p>The Khadia Coal mine project is already in running condition and coming close to exhausting the reserve in already diverted forest area. As the NCL has to maintain the current production of Coal, they have applied for diversion of 53.142 ha of additional Protected Forest area falling in their approved lease, for further continuance of mining of Coal by open cast method.</p>					
8.	Compensatory Afforestation:	Sl. no.	District	Range/Beat	Village	Khasra	Area (in ha)
		1.	Damoh	Sagoni /Gwari	Ghughri	73	53.142
		Total					53.142

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:	As included in the approved mining plan.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:82.19
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	The proposal is recommended by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & State Government in Part-IV & Part-V respectively.
15.	Utility of the Project:	The project is aimed at production of Coal to maintain the annual production capacity of Khadia mine as the same is approaching exhaustion of Coal reserve, so as to meet the increasing power demand of the country.
16.	Whether land being diverted has any socio cultural/religious value:	No.

17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.	Proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls in any Tiger Corridor. The nearest protected area i.e. Sanjay Tiger Reserve, is more than 10 km away.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	
19.	Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer	

INSPECTION OF THE PROPOSED DIVERSION AREA

Date of Inspection: 26/11/2024

Range- Waidhan; Beat- Dudhichua; Forest Comp. No. PF- 261; Area-53.142 Ha

The area is hilly with undulating terrain, sandy loam soil having excellent depth. There were few seasonal streams noticed in the area which were found to be dry at the time of inspection. There is no any major stream flowing across the area. The area is having excellent forest growth with canopy density varying from 0.4 to 0.5. The vegetation comprises of species as mentioned in column no. 06. It was observed that the area is having very little biotic interference like grazing, as a result of which there is excellent regeneration of species such as *Shorea robusta*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Butea monosperma*, *Buchnania lanzan*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Phoenix*, etc. The wildlife in the area is as mentioned in column no. 05. The area is far away from (more than 10 km) the nearest protected area and is not falling in any wildlife corridor. Therefore, the area seems to be very less important from wild life point of view. There were no encroachments or any non-forestry activities found in the area and hence there is no violation by the User Agency in the proposed area.

The area was found to be demarcated on the ground with 44 stations all along the boundary. Station no. P-20 was verified for its longitude and latitude and was found to be correct. The enumeration of trees was done by sampling method, taking 06 sample plots, each with an area of 01 ha. Total no. of trees proposed for felling is calculated to be 27,342.

INSPECTION OF CA AREA

Date of Inspection : 15/12/2024

1. Shri Ashok Kumar Sinha, DDGF(C), RO Bhopal.
2. Shri Rajesh Darade, AIGF (C) RO Bhopal
3. Shri Ishwar Jhrande, DFO Damoh
4. Shri Akhilesh Chaurasiya, Range Officer, Sagoni Range
5. Shri Gyan Prakash Ahirwar, Dy. Range Officer
6. Shri Prem Singh Rahi, Forest Beat Officer
7. Shri Rohit Kumar Gupta, Dy. Manager Environment, Khadia Area, NCL

The User Agency has submitted non-forest (revenue land) CA area in one patch against the diversion of 53.142 ha of Protected Forest land, the details of which are as follows :-

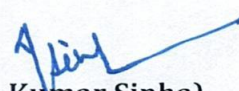
Range -Damoh; Circle-Salaiya; Beat-Gwari; Village-Ghughri; Khasra no.-73 (Bamni Halka);

Area- 53.142 ha

It was observed that the area is almost a leveled ground with sandy loam soil having high clay content and excellent depth. The area is also abutting to Reserved Forest, RF-91 and also beside a State Highway. As the area is adjacent to a Reserved Forest, it is also having very good vegetation with canopy density ranging from 0.1 to 0.4. The vegetation comprises of species such as *Tectona grandis*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Madhuca indica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Holoptelea integrifolia*, *Buchnania lanzan*, *Ailanthus excelsa*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Cassia fistula*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Butea monosperma*, etc. Towards back side of the area, the land is sloping into a seasonal nala. It was further observed that in about 6 to 7 ha the local villagers have fenced the area with barbed wire fencing and have been cultivating since last several years. A few huts were also erected in the area by local villagers for protecting their crops. The DFO and staff informed that they would be evicted with the help of District administration at the time of taking up plantation. However, **the User Agency must ensure that the CA land is free from all encumbrances before handing it over to the Forest Department.**

Certain soil and moisture conservation works like staggered contour trenching, construction of check dams and percolation tanks are required to be carried out for better results. **Taking into consideration the facts mentioned above, the area is found to be suitable for raising plantations with native species after fencing the area by chain link fence all around.**

20	Recommendations Of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	The project is recommended for approval subject to the observations as mentioned in the note 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:	-


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

Inspection photographs of Diversion Area



Inspection photographs of CA Area



