



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE  
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By Speed Post

F.No.4-KRA 1308/2021-BAN/ 589  
Dated the 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110 003.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 75.92 ha. of forest land ((near ML.No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing dams (I & II) and laying of Water pipeline in favour of NMDC Limited, Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/Others/14576/2015 -reg.

Sir,

With reference to Ministry's letter No.8-17/2021-FC dated 06/08/2021 on the above subject, it is informed that the site inspection of the forest land proposal for diversion as well as proposed Compensatory Afforestation land has been carried out by the Shri. B.N.Anjan Kumar, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central) on 17/08/2021. A detailed site inspection report submitted by the inspecting officer is attached herewith.

With regard to point no. 15 & 16 of the site inspection report, the comments of undersigned is furnished as under:-

1. As per the proposal, the user agency has proposed two tailing dam involving diversion of 62.50 ha. of forest land. It is reported that the user agency is presently resorting to dry screening only due to shortage of water and therefore, the tailing dam associated with Donimalai Iron ore mine is not put to use. Since the user agency is facing water shortage, there is no justification for establishment of two new tailing dams in forest area. Alternatively the User Agency may be directed to make use of existing tailing dam connected with Donimalai Iron ore mine.
2. The non-forest land identified for CA may be accepted as it is in contiguity to the Gudekote Bear Sanctuary and can serve as buffer of the Sanctuary. However, since the non forest land proposed for CA is reported to be not suitable for raising CA, the State Government may be advised to identify suitable degraded forest land where the planting can be done with at-least 1000 plants per hectare as per the FC Guidelines.

Yours faithfully,

(K.P.Singh)  
Regional Officer

Encl: As above.

g/c  
21/9/21

PROFORMA FOR SITE INSPECTION

	Title of the Project:	Proposal for diversion of 75.92 ha of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing Dams (I & II) and laying of Water pipeline in favour of M/s. NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari district.																			
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Section-4 notified area																			
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Project component</th> <th>Extent in ha.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Screening Plant-II</td> <td>12.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Tailing Dam-I</td> <td>40.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Tailing Dam-II</td> <td>22.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Water Pipeline</td> <td>0.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>75.92</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S. No.	Project component	Extent in ha.	1	Screening Plant-II	12.96	2	Tailing Dam-I	40.25	3	Tailing Dam-II	22.25	4	Water Pipeline	0.46	<b>Total</b>		<b>75.92</b>
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3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The proposal involves construction of screening plant for Mineral beneficiation of iron ore to improve the grade of ore and produce two different products i.e. lump and fines. The proposal do not include construction of residential buildings</p>																			
4.	Total cost of the project at present rates:	Rs.39975 lakhs																			
5.	Wildlife:	<p>Major wild animals found in and around the area include Leopard, Sloth Bear, Four-horned antelope, Jackal, Hare, Wild pig, Pangolin, Monitor lizard, Grey partridge, Peafowl, etc.</p> <p>There are no other rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna reported in the area.</p> <p>The proposed area does not form part of or located within one kilometer of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve,</p>																			

		<p>Elephant Corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.</p> <p>The proposed area is not located within ESZ of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife(Protection) Act, 1972. The area is 15.50 km away from the Daroji Bear Sanctuary and 14.11 km away from its ESZ. It is 19.50 km away from the Gudekote Bear Sanctuary and 14.38 km away from its ESZ.</p>
6.	Vegetation:	<p>The proposed area is in the general landscape of Eco-Class-III with a canopy density of 10% (Open forest).</p> <p>There are 26,099 trees in 31 cm and above girth classes. Major tree species include <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>, <i>Anogiessus latifolia</i>, <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>, <i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>, <i>Acacia catechu</i>, <i>Bassia longifolia</i>, <i>Tectona grandis</i>, <i>Dalbergia paniculata</i>, <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>, <i>Boswellia serrata</i>, <i>Hardwickia binnata</i>, <i>Stereospermum chelonoides</i>, <i>Cassia fistula</i>, <i>Azdirachta indica</i>, <i>Santalum album</i>, <i>Embllica officinalis</i>, <i>Grewia tiliaefolia</i>, etc.</p>
7.	Background note on the proposal:	<p>NMDC consists of two Iron ore Mines in Sandur, Bellary namely Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (DIOM) with Mine Lease no 2396 &amp; Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (KIOM) with Mine Lease no 1111. Both the mines have approved production capacity of 7 MTPA each. At present for beneficiation of iron ore, one screening plant (SP-I) of 7 MTPA capacity that was established 40 years ago is functioning in the area adjacent to DIOM. A tailing dam was also established adjacent to SP-I.</p> <p>At present there is no dedicated screening Plant for KIOM to process the iron ore, when DIOM was temporarily closed then Iron Ore from KIOM was being processed at the SP-I of DIOM as per permission of the CEC.</p> <p>Since DIOM is also operational and existing SP-I is under capacity to serve</p>

		<p>both the DIOM and KIOM. CEC has given limited approval for transport of crushed iron ore (3.5 MTPA) from KIOM crushing plant to SP-I at Donimalai through overhead belt conveyor remaining 4 to 5 MTPA Iron ore is transported through trucks from KIOM Mines.</p> <p>The proposed Screening Plant (SP-II) of 10MPTA capacity and two tailing ponds is to cater the need of mineral beneficiation mainly KIOM and to an extent of DIOM also.</p>
8.	Compensatory afforestation:	<p>User Agency has identified Non-forest Govt. C&amp;D land of 56.572 ha in Sy.No.295 of Appenhalli village and 19.348 ha in Sy.No.432 of Kasapura village, Gudekote Hobli, Kudligi Taluk, Ballari District. The identified CA land is a part of the a large extent of Non-forest Govt. C&amp;D land, about 450 ha identified by the user agency to meet out the CA land requirement for various FC proposals of the user agency, which are already in pipeline</p> <p>The CA land identified for this proposal is having boulders and rocky outcrop and it is not suitable for raising the plantation. In the site suitability certificate issued by the RFO, Gudekote Range it is mentioned that out of the total area, about 4 to 5 ha is suitable for planting but during the field inspection of the CA land it was noticed that the entire identified for CA is not suitable for raising the plantation. Thus it is necessary to identify the degraded forest land where the planting can be done with at least 1000 plants per hectare as per the existing rules and guidelines</p> <p>The two identified bits are important only from the wildlife point of view as they are adjacent to the Gudekote Bear sanctuary. These areas are in contiguity to the sanctuary boundary and can serve as buffer of the Bear sanctuary.</p>

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:	NIL
	Details and financial allocation:	
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	NIL
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:984.88 (as worked out by the user agency)
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	Recommended by state Government
15.	Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests along with detailed reasons:	Enclosed separately
16.	Regional Chief Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Enclosed separately
17.	Utility of the Project:	The proposed project is for setting up of Screening Plant (SP-II) of 10MPTA and two tailing ponds to cater the need of mineral beneficiation mainly Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mines and to an extent of Domimali Iron Ore Mines also.
18.	Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:	NO

19.	Situation w.r.t. any P.A.	<p>The proposed forest land is not part of any Protected area. The proposed forest land is about 15.5 km away from the Daroji Bear Sanctuary and about 19.5 km away from Gudekote Bear Sanctuary.</p>
20.	Any other information relating to the Project:	<p>The forest area with an extent of 75.92 ha that is proposed for diversion is located outside the mining lease area of DIOM. During the field visit, the officials of the user agency informed that the screening plant I (SP I) that is functioning at present near DIOM is having facility for dry screening as well as wet screening. Whenever there is short supply of water, only dry screening will be done. At present only dry screening is being carried out in SP I and the tailing dam associated with SP I is not put to use. The officials of the user agency further informed that setting up of SP II near the existing SP I will be helpful in efficient use of the already existing infrastructure for beneficiation of ore.</p> <p>It was seen that for dry screening process, setting up tailing dam is not essential. Tailing dam is necessary only if the wet screening is followed. The slimes generated during the process of wet screening are diverted to the tailing dam adjacent to Screening Plant.</p> <p>Since the user agency is facing shortage of water to carry out wet screening in the existing SP I it is not very clear how the user agency will manage to ensure regular supply of water for functioning of the new plant SP II</p> <p>The user agency has proposed for establishment of two tailing dams for SP II. Out of 75.92 ha are proposed for diversion, major chunk 66 ha of area is for establishment of Tailing dams. If the SP II functions with dry screening, the need for establishment of tailing dam will not arise. Further already there is tailing</p>

		dam associated with SP I currently which is not in use, the user agency may put to use the existing tailing dam for diversion of slimes generated during the process of wet screening in SP II. By this way the user agency may think on bringing down the area proposed for diversion.
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*B.K.M.A.*

Signature

Name and Designation  
of Inspecting Officer:

B.N. ANJAN KUMAR

AI GF (C)

Date of Inspection:

17/08/2021