

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003

Dated: 4th December, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Mahanadi Bhavan,
New Raipur (CG).

Sub: Diversion of 1898.328. ha in two phases of forest land for Parsa East and Kete Basan captive coal block open cast mining project in favour of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Limited in South Surguja Forest Division in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter No. RVUN/CE (Fuel)/SE(Fuel-II)/D. 1732 dated 9.09.2020 (copy enclosed) on the above subject received from Shri A. K. Agarwal, Superintending Engineer, (Fuel) RVUN, Jaipur requesting MoEF&CC to amend the condition no 8 of the approval dated 15.03.2012 granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to allow working over 1031.845 ha of forest land instead of 762 ha of forest land i.e. an additional forest land of 269.845 ha has been proposed to be worked by the User Agency during phase-I of their mining operations.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit their considered opinion/ comments on the letter dated 9.09.2020 of the User agency to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Surender Mehra)
Dy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Aranya Bhavan, Sector 19, North Block, New Raipur- 492002 Chhattisgarh.
2. Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Naya Raipur
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Jail Road, Aranya Bhavan, Raipur.
4. Guard file



No. RVUN/CE (Fuel)/SE(Fuel-II)/D. 1732

Dated: 09.09.2020

Director General of Forests and Special Secretary (DGF&SS),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC),
Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
JorBagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Sub:- Amendment of forest land area for Phase I operation of Parsa East & Kanta Basan Coal Block opencast mining project of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) in South Surguja Forest Division in Surguja District of Chhattisgarh, to meet increased production capacity from 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA for 15 years mine life-reg.

Ref:-

- 1) Stage-II Forest Clearance granted by MoEF&CC vide letter F. No. 8-31/2010-FC dated 15th March 2012
- 2) Environment Clearance granted for 10 MTPA by MoEF&CC vide letter F. No. J-11015/03/2008-IA-II(M) dated 21st Dec 2011, revised Environment Clearance for 15 MTPA granted vide letter no J-11015/03/2008-IA-II (M) dated 10th Aug 2018.

Dear Sir,

Please refer condition no. 8 of the Stage-II Forest Clearance dated 15th March 2012 of the project reproduced below-

"8. The mining shall be done in two phases;

- i. During phase I, covering 15 years, the mining shall be restricted to 762.00 ha of forest land
- ii. During phase-II, the mining permission over remaining 1136.00 ha will be linked to the reforestation and biodiversity management in phase-I,
- iii. The project proponent will submit the application for permission for mining in phase-II along with compliance report of phase-I."

In compliance to the above condition, we would like to bring to your kind notice the following facts:

Total forest land within Phase-1 is 762 Ha, out of which only 95 442 Ha land is balance for possession and coal production.

- a) Total coal production as per mining plan was 137 MT for 15 years of mine operation considering annual capacity of 10 MTPA. This 137 MT of coal was to be produced During phase I, covering 15 years, the mining shall be restricted to 762 00 ha of forest land as per condition 8(i) of FC letter.
- b) The mine has produced 61.10MT of coal till 31st July 2020 and 20.91MT of mineable reserve is available beyond July 2020 up to the Phase I boundary aggregating to mineable 82.01 MT within Phase I boundary. Considering annual mine capacity of 10 MTPA, reserves within phase I boundary would exhaust in 2023-24.

Production capacity from the Mine has been enhanced from 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA as per direction of Ministry of Coal and as per revised EC dated 10th August 2018 The mine is presently producing at the rate of 15 MTPA from FY 2018-19. Considering annual mine production of 15 MTPA from 2018-19 onwards, reserves within phase I boundary would now exhaust by mid of 2021-22.

The prime reasons for exhaustion of reserve in mid of year 2021-22 of mine operation are:-

- Enhanced coal production from 10 MTPA to 15 MTPA as per revised mining plan & approved EC.
- Reserve calculated within phase-I forest land (i.e. for 15 years of mining operation) is not available to produce coal even at the rate of 10 MTPA production capacity, as

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earlier reserve calculation of 137 MT had missed some important safety factors for advancing mine slope and reserve was calculated without considering reserve locked in working benches of the mine keeping safe degree of bench slopes. Thus, reducing the actual mineable reserve from phase-I forest land to 82.01 MT resulting in early exhaustion of phase-I reserve. The reserve blocked in working benches of the Mine is 54.99 MT out of the total reserve of 137 MT of Phase I within restricted boundary of 762 ha. of Forest Land to operate mine safely and in compliance of DGMS regulations.

Further, the biological and physical reclamation measures have been undertaken in the Phase-I Forest land as well as non-forest land. Till 31st July 2020, 1093.233 ha of land including 666.558 ha of forest land have been broken for infrastructure and mining out of total 1188 675 ha of phase-I land. Till 31st July 2020, 192.50 Ha of phase-I land has been physically reclaimed in de-coaled area and 245.2ha (including 108.6Ha of External Dump, 112.4 Ha of Internal Dump & 24.2 Ha of infrastructure, safety zone and other areas) of land has been biologically reclaimed. Till 31st July 2020, about 6,09,261 nos. of native variety of trees have been planted and 8145 no of trees have been transplanted using mechanical transplanter over reclaimed land and infrastructure area.

In view of the above & in order to continue uninterrupted coal supply to linked Thermal Power Plants of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd i.e. Kalisindh-Unit 1 & 2 (2x600 MW), Chhabra-Unit 3 & 4 (2x250 MW) and Unit 5 & 6 (2x660 MW) and Suratgarh-Unit 7 & 8 (2x660) phase-II, further forest land is required to be expanded for phase I mine operation to achieve 137 MT reserve that was planned for Phase-I mining operation. The additional Forest land requirement of phase I operation comes to 269.845 ha. A detail of additional Forest land required is given in Mine Plan plate no PEKB/20-21/2, dated 06.08.2020 (copy attached).


Request:

Your kind attention is required for consideration of our appeal for amendment to Forest Clearance Stage II letter vide letter no - F. No. 8-31/2010-FC dated 15th March 2012 to modify the phase I Forest land to 1031.845 ha from 762 ha. to ensure un-interrupted running of the mine till extraction of 137 MT of coal as per stage II FC approval. It may be noted that this will ensure uninterrupted fuel supply to our plants. The phase II forest land may proportionately be reduced. This will also help in better and scientific mining and will help us to continue biological reclamation measures in mining area.

This is submitted for your kind information & necessary action.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

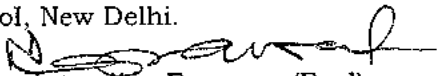

(A.K. Agrawal) 9/9/2020

Superintending Engineer (Fuel)
RVUN, Jaipur

Encl:- Annexure I – Mine Plate showing the new forest land required for phase-I Mining operation of PEKB Mine.

Copy to :

- 1) Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India, New Delhi,
- 2) Jt. Secretary and Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Gol, New Delhi.


Superintending Engineer (Fuel)