

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 24-02-2025

Office Memorandum

Sub: Compliance of the conditions imposed in the 'in-principle' approval letter for the following proposals "Guali Iron Ore mines (Area 194.683 ha), Kalmang West (Northern Part) (Area 42.608 ha) and "Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha)"

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to inform that a meeting was held on 19.02.2025 at 4:00 PM. As per the discussion held in the said meeting a copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached herewith for further necessary action.

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

To,

1. Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Odisha.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Environment and Forest, Govt. of Odisha.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer, Department of Environment and Forest, Govt. of Odisha.
4. DDGF (C) Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
5. User Agency.

Copy to:

1. PSO to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
2. PPS to ADGF-FC/PS to IGF-FC.
3. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF& CC, New Delhi.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 19.02.2025 at 4:00 PM with Nodal Officer,
Govt. of Odisha and Regional Office Bhubaneswar**

A meeting in virtual mode was held on 19.02.2025 at 4PM with regard to the compliance report submitted by the State with respect to the conditions imposed in the 'in-principle' approval letter for the proposals namely "Guali Iron Ore mines (Area 194.683 ha), Kalmang West (Northern Part) (Area 42.608 ha) and "Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha). The meeting was attended by the following officers:

1. Dr. R. K. Murugesan, Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha.
2. Dr. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar.
3. Sh. Suneet Bhardwaj, AIGF(FC), MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

The AIGF (FC) welcomed all participants and gave a brief description of the issues involved, which are as follows:

1. The Ministry has accorded 'in-principle' approval in following five proposals based upon the recommendations of the AC in its meeting held on 29.11.2023:
 - a. *Netrabandha Pahar iron Ore Block (area 112.621 ha,*
 - b. *Netrabandha Pahar (West) area 66.242 ha),*
 - c. *Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha),*
 - d. *Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines Iron Ore Block (Area 42.608 ha) and*
 - e. *Guali Opencast Iron Ore Mines (area 194.683 ha)]*
2. While granting the 'in-principle' approval certain specific conditions in all five proposals have been imposed.
3. The State Govt. has submitted the compliance report in 3 proposals out of 5 [i.e. proposals mentioned at S. No. c, d & e].
4. After the examination of the compliance report, it has been observed that with respect to the compliance of the condition regrading "*A holistic transportation plan shall be prepared by the State Govt. aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The same shall be implemented. Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyor belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner*", the reply of the State is different in all three proposals.

While in one case i.e. *Kalmang West (Northern Part)* the State has informed that the transportation will be through slurry pipeline, in another proposal (F. No. 8-02/2023-FC) it has been mentioned that *the preparation of a holistic transportation plan by the State is under active consideration and it will take some time for its completion. In the third proposal [File No. 8-96/1996-FC(PT.-I)] the State Govt. has informed that: M/s OMC Ltd. shall render possible support to the State*

Government for preparation of a holistic transportation plan with a view to gradually reduce the transportation load on road.

It was observed that a comprehensive transportation plan keeping in view all the mines is required to be prepared. In this regard the Nodal Officer Odisha informed that a meeting of all stakeholders will be convened and the holistic transportation plan as per the stipulated condition in the approval letters shall be prepared within a period of fifteen days.

5. With regard to the compliance of the condition regarding "A Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for this entire landscape shall also be prepared by the State Govt at the cost of UA", the State Government has informed that: the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal has been entrusted for preparation of Bio-Diversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape of Netrabandh Pahar in respect of 5 mines including Kalmang West (Northern Part) of Iron ore mines of M/s Tata Steel BSL Ltd. Accordingly, the user agency has paid the proportionate cost of i.e. ₹2,38,668/- towards 50% of total cost for preparation of aforesaid Bio-diversity Conservation Plan. The scientist of Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal have visited the site for above purpose. The preparation of Biodiversity Conservation Plan is under progress. Similarly in the other two proposals the UAs have also deposited their proportionate amount. However, the Biodiversity Conservation plan has not been prepared till date.
6. The Nodal Officer Odisha informed that the IIFM would require another three months(approx.) for the preparation of said plan.
7. It was also observed that one of the specific condition in the approvals is that "*Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site / species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions*". In this regard the state has to ensure that the plan is prepared as per the stipulated condition.
8. With respect to the nomination of the members for the Oversight Committee, the DIGF, RO Bhubneshwar informed that all the nominations have been received except from IIFM Bhopal. The matter is being pursued with the IIFM for an early action.
9. Keeping all aspects in view, the following has been decided in the meeting:
 - i. *The State govt. shall convene a meeting with all stakeholders and a holistic transportation plan will be submitted as per the conditions of approval within a period of fifteen days.*
 - ii. *The state shall pursue and take up the matter with IIFM Bhopal for expediting the preparation of the biodiversity conservation plan.*
 - iii. *The State Govt. shall ensure that the Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan is prepared as per the stipulated conditions in the Stage-1 approval and ensure the inclusion of site / species specific*

wildlife sub plans/prescriptions.

- iv. *The State shall ensure to submit the complete compliance report of the stipulated conditions in the Stage-1 approval letters so that the proposals can be further considered for the Stage-II/Final approval.*
- v. *The Regional Office Bhubaneswar shall pursue the matter with IIFM Bhopal for the nomination of its representative for the Oversight Committee.*

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all participants.
