

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

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

Dated: 27th February, 2023

To

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. for non-forestry use of 125.24 ha of forest land for Subhadra OCP Coal mining under Forest Division and District Angul of Odisha State- reg. (online proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/150133/2021)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's online proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/150133/2021 dated 04.02.2023 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and inform that the following shortcomings have been observed in the proposal:

- i. The State Govt has not uploaded its forwarding / recommendation letter on PARIVESH portal which is required to be done.
- ii. As per SIR submitted by DFO (Angul), Elephant movement has been recorded in and around the proposed area for diversion in the past years. Furthermore, it is also mentioned in the report that man-elephant conflict has increased in the area of Angul Division due to increased mining activities. The comments and recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden in this regard shall be submitted.
- iii. The mine closure plan submitted with the proposal gives the detail of land use (post closure). As per the said mine closure plan, the Forest land to be returned post closure has been shown as nil which needs justification.
- iv. The concerned DFO in his Site inspection report has mentioned that the Mine lease is bound by Singada stream in the North and Ghoradia nala passes through the mine lease boundary. Singada Jhor stream particularly has large catchment area. The State Govt shall examine the matter and submit the detail of safeguards proposed/ plan to prevent adverse impact of mining on the water bodies.
- v. As per DSS analysis of the KML file submitted with the proposal, the area of the entire mining lease is 1098.16 ha, whereas the area of the lease as per the mining plan is 1111.85 ha. This needs justification and submission/uploading of correct kml file.
- vi. The CA has been proposed on equivalent non-forest land therefore the details of proposed NFL are required to be uploaded in Part-I under column L, instead of Part-II of the application form.
- vii. Mining plan has been approved for 36 years. However, the UA has submitted the proposal of diversion for a period of 30 years as mentioned under column A-1 (x)

of the online application form. The same may be clarified.

- viii. A legible copy of the DGPS maps of the forest land proposed for diversion is required to be submitted.
- ix. KML file of land use (component wise breakup) including safety zone is not available on PARIVESH. The same shall be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.
- x. The State Govt shall submit the detail of the other mining leases of the User Agency in close proximity to the area proposed for diversion.

In view of the above, the Government of Odisha, is requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. DDGF (Central), Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division
6. Guard file