

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 9th March, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of balance 13.00 ha forest land out of 169.1779 ha of forest land in favour of M/s NALCO for Utkal 'E' Opencast Coal Mining Project in Angul District, Odisha-reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0049-2021-3122/FE&CC dated 20.02.2023 on the above subject forwarding information as sought vide Ministry's letter dated 16.01.2023 and to say the after examination of proposal following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The State Government has now informed that as per the approved combined Mining Plan of Utkal-D & E land use has been changed. However, the comparative analysis of the land use approved earlier in case of the above two mines and the land use proposed as per combined mining plan has not been submitted.
- ii. KML file indicating the land use as per the combined mining plan and land use as per individual mining plans of Utkal-D&E is also not available, which is required to be provided.
- iii. The State has now submitted that the mining plan of Utkal-D has been combined with Utkal-E, therefore, the Status of diversion of forest land and the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions in Utkal-D Coal Mine project shall also be provided in view of above.
- iv. As per information received from State govt, the approval for diversion of forest land in case of safety zone has been separately obtained. Therefore, the Status of compliance of conditions for diversion of forest land separately approved for the safety zone is also required.
- v. State Government shall also provide that the details of Forest Clearance for diversion of 11.696 ha of forest land for safety zone maintenance located in Utkal-E Coal mining project.
- vi. It is pertinent to mention that earlier 13.00 ha area was proposed for development of infrastructure facility which was not allowed while granting the permission and now it is being proposed for the dumping of overburden

which is again a non-site specific activity. State Government may furnish justification/comments in this regard.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish complete information/ documents/ comments as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- ii. DDGF (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- iii. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- iv. User Agency.
- v. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.