

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**  
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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan**  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
**Dated:13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

To

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.


**Subject: Proposal to obtain approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Uranium and Minerals for drilling of 300 boreholes with 4" diameter in an area of 1650 hectare in Baitul District Madhya Pradesh, in favour of Atomic Minerals Directorate Department of Atomic Energy Government of India, Nagpur (Online No. FP/MP/MRL/9/2017) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,


I am directed to refer to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Land Management) and the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/MP/MRL/9/2017/10-11/3756 dated 21.12.2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section – 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid act. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and with due approval of the Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change *Stage-I/ In-principle* approval for the above mentioned proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 15.10.2019, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh's vide letter No. F-1/MP/MRL/9/2017/1171 dated 30.03.2022, '**Final/Stage-II approval**' of the Central Government is hereby accorded under Section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Uranium and Minerals for drilling of 300 boreholes with 4" diameter in an area of 1650 hectare in Betul District Madhya Pradesh, in favour of Atomic Minerals Directorate Department of Atomic Energy Government of India, Nagpur, subject to the fulfilment of following conditions:

- i. State Government shall ensure that the User Agency be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 300 bore holes of 04" diameter on 1650.00 ha. of forest land;
- ii. The user agency shall submit the complete plan of operation in accordance with the condition no.6.8 (V)(h) of the Handbook of guidelines issued on 28.03.2019;
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall complete the exploration work within two (2) years;
- iv. The prior approval of Govt. of India under Section 2 of FC Act, 1980 for prospecting in this forest area under consideration is only for resource assessment and mapping

  
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- and does not confer in any manner any right to the State Government to divert such forest land under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining purpose in future in favour of this user agency or any other mining company on the plea that forest clearance for prospecting has been granted;
- v. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall seek permission of concerned Divisional Forest Officer before entering into the forest area and borehole shall be dug with prior permission of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and also furnish detailed report thereof on completion of the project;
  - vi. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall made proper plugging of borehole after exploration activities are complete to the satisfaction of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
  - vii. The State Government shall ensure that no tree felling shall be undertaken for exploration activities. Project activities shall be restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches if any for the purpose of site preparation;
  - viii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no other construction activities (temporary or permanent) shall be done by the user agency on forest land;
  - ix. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding. Any damage done in this regard shall be compensated by the user agency from the project cost as per assessment of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
  - x. The State Government shall ensure that no new road shall be constructed by the user agency for transporting prospecting tools and machines. The user agency may use the existing forest road/ path with prior information to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The area used for path during the prospecting work shall be restored to its original status of forest after completion of prospecting work;
  - xi. The State Government shall ensure that no other construction activities shall be done by the user agency on forest land. Existing path and roads only will be used by the user agency for the purpose of prospecting activities and drilling of bore holes will be limited to 300 no. with diameter of 04" within forest land will be dug;
  - xii. The State Government shall ensure that any change in the diameter of borehole and number of bore holes will be reported to the concerned Regional Office in advance for consideration and recommendations to the Central Government;
  - xiii. The State Government shall ensure that adequate measures shall be taken by the user agency to ensure that prospecting activities do not harm the wildlife in the area. Any damage done in this context, shall be compensated by the user agency as per assessment, by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
  - xiv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no work shall be allowed after sunset;
  - xv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that the samples collected during the prospecting shall be used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce purpose
  - xvi. The State Government shall ensure that to minimize disturbance to the wildlife, user agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department;
  - xvii. Prospecting activities within the ML area shall be subject to having valid lease and other statutory clearances;
  - xviii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall not sub-lease the

  
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- exploration work;
- xix. In case, rights over forest land proposed to be used for prospecting purpose, has already been settled in favour of eligible claimants as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the claimants shall either be compensated appropriately or location of boreholes be suitably re-located;
- xx. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no fire will be kindled inside and in the vicinity of the forest area;
- xxi. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall provide a list of authorized officials/workers engaged in exploration to the forest department before commencing the work and also provide the Identity Cards/ Documents to each such official/ worker, to be produced when demanded by the forest department;
- xxii. In case of violations of conditions by the user agency, the permission for prospecting of minerals shall be suspended by the DFO concerned and enquired by the Nodal officer (FCA) of the State Government and report shall be submitted to the Regional office for appropriate action;
- xxiii. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxiv. The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, guidelines, NGT order & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
- xxv. This permission shall, in no way, confer any rights to the project proponents or any other agency for grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for any other non-forestry use of the said forest land.

Yours sincerely

  
(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

