



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office  
पता: द्वितीय तल, झारखण्ड राज्य आवास बोर्ड मुख्यालय, हरमू चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड - 834002  
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मिसिल संख्या:FP/JH/MIN/59823/2020/1252

दिनांक 12.07.2023

सेवा में,

सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक, एफ.सी. डिवीजन  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन अलीगंज  
जोरबाग रोड नई दिल्ली-110003

विषय: मिसिल संख्या:FP/JH/MIN/59823/2020; मेसर्स नेवेली उत्तर प्रदेश पावर लिमिटेड के पचवारा दक्षिण कोयला खदान परियोजना हेतु 455.1108 हेक्टेयर वनभूमि प्रत्यावर्तन प्रस्ताव, के सम्बन्ध में वांछित स्थल निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने बाबत

सन्दर्भ: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के पत्र संख्या. 8-37/2022- एफ. सी. दिनांक 14.01.2023

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत श्रीमान् के संदर्भित पत्र के आलोक में परियोजना से संबंधित वांछित स्थल निरीक्षण क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय राँची द्वारा दिनांक 14-16 जून 2023 को किया जाकर तैयार प्रतिवेदन को विभागाध्यक्ष के अनुमोदनोपरांत उनकी संस्तुति के साथ संलग्न प्रेषित किया जा रहा है।

संलग्न: यथा उक्त

भवदीय

Signed by Shashi Shankar Pathak

Date: 12-07-2023 17:51:10

Reason: Approved

(शशि शंकर)

सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, राँची

## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT**

### **Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of 455.1108 ha. of forest land for Pachwara South Open Cast Coal Mines project in favour of M/s Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL) in Dumka district of Jharkhand.**

An FC Proposal (No. FP/JH/MIN/59823/2020) for diversion of 455.1108 Ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Mine Project is under consideration at ministry (MoEF&CC). Ministry vide its letter dated 14/1/2023 requested this office (IRO Ranchi) to inspect the area proposed for diversion, the CA land proposed against this diversion and to submit a Site Inspection Report (SIR) in accordance to the FC Rules 2003.

Accordingly, this office undertook Site Inspection visit during 14-16 June 2023 to inspect the proposed diversion site and the proposed CA areas.

The concerned DFO along with his team and user agency representatives were present during the visit.

The present proposal is mooted by Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd (NUPPL) for diversion of 455.1108 Ha of forest land in the Dumka Forest Division/District in the State of Jharkhand. The proposal is for coal and lignite captive mining for its 6X660MW power plant at Ghatampur (UP).

This Pachwara South Coal Mine Project is adjacent to Pachwara North & Pachwara Central Project which are already in advance stage of operation.

The total lease area of this proposed project is 714.8553 Ha which comprises of 455.1108 Ha forest area and 259.7445 Ha of non-forest area in the lease.

The entire forest area in the lease is applied for diversion which include Notified & delineated forest (RF) of ~324 Ha and Damin-I-koh (Notified under S-4 of IFA) of ~131 Ha.

They are situated in three villages involved in the proposal namely - Chirudih, Kundapahari and Mahuldabar. The lease area along with forest and non-forest areas within are shown in the following representative imagery (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Aerial view of the proposed area (Google Earth Imagery, dated: 19.02.2022)

During visit it was observed that the forest area in the lease is marked by Pillars and no work has started in violation. The region supports good patches of mixed forest dominated with Sal with fairly good regeneration and vegetative density. Considerable amount of fruit bearing plants too are found present in the region. That is why even if it does not form part of any protected area, it has rich biodiversity. Forest officials present there apprised that the region is frequently visited by nomadic elephant herds (recently a herd of 29 elephants stayed in the vicinity for a considerable period of time) and rich avian fauna thrive in the area. The vegetation index is ocularly estimated around 0.7. There are around 92000 trees in the proposed area that are going to be affected by the project. When enquired about possible translocation, U/A & SFD officials informed that no such plan is conceived yet, but they agreed that translocation of few trees should be tried.



Although most of the area is contiguous forest patches but few isolated and discrete habitations are also observed. U/A apprised that RR plan is in its preparation phase and everyone /residing in the area shall be adequately compensated /relocated. U/A also apprised that around 1288 permanent employment is likely to be generated from the project and a huge proportion of it

shall be from the locals. Similarly, FRA proceedings too are in progress. DFO present was requested to examine the RR plan to ensure that relocation does not jeopardize other forest areas in the vicinity.

The lease area is characterized by two important aspects of concern. Firstly, there exists a pucca road running from east to west from the almost middle of the lease area. SFD officials told this to be an old road acting like a life line for the local villages for imparting mutual connectivity (Fig. 2). With the project coming up in the area this road may be required to be appropriately shifted. Secondly, the entire lease is situated southwards to the bank of river Bansloi. In fact, around six kilometers of northern periphery of the lease almost coincides with the river bank. The river bank is severely prone to erosion with few visible rills and gullies already present during the time of inspection. The situation is depicted in the following photographs/imageries:

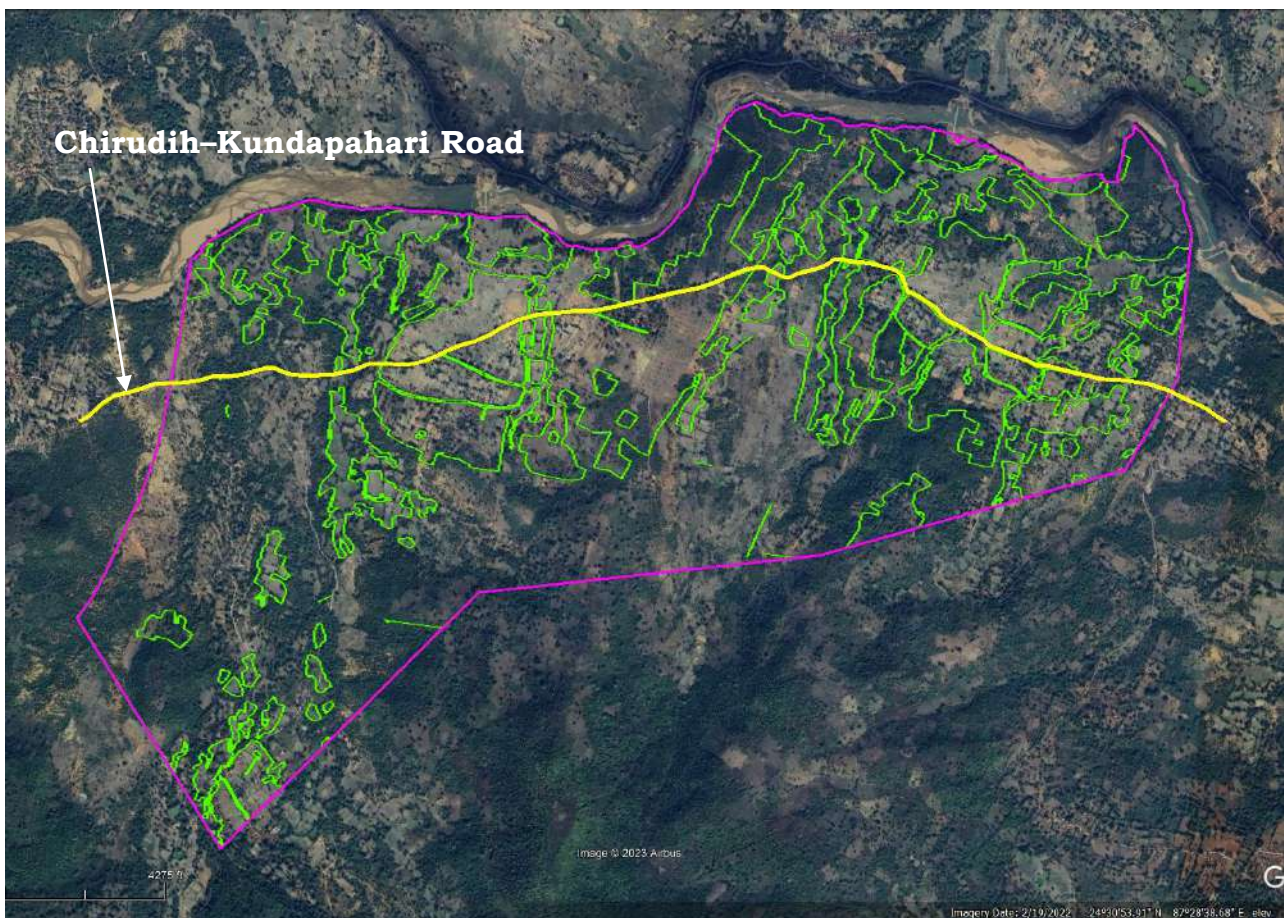


Fig. 2: A synoptic view of proposed area and existing road.



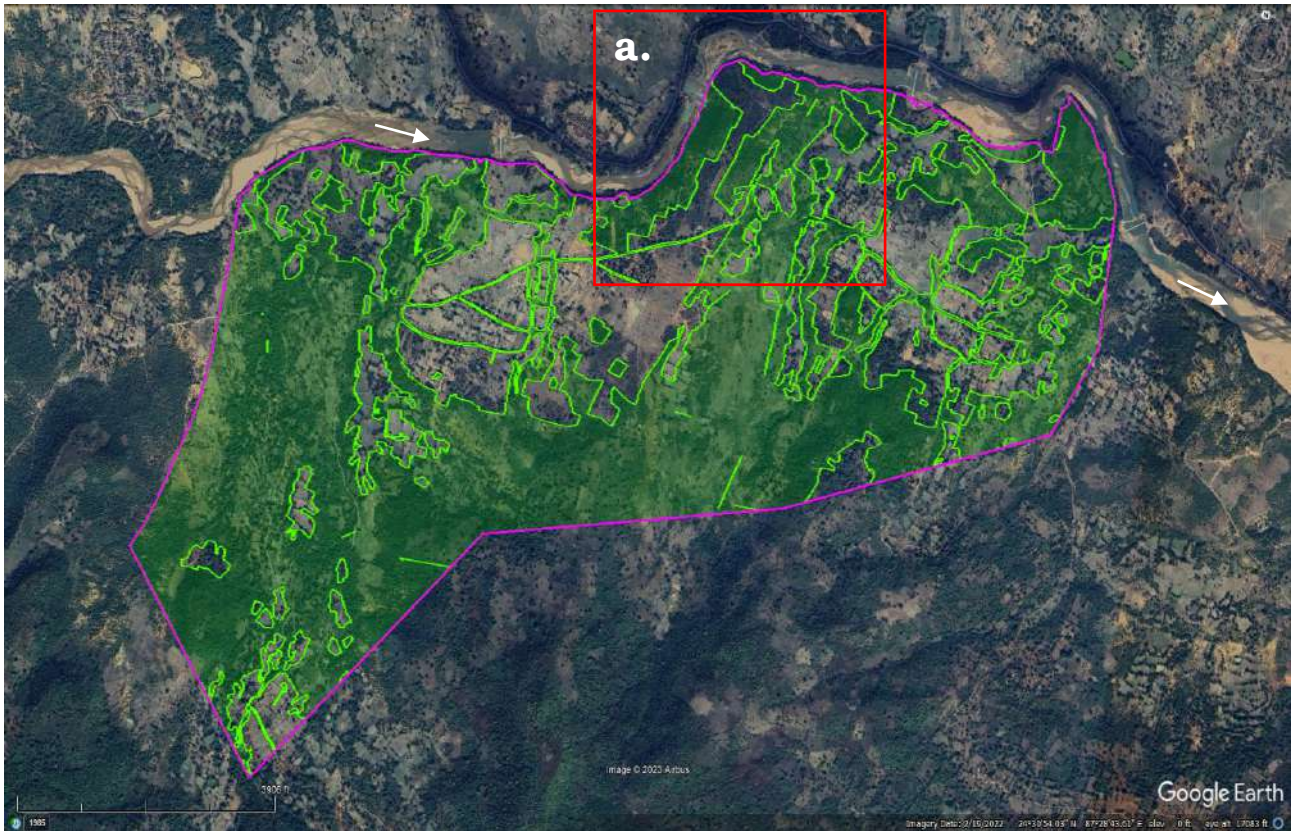


Fig. 3: A synoptic view of proposed area and forest land beside the river.



The U/A informed that they have planned an embankment all along the river bank to ensure that the river remains undisturbed due to mining to the maximum possible extent. The top of the embankment (30 m wide) would serve as the alternate of the road that is coming in the middle of the lease. Thus the embankment would serve the dual purpose of river protection as well as the road shifting. The inspecting team asked user agency to present the design of the planned embankment upon which U/A informed that the final design is yet not complete. When enquired about the provision of green belt between the embankment and the river, the U/A informed that the existing vegetation shall be left undisturbed for the purpose. DFO present was requested to demark atleast 50 meters wide green belt along the river to protect it from silting and other impacts of prospective mining. A detailed CAT plan for river Bansloi hence should be an integral part of the entire project.

During the visit to the forest area it was seen that various Rat-holes existed in the area. When enquired about, the forest officials apprised that since coal beds are at fairly shallow depth in the area, those were illegal mining holes through which illegal underground mining is performed. Prevention of this illegal mining in the forest area is one major component of forest department's diurnal activity. Such illicit and unscientific activity not only causes loss to the national natural resources but also to priceless human lives at times.





While explaining the proposal's various components conceived in forest areas, user agency informed that no forest area is solicited for non-site specific activity. Few necessary infrastructure ancillaries to mining activities are only conceived in forest area. No permanent dumping shall be done in forest area and excavated pits shall be backfilled as per mine closure plan. Only around 66 Ha of area in forest shall be left not backfilled so that they act as water storage reservoirs for the flora and fauna of the region. The coal transportation is planned through conveyors to the railway siding which is coming up in vicinity to serve all the three Leases-Pachwara North, Central and South. User agency informed that for railway siding or conveyor belt no further forest land will be needed in this proposal.









Since the area is coal bearing as well as ecologically fragile and yet infested with illicit mining, therefore sufficient amount of mitigative measures should be in place before the land is considered to be released for the proposed purpose.

Therefore, a Comprehensive Bansloi River Catchment Area Treatment Plan which should include Soil & moisture conservation measures in the watershed to ensure water security as well as eco-restoration during & post project period may be considered as part of the proposed project. Similarly, a comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan well before commencement of mining operations which should have provision for continuous study to decide about the impact of mining on biodiversity indices of the region during project period should also be an indispensable part of the project.

**Observations on the CA area:**

The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) against the above proposals is proposed on around 967.053 ha. of Degraded Forest Land (DFL) in Deoghar, Dumka and Sahibganj, districts. Since NUPPL is a joint venture company of Central and State PSUs, DFL acceptance may be further comprehended which is beyond the scope of this SIR. The entire CA land is comprised in 29 (28 + 1 new additional CA, Pusaro) discrete patches located in various forest blocks of different Mauzas (Villages). This reports is based on observation and interaction with officials of UA/concerned state authorities and GIS analysis of the areas, the brief of them are listed below:

1. It is found that proposed CA land is more or less suitable for plantation but encroachment (small village, water body, Old plantation etc.) has been observed in some given CA land patches. Details of encroach CA land are as follows:

Sl. No.	Village Name	District	Area in ha.	Remarks/ Observation	
1	Karkutto	Sahibganj	54.185	-	
2	Hathmari		7.135	-	
3	Jamri Pahar		58.088	Few Encroachment - kuccha/pakka houses	
4	Amarpur	Dumka	12.165	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
5	Babu Kadali 2		42.462	-	
6	Babuganj & Nagal Vanga		49.314	-	
7	Dhobna Ghati		21.267	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
8	Gara Pathar 1		7.685	Few Encroachment - kuccha/pakka houses	
9	Gara Pathar		5.759	-	
10	Gardi Saharpur		15.170	-	
11	Haroraidi		26.009	-	
12	Karmaton & Mahalpahari		33.059	-	
13	Lakrabinda 1		19.163	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
14	Lakrabinda 2a		7.644	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
15	Lakrabinda 2b		8.789	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
16	Murgaboni		17.579	-	
17	Nandankup		65.594	-	
18	Rajudihi		8.488	Agricultural land & Small Waterbody	
19	Pusaro (new additional patch)		8.712	Few Encroachment - pakka houses	
20	Ghatiyari		Deoghar	57.001	Agricultural land & Small Waterbody
21	Jamua			21.544	-
22	Kamdiha	49.982		Very Old Plantation appears on partial site	
23	Madhupur, Sukhbedia & Dorhi	155.594		Waterbody (approx.: 1.3 ha.)	
24	Nagpur	16.053		-	
25	Paharpur	62.952		-	

26	Phutabandh		54.219	-
27	Rampur		39.094	Agricultural land partially
28	Bhiyadih Gidhanda		20.401	Very Old Plantation appears on partial site
29	Chota Dhobna		21.946	Agricultural land partially

2. It is observed that there are some discrete CA polygons (kml/area) which contain an area below 5 ha. i.e Rampur, Nagpur, Ghatiyari.

Area less than 5 ha.	Village Name	Area in ha.
Below 01 ha. area	Rampur (Patch 3)	0.490
Below 03 ha. area	Nagpur (Plot No 57P)	2.723
	Ghatiyari	2.796
Below 05 ha. area	Rampur (Patch 5)	3.971

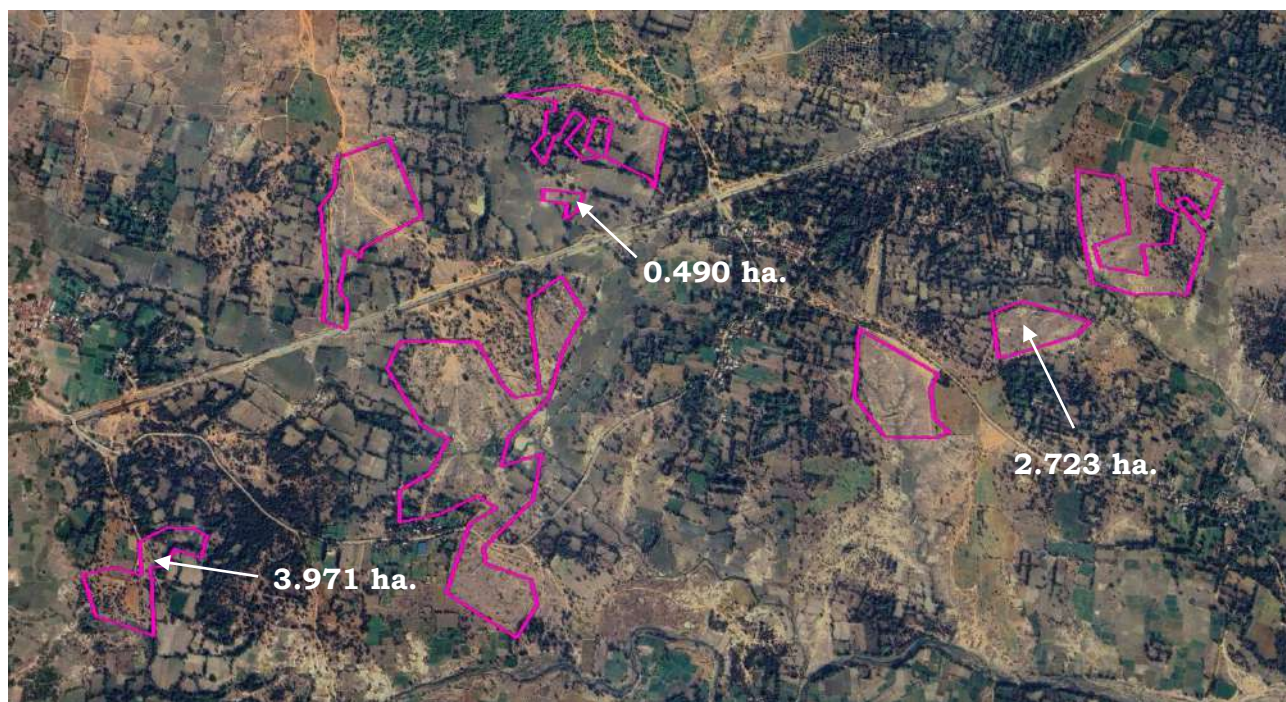


Fig. 3: A synoptic view of CA land, Rampur & Nagpur (Google Earth Imagery, Date:13.01.2023)



Fig. 4: A synoptic view of CA land, Ghatiyari (Google Earth Imagery, Date:13.01.2023)

**3. The details Forest cover information of CA land are as follows:**

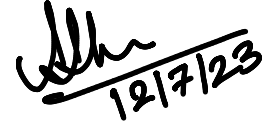
Forest cover information of CA land (area in hectare)

Name	MDF	OPEN FOREST	NON FOREST	SCRUB	WATER	Total area (ha.)
Karkutto	07.00	37.00	03.00	08.00	00.00	55.00
Hathmari	01.00	03.00	04.00	00.00	00.00	08.00
Jamri Pahar	00.00	32.00	27.00	00.00	00.00	59.00
Amarpur	00.00	01.00	11.00	00.00	00.00	12.00
Babu Kadali 2	00.00	00.00	42.00	00.00	00.00	42.00
Babuganj & Nagal Vanga	00.00	19.00	30.00	00.00	00.00	49.00
Dhobna Ghati	00.00	00.00	21.00	00.00	00.00	21.00
Gara Pathar 1	00.00	04.00	03.00	00.00	00.00	07.00
Gara Pathar	00.00	05.00	01.00	00.00	00.00	06.00
Gardi Saharpur	01.00	08.00	06.00	00.00	00.00	15.00
Haroraidi	00.00	01.00	25.00	00.00	00.00	26.00
Karmaton & Mahalpahari	07.00	06.00	20.00	00.00	00.00	33.00
Lakrabinda 1	00.00	06.00	13.00	00.00	00.00	19.00
Lakrabinda 2a	00.00	02.00	06.00	00.00	00.00	08.00
Lakrabinda 2b	00.00	00.00	09.00	00.00	00.00	09.00
Murgaboni	00.00	00.00	17.00	00.00	00.00	17.00
Nandankup	13.00	16.00	20.00	17.00	00.00	66.00
Rajudihi	00.00	00.00	08.00	00.00	00.00	08.00
Pusaro	00.00	00.00	09.00	00.00	00.00	09.00
Ghatiyari	00.00	01.00	57.00	00.00	00.00	58.00
Jamua	00.00	00.00	22.00	00.00	00.00	22.00
Kamdiha	00.00	05.00	45.00	00.00	00.00	50.00
Madhupur, Sukhbedia & Dorhi	00.00	13.00	143.00	00.00	00.00	156.00
Nagpur	00.00	00.00	10.00	06.00	00.00	16.00
Paharpur	00.00	18.00	45.00	00.00	00.00	63.00
Phutabandh	00.00	03.00	51.00	00.00	00.00	54.00
Rampur	00.00	00.00	39.00	00.00	00.00	39.00
Bhiyadih Gidhanda	00.00	01.00	20.00	00.00	00.00	21.00
Chota Dhobna	00.00	00.00	22.00	00.00	00.00	22.00
<b>Total area (ha.)</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>181.00</b>	<b>729.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>00.00</b>	<b>970.00</b>



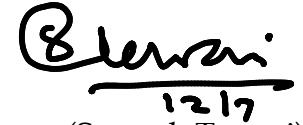
From the above, it is evident that even if all the proposed CA DFL is not free from encumbrances, yet DFO considers it an important opportunity to demarcate and protect/secure the forest areas. Therefore, if the forest land proposed for CA can be securely afforested and maintained by forest department (as claimed by the concerned DFO), the proposed CA DFL can be considered against the project.

The SIR is being put for appraisal of the proposal.



(Shashi Shankar)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

I agree with the report of the AIGF and recommend this site specific proposal with all the suggestion mentioned in this report for consideration as per provisions prescribed under the FC Act/Rules. Being forwarded to ministry for further action.



(Santosh Tewari)  
Dy. Director General of Forests  
IRO, Ranchi

**The following officials of state forest department and representatives from user agency were present during the inspection visit:**

- Sh. Satwik, DFO Dumka
  - Sh. Prabal Garg, IFS, Dumka FD
  - Sh. Basukinath Chaturvedi, Ranger, Dumka FD
  - Sh. Surajit Das, CGM, NUPPL
  - Sh. M D Yadav, Advisor, NUPPL
  - Sh. Joydeep Banerjee, Consultant, NUPPL
  - Sh. Saket Kashyap, Forest Guard, Dumka FD
  - Sh. Basukinath Chaturvedi, Forest Guard, Dumka FD
- And others.