

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 12.07 forest land for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project in Reserve Forest Compartment No. R-603 in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/8832/2014) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-3616/CR-01/F-10 dated 10.06.2021 on the above mentioned subject submitted to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Nagpur.

In this regard, it is to inform that the proposal is of mining category and as per the delegation of power under Rule 10 sub rule (2) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023, the proposal is now dealt in the Ministry as the matter forwarded by the Regional Office..

In this context while examination of the said proposal the following is observed :

- i. Copy of the approved mining plan along with progressive mine closure plan for the total lease area i.e. 1152.66 ha (out of which 1140.59 ha is non-forest and remaining 12.07 ha is forest land) is not available which needs submission.
- ii. As per the DSS analysis, KML file of complete project area i.e. 1156.66 ha and KML file of the safety zone has not been uploaded/ submitted. The same shall be provided.
- iii. The safety zone component is not listed as per submitted land use plan in the instant mine. In this regard the State Govt. shall offer comments and ensure the compliance of the guidelines with regard to safety zone.
- iv. As per the details mentioned in online Part-I the total mining lease area reported as 778.54 ha whereas examination of the proposal revealed that the total mining lease involves 1152 ha area. In this regard, the State Govt. vide their letter no. Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-8832/2023-24/3556 dated 28.03.2024 has forwarded the justification submitted by the user agency. However,

necessary corrections in online Part-I of the proposal has not been carried out yet.

- v. It was asked to assess the efficacy of the Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakhs, as recommended by the State, in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna. In this regard, the State government has submitted copy wildlife management plan which is approved by the DCF, Central Chanda, Chandrapur Forest Division. However, comments of the CWLW, Govt. of Maharashtra on the efficacy of the Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakhs has not been submitted. Further, the wildlife management plan has not been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State. In this regard, the duly approved Wildlife Management Plan by CWLW, Maharashtra along with its recommendation shall be submitted by the State Govt.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information/documents to this Ministry for further consideration of the instant proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Dheeraj Mittal

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Date: 11-07-2024 19:16:22

Copy to:

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