



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/Others/20067/2016/340

दिनांक: 30.06.2026

सेवा में,

उप महानिरीक्षक वन (वन संरक्षण प्रभाग)  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, वन्यजीव प्रभाग  
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन अलीगंज  
जोरबाग रोड नई दिल्ली-110003

**विषय: Site Inspection Report for: Diversion of 49 ha. forest land (original 68.40 ha of forest land) for CCL Konar Washery, B & K Area, for seeking prior approval under section - 2 of FCA-1980 in the State of Jharkhand-reg.**

**सन्दर्भ: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का पत्र संख्या-8-42/2017-FC दिनांक 30.04.2026**

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत श्रीमान् के संदर्भित पत्र के आलोक में परियोजना से संबंधित वांछित स्थल निरीक्षण क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय राँची द्वारा दिनांक **29.05.2026** को किया जाकर तैयार प्रतिवेदन को विभागाध्यक्ष के अनुमोदनोपरांत उनकी संस्तुति के साथ संलग्न प्रेषित किया जा रहा है।

संलग्न: यथा उक्त

विश्वासभाजन

Digitally signed by  
Shashi Shankar Pathak  
(शशि शंकर)  
Date: 01-07-2026  
उप महानिरीक्षक वन  
11:22:34

## SITE INSPECTION REPORT

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### **Site Inspection Report by Regional Office, Ranchi towards withdrawal application by user agency of the in-Principle approved forest diversion Proposal No. FP/JH/Others/20067/2016.**

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#### **Background**

The Konar Open Cast Project (OCP) of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) is operational over an area of 471.40 ha in the Bokaro Forest Division, Jharkhand. The mine has a present production capacity of 8/11 MTPA of G-12 grade coal, having an ash content exceeding 34%. The coal produced from the mine is transported to various end users through a dedicated railway siding located near the project area, with certain consumers situated at distances exceeding 500 km, including Panipat, Haryana.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, vide notification dated 02.01.2014, prescribed that installation of a coal washery would be mandatory for coal mines producing coal with an ash content of 34% or more where the coal is transported over a distance of 500 km or beyond. In compliance with this notification, CCL proposed establishment of a Coal Washery Plant adjacent to the Konar OCP in the contiguous non-coal-bearing area located on the western side of the mine.

Since the proposed Coal Washery site involved diversion of 49 ha of forest land (originally proposed over 68 ha), the user agency submitted a proposal for diversion of 49 ha of forest land during 2016.

As the proposal involved diversion of more than 40 ha of forest land, it was examined at the Headquarters of the Ministry. Subsequently, the Ministry accorded In-Principle (Stage-I) Approval vide letter dated 22.06.2018, subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions. Thereafter, the user agency initiated compliance with the conditions prescribed in the Stage-I approval.

Subsequently, the Ministry, vide notification dated 21.01.2020, withdrew its earlier notification dated 02.01.2014, thereby removing the mandatory requirement for installation of coal washeries for mines producing coal with ash content exceeding 34% and transporting coal beyond 500 km.

Following this policy change, while continuing the compliance process for the Stage-I approval, the user agency also reassessed the economic viability of establishing the proposed Coal Washery Plant. Based on the outcome of this assessment, it concluded that establishment of only a Coal Handling Plant (CHP), which constitutes a component of the coal washery system, would be a more economically viable option for transportation of coal from

the mine pit to the railway siding, as compared to the substantially higher investment required for a full-fledged coal washery.

Accordingly, the user agency decided to withdraw the Stage-I approved proposal involving diversion of 49 ha of forest land for the Coal Washery Plant. Instead, it proposed establishment of a Coal Handling Plant (CHP), requiring diversion of only 12.45 ha of forest land, thereby avoiding diversion of the remaining forest area that had become unnecessary in view of the revised project scope and the changed regulatory framework.

Accordingly, the user agency, vide letter dated 22.01.2025, submitted a request to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bokaro Forest Division, seeking withdrawal of the 49 ha Stage-I approved forest diversion proposal. The agency also requested adjustment of the compensatory levies already deposited against the proposed diversion of 12.45 ha of forest land for the Coal Handling Plant under Proposal No. FP/JH/OTHERS/519708/2025, submitted on 05.10.2025.

The Ministry is presently in receipt of the withdrawal request. Accordingly, vide letter dated 30.04.2026, it directed the Regional Office, Ranchi, to undertake a site inspection of the area covered under the 49 ha Stage-I approved proposal and submit a Site Inspection Report (SIR), specifically indicating whether any physical work relating to the proposed Coal Washery Plant has commenced on the ground.

In compliance with the Ministry's directions, officers of the Regional Office, Ranchi, conducted a site inspection of the 49 ha Stage-I approved proposal area on 29.05.2026 for preparation of the present Site Inspection Report.

**Name of the Inspecting Officer:** Shashi Shankar, DIGF of Regional Office, Ranchi

**Date of Inspection:** 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Officials present from State Forest Department during the visit:**

- Sri Nitesh Kumar, DFO Bokaro Forest Diversion
- Sri Sandeep Shinde, IFS, Bokaro Forest Diversion and their team

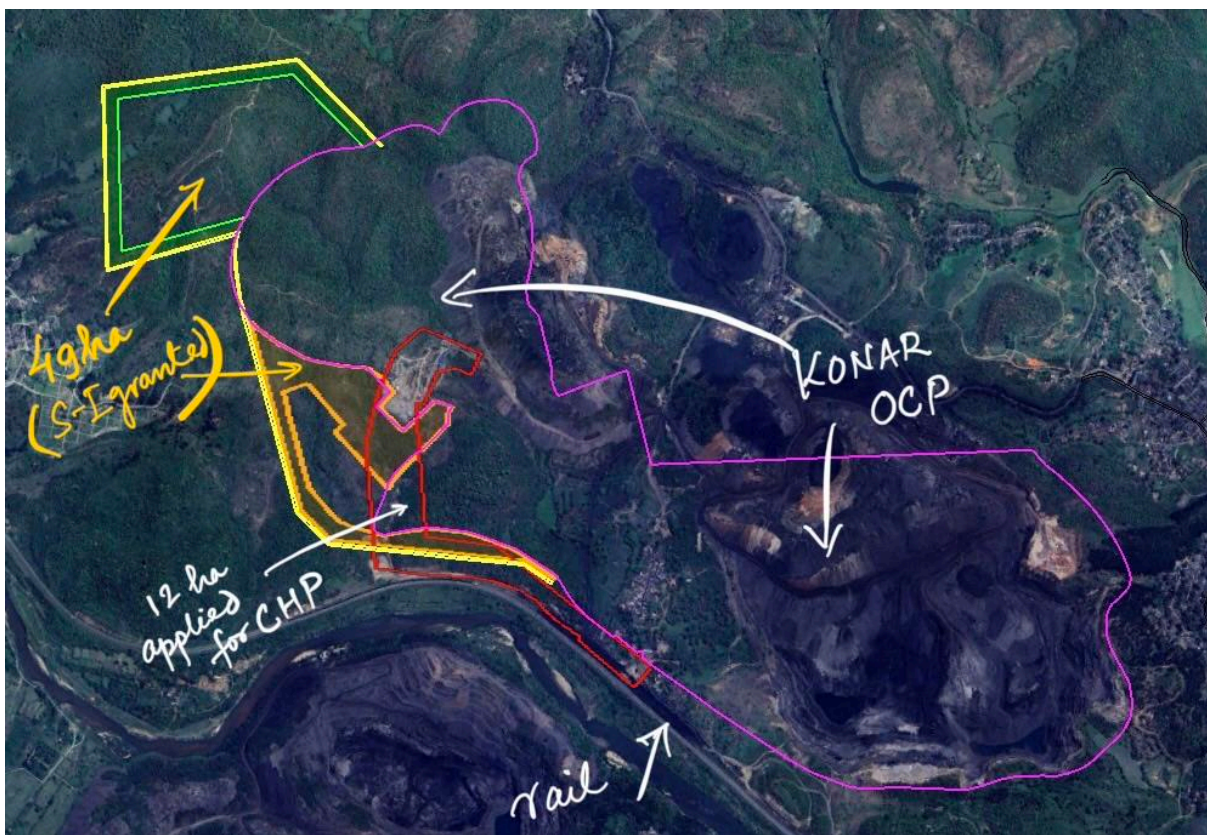
**Officials Present from the user agency:**

- Sri Sanjay Jha, General Manager, Konar Area, CCL
- Sri K. S. Gaiwal, GM(Operation), B&K Area
- Shi Sumedha Nandan, Project Officer, Konar Exp OCP
- Shi Jayshankar Prasad, Staff Officer(E&M), B&K Area cum Engineer Incharge, Konar CHP

- Shi Mohit Joon, Nodal Officer (Env & Forest) Konar Exp OCP, B& K Area
- Shi Deepak Kumar, Nodal Officer (Land & Revenue), Konar Exp. OCP

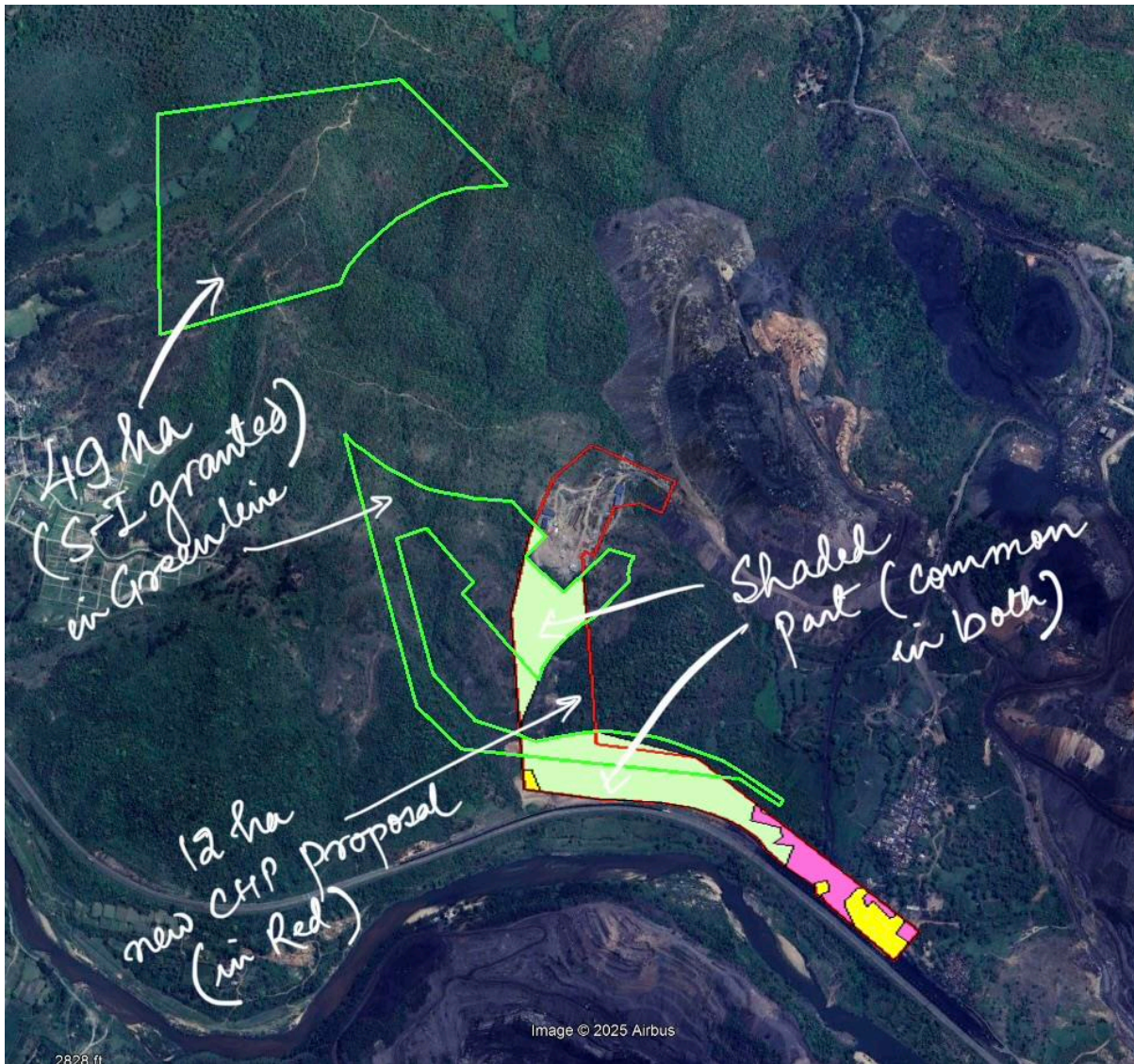
The present inspection has been undertaken primarily to verify the status of the proposal on the ground, with particular emphasis on ascertaining whether any physical work related to the proposed Coal Washery Plant has been initiated within the forest area covered under the Stage-I approval.

The location of the Konar Open Cast Project (OCP), the 49 ha forest land covered under the present withdrawal proposal, the 12.45 ha forest land proposed for the new Coal Handling Plant (CHP), the existing railway siding, and other relevant project features are illustrated in the following satellite imagery for reference.



The above satellite imagery indicates that the 49 ha forest land covered under the Stage-I approved proposal for the proposed Coal Washery Plant is located on the western side of the Konar Open Cast Project (OCP) and forms part of a large contiguous forest tract.

For comparative analysis, the forest land covered under the Coal Washery-related withdrawal proposal (49 ha) and the forest land proposed for diversion under the new Coal Handling Plant (CHP) proposal (12.45 ha) are depicted in the following figures.



From the above comparative imagery, it is evident that withdrawal of the 49 ha Stage-I approved forest diversion proposal would result in conservation of a substantial patch of dense and contiguous forest, which would otherwise have been diverted for establishment of the proposed Coal Washery Plant.

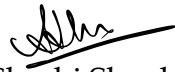
During the site inspection, it was observed that the 49 ha of forest land covered under the present withdrawal proposal comprises a fairly dense forest tract forming part of a vast contiguous forest stretch located on the western side of the Konar Open Cast Project (OCP). The undulating terrain supports rich vegetation comprising diverse tree species, including Sal, Mahua, Bel, Jamun, Khair, and Simar, among others.

The field staff informed the inspecting team that approximately 20,000 trees of various species had been enumerated within the 49 ha forest area.

The inspecting team carried out a detailed field inspection by perambulating the entire forest area covered under the proposal. During the inspection, it was found that no physical work whatsoever relating to the proposed Coal

Washery Plant had been commenced within the 49 ha forest land covered under the Stage-I approved proposal. The inspected forest area was found to be intact, dense, and free from any apparent disturbance or fragmentation attributable to the proposed project.

This SIR bears the approval of DDGF, RO Ranchi.

  
Shashi Shankar  
DIGF, RO Ranchi

**Site Inspection Photographs**

