

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: September, 2023

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),

Government of Chhattisgarh,

Mahanadi Bhavan,

New Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 0.093 ha of forest land in favour of M/s South Eastern Coalfield Limited for Dipka Opencast Coal Mining Projects SECL Korba in Katghora Forest Division in Korba District of Chhattisgarh.– reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-03/2019/10-2 dated 04.08.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that after examination of said proposal the following are observed:

- i. The Ministry vide its letter no. 8-78/2006-FC dated 31.01.2022 has granted Stage-II approval for diversion of 133.707 ha of forest land and vide letter no. 8-80/2006-FC dated 20.10.2006 granted Stage-I approval for diversion of 206.638 ha of forest land and vide letter no. 8-08/2006-FC dated 03.03.2010 granted State-I approval for renewal of diversion of 33.84 ha forest land for Deepika expansion Opencast mining project in favour of M/s SECL in Korba District of Chhattisgarh. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-II approval and status of progress of compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I approvals to this Ministry.
- ii. The Ministry vide letter no. 8-80/2006-FC dated 20.10.2006 granted Stage-I approval for diversion of 206.638 ha of forest land and vide letter no. 8-08/2006-FC dated 03.03.2010 granted State-I approval for renewal of diversion of 33.84 ha forest land for Deepika expansion Opencast mining project in favour of M/s SECL in Korba District of Chhattisgarh. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to forward the KML files of these two proposal (ie. area of 206.638 ha and 33.84 ha) along with the kml files of CA land identified for these proposals.
- iii. The details of total lease area and total forest land involved in the lease area shall be intimated. Details of balance forest land which need forest clearance approval, if any, shall also be intimated.
- iv. The State Govt. shall submit the details of the validity of the entire mining lease along with detailed chronology of approvals of the mining lease.
- v. Status of reclamation measures undertaken by the user agency in their lease area in case of earlier approvals as per the Progressive Mine Closure Plans and gaps if any, shall be intimated by the State. Further, in case of instant proposal, the details of proposed reclamation/back-filled area at the end of mine life has not been given in the project report. The same needs submission.
- vi. The State Govt. shall provide the details of safety zone of the mining leases (along with KML files) as per the para 7.9 of chapter 7 of Handbook of guidelines issued

by this Ministry in 2019. Further, details of 1.5 times afforestation needs to be submitted along with complete detail of supporting attributes such as afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, KML files, etc.

- vii. Site suitability certificates from the DCF concerned not indicated whether the proposed CA land is free from encroachment and encumbrance. The same requires submission.
- viii. The Cost Benefit analysis report submitted is not in the prescribed format. Therefore, the Cost Benefit analysis is required to be submitted as per the format prescribed in the FCA, 1980 Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 keeping in view the revised rates of NPV dated 06.01.2022.
- ix. From the examination of the DSS report the following as mentioned below are observed. In this regard the State Govt. shall offer its comments :
 - a. As per DSS report the software calculated area is found to be 0.33 ha whereas area sought for diversion is 0.093 ha.
 - b. As per DSS report, both the patches proposed for diversion is located outside the boundary of Dipka OCP.
 - c. Non-forestry activity is visible inside the proposed forest patches such as road, mined out area.
 - d. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Kachha/unmetalled road is visible in the proposed Compensatory Afforestation site. This needs clarification.

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

Yours faithfully
Sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Aranya Bhavan, Sector 19, North Block, New Raipur- 492002 Chhattisgarh.
2. Dy. Director General (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur
3. IGF (Central) Sub-Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Jail Road, Aranya Bhavan, Raipur.
5. User Agency
6. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC