

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DURGAPUR OPENCAST COAL MINE IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA UNDER THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

Name of the Inspecting Officer: C. B. Tashildar

(IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF& CC, Nagpur)

Officials from the State Forest Department:

1. Shri Vikas Shridhar Tarase, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Forest Division
2. Shri. Ghanshyam R Naigamkar, Range Forest Office, Chandrapur Forest Range.
3. Shri. Ajay Tijare, Round Officer, Shri. Dehengaokar, Beat Guard

Officials from the User Agency:

1. Shri Harshad Datar, Area General Manager, WCL-Chandrapur Area
2. Shri Satyabadi Jena, General Manager (Forests), WCL-Headquarter
3. Shri Anurag Shekar Dubey, General Manager (Operations), WCL-Chandrapur Area
4. Shri Harish K Gawali, Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area, WCL
5. Shri Sanjay M Fitwe, Area Revenue Office, Chandrapur Area, WCL
6. Shri S A Tajane, Area Planning Officer, Chandrapur Area, WCL
7. Shri D N Tiwary, Area Survey Officer, Chandrapur Area, WCL

Date of Site Inspection: 29/08/2024.

A. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion: Reserve Forest

B. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

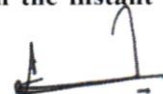
S. No	Purpose	Name of Village	Survey No	Compartment No	Legal Status of Land	Total Area (in Ha)
1	Mining (Excavation of Coal)	Chandrapur Forest Division Tehsil- Chandrapur, District- Chandrapur	Nil	400 401	Reserve Forest	39.15 Ha 41.62 Ha
	Total					80.77 Ha

C. Background of the proposal:

The background of the proposal has been attached as **Annexure-1** in chronological sequence.

- D. Wildlife: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:** The proposal is for renewal of forest clearance. 98% of the forest land has already been broken during the earlier Forest Clearance period from 08.11.2005 to 07.11.2013.
- E. Vegetation:** Density below 0.1
- i. Details of total number of trees to be felled:** 93 trees (located in the safety barrier of 80.77 Ha already diverted forest land. This safety barrier will be now be shifted to inner boundary of freshly diverted 121.58 Ha forest land).
 - ii. Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:** Suitable Soil Erosion Control Measures will be implemented as per conditions and directions of MoEF & CC.
- F. Compensatory afforestation:** It is a renewal of forest clearance proposal and CA is not applicable.
- 1. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:** Not Applicable
 - 2. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other encumbrances:** Not Applicable.
 - 3. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:** Not Applicable
 - 4. Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:** Not Applicable.
 - 5. Map with details:** Not Applicable
 - 6. Total financial outlay:** Rs. 328.0078 Crores
- G. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:** No
- H. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outsets in and around the said forest:** No
- I. Reclamation Plan:** As per approved mining plan
- J. Details on catchment and command area under the project:** Not applicable
- K. Cost benefit ratio:** 1: 44.74 (As per revised NPV rate)
- L. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ State Government:** Enclosed in the proposal.

- M. **Recommendations of DDGF (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur along with detail reasons:** Separately attached.
- N. **Detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:** Site specific.
- O. **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:** No, socio-culture/religious value is not hampered due to land proposed for diversion.
- P. **Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** The proposed area is a broken forest land and it is a renewal of previous Forest Clearance issued for 80.77 Ha forest land. This area is not falling in any Protected Area.
- Q. **Any other information relating to the project:**
1. Photographs (**attached**).
 2. The 80.77 Ha Forest Land was already diverted vide MoEF letter no. 8-123/2003-FC dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 8 years (**Annexure-2**). Presently, renewal of forest clearance is required for expansion of mine. Brief chronology is **attached**.
 3. The 80.77 Ha Forest Land was acquired u/s 9(i) of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act 1957 vide SO No.450E, dated 04.08.1979. Copy of the CBA Notification **attached**.
 4. **The renewal of this mining area is required for gaining access to another mining lease area for which forest clearance has already been obtained by the User Agency (Proposal No.: FP/MH/MIN/6602/2011. Stage-II approval obtained on 22/12/2021). No further mining will be carried out in the instant area as informed by the User Agency.**



(C. B. Tashildar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur

Proposal No.: FP/MH/MIN/783/2003

Recommendation of the Deputy Director General of Forests, RO, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

The proposal is recommended subject to the following:

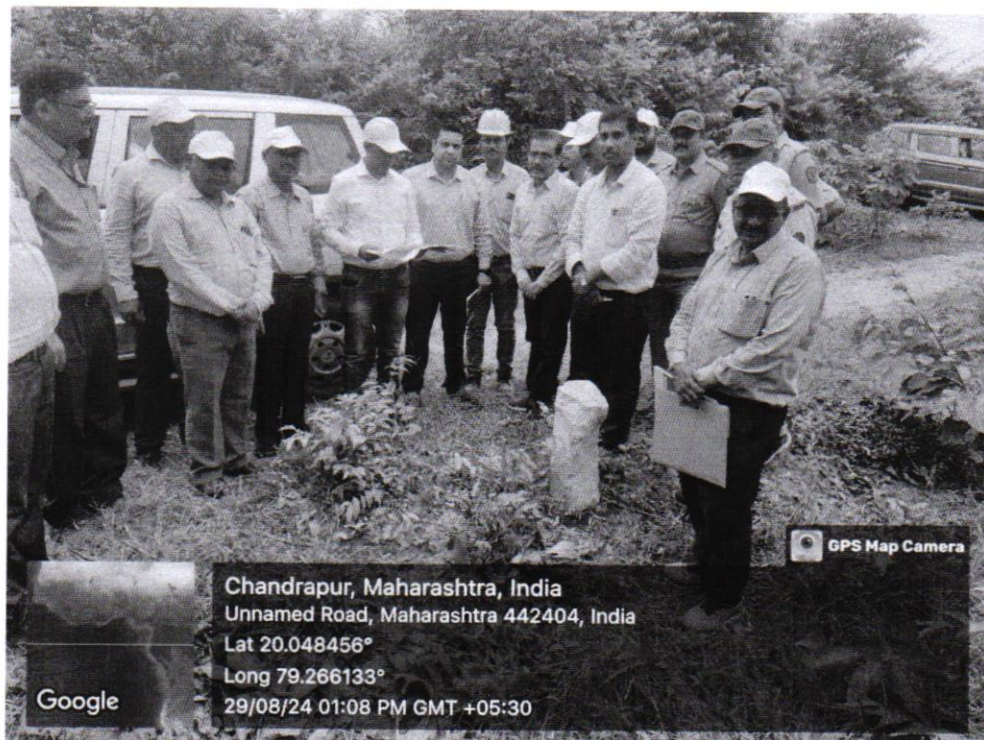
1. Safety zone with effective green belt shall be maintained by the User Agency along the inner boundary of the lease area.


(Dr. V. George Jenner)
DDGF (Central),

Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

PHOTOGRAPHS





CHRONOLOGY of APPROVALS IN DURGAPUR OC MINE, CHANDRAPUR AREA, WCL**DURGAPUR OPENCAST MINE**

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Durgapur Opencast Project is started by the Government of India under the Ministry of Energy in Oct 1978. Revised Project Report of Durgapur Extn. (Deep) Opencast Project was approved by the WCL Board on 21.02.2017.

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The Project was accorded environmental clearance for 3.00 MTPA in a Mine lease area of 1622.50 ha by MoEF & CC vide its letter no. Vide No J-11015/381/2015-IA-II(M) dated 10.11.2017.

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The total mine lease of Durgapur Opencast Project is 1597.50 Ha excluding 25.00 Ha for rehabilitation purpose. Recently, an area measuring 410.96 Ha for Durgapur Deep was acquired in 2010 vide CBA (A&D) Act 1957. The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land was acquired vide CBA (A&D) Act 1957 Notification vide SO No.450E, dated 04.08.1979.

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80.77 Ha forest land was diverted vide MoEF letter no. 8-123/2003-FC dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 08 years. During this period total area has been broken for coal mining except the Safety Zone area as per Forest Clearance. Coal Mining was stopped in 80.77 Ha forest land since 30.10.2013. During various Site Inspections by the State Forest Department stoppage of mining activities is verified.

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Presently mining is going on in Sector V which is a non-forest land. Renewal of Forest Clearance proposal has been submitted vide letter no. WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/ REV/6704 dated 01.02.2013.

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The Renewal Proposal was submitted online in FORM B in Parivesh 1.0 Portal with a proposal no. FP/MH/MIN/6704/2014. Proposal was recommended by the Nodal Officer (FC), Maharashtra State vide letter dated 23.08.2019.

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Renewal of Forest Clearance was recommended by the Government of Maharashtra vide letter FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10 dated 19.06.2024.

11/11/2005 12:12 FAX 01-11-22017464

C I L DELHI

F. No. 8-123/2003-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)



Paryavarti Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated : 8th November 2005

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project,
in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3603/CR-40/F-10 dated 28.10.2003 and subsequent letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/2691/04-05 dated 20.01.2005 and letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/1082/05-06 dated 26.09.2005 on the above mentioned subject whereunder the above proposal and compliance of various conditions was submitted, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project, in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra, subject to fulfilment of following conditions :-

- (i) ✓ Legal status of the forest shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) ✓ Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted, i.e., over 162.00 ha and shall be maintained at the project cost.
- (iii) ✓ The lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be for 8 years.
- (iv) ✓ The State Government should transfer amount of NPV and other funds to Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which has already been constituted and notified by the Central Government on 23.04.2004. Till such time, the CAMPA intimates the Head of Accounts for deposition of funds, the funds will be maintained in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Nodal Officer or concerned Divisional Forest Officer of the State Government. The funds realized towards the NPV shall not be utilized by the State Government.
- (v) ✓ RCC pillars of 4 feet height shall be erected to demarcate the area by the user agency at the project cost and will be marked with forward and back bearings.

- (vi) The user agency shall raise, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost.
- (vii) All necessary measures should be taken by the user agency to protect the environment.
- (viii) The user agency should implement the reclamation works as per the reclamation plan. Monitoring of the reclamation works should be done continuously by the State Forest Department. The user agency shall submit progress report of reclamation works to the State Forest Department and Regional Office, Bhopal.
- (ix) Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of State Forest Department, and at the cost of the project.
- (x) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (xi) Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation.
- (xii) The user agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife.
- (xiii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xiv) The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to :

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency/Shri M.K. Shukla, CGM, Coal India Limited, Core-1, 4th Floor, Scope Minar, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.
5. RO (HQ)/Monitoring Cell, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

OSDCL-21

Pankaj Asthana

(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests