OMC | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Mining Happiness

Letter No. 544 /OMC/F&E/2026

09th January, 2026

To

The Divisional Forest Officer
Keonjhar Forest Division

Sub.: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Limited for non-forestry use of 22.697 ha of forest land of Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block within total Mining Lease area of 456.100 ha in Keonjhar District, Odisha.

Ref.: (i) Letter No.8-49/2098 FC(Pt-1) dt.10.08.2025 by MoEF & CC, Govt. of India (FC Division).
(ii) Memo No. 26072/FE&CC, dt.30.08.2025 by FE&CC, Dept. Govt. of Odisha.
(iii) Letter No. 12026/6F-Mining-19/2024 dt. 20.11.2025 by DFO, Keonjhar

Sir,

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, has raised observations on scrutiny of the Compliance to Stage-I Forest Clearance (FC) granted vide letter under reference (i) for diversion of 22.697 ha of forest land pertaining to the Jilling-Langlota Iron Ore Block. The pointwise compliance to the observations is as under.

1. Condition no. (i): In compliance to condition no. 5 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not taken action against the officers responsible for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, under 3 (A)/3 (B) or under relevant local Act of the State and/or Central Act for unauthorized use of forest land. This need to be complied and a detail compliance report in this regard should be submitted by the State.

   In compliance, it is submitted that, OMC has issued show cause notice to the officers posted at site during the violation period, copies of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-I.**

2. In compliance to condition no. 2 (vii) of Stage-I approval, copy of Notification of 46.082 ha area, as submitted by the State Government is not legible. Legible copy of the same needs to be furnished.

   In compliance, it is submitted that the legible copy of the PF notification of 46.082 ha area is enclosed as ***Annexure-II***

3. In compliance of the condition no. 7 the State Govt. has not provided the GPS Ids of the upload KML files. The same shall be provided for verification.

   In Compliance, it is submitted that a CD containing the KML files of total diversion area, Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area, Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) area and the Wildlife Management Plan (WLMP) area is enclosed herewith. It is requested to upload the KML files in e-green watch portal and GPS IDs may please be forwarded to MoEF&CC for compliance.

4. In compliance to the conditions no. 4 of the Stage-1 approval, the total Penal NPV for violation has not been deposited. The needful shall be done and a detailed report along with payment details shall be submitted in this regard.
   In compliance with Condition No. 4 of the Stage-I FC, it is worthwhile to mention here the following:

   a) Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Keonjhar, had raised the demand towards total penal Net Present Value (NPV) of Rs. 16,46,70,900/- over 22.697 ha Sabik kissam forest land to be paid by the Ex-lessee (M/s Essel Mining and Industries Pvt. Ltd.) of ₹4,84,64,623/- & present lessee (OMC) of ₹11,62,06,277/- vide letter no. 4059 dated 16.05.2024.
   b) OMC deposited the penal NPV amounting to ₹11,62,06,277/- on 11.06.2024 and submitted compliance to the Stage-I FC, which has been recommended by the State Forest Dept., Govt. of Odisha vide letter dt.17.06.2025.
   c) It is understood vide letter under reference (iii) that the penal NPV amount raised against the ex-lessee for 5.76 hectares has not been paid. Moreover, the ex-lessee has filed WP(C) No. 21054 of 2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa challenging the said demand, which is currently sub judice.
   d) As per the clause no. 7.4.iv.(b) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued by MoEF & CC vide letter dt. 29.12.2023, it is clarified that in case of violation of any of the conditions which was done during the period of previous allocattee and which contributes an offence under the Adhiniyam, the penal clauses will be invoked against the previous allocattee only and not against the new allocattee.
   e) Also, Sub-rule (9) of Rule 9(A) of Ministry of Mine's Notification G.S.R. 191(E) dated 20th March 2020, amending the Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 2016. stipulates:

"(9) No authority shall reject grant of any rights, approvals, clearances, licenses and the like to the new lessee on account of past violations or outstanding dues of the previous lessee, which may be agitated before appropriate forums separately without prejudice to any rightful legal claims of the parties."

f. Considering the submission made at point (a) & (b) above, OMC has already paid the liable amount towards penal NPV and as per the submission made at point (d) & (e) OMC is not liable to pay the penal amount pertaining to the ex-lessee.

Jilling Langalota Mines has been reserved in favour of OMC, a wholly owned State PSU for a period of 10 years i.e. up to 10.01.2031 on nomination basis to fetch the requirement of the Steel sector. Considering the production target set as per Country's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, wherein the role of this mines is very crucial.

Considering above, it is sincerely requested to recommend the Compliance to higher quarter for grant of Stage-II FC in favour of Jilling Langalota Mines.

Yours faithfully,

09/01/2026

Encl.: As above

Land Officer
(Authorised signatory)
OMC Ltd.

Narayan Chandra Dhal, OAS (SAG)
Land Officer
AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.