

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 1100 03
Dated: 15th October, 2019

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Sub: Proposal to obtain approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for prospecting of Uranium and Minerals for Drilling of 300 boreholes with 4" diameter in an area of 1650 hectare in Baitul District Madhya Pradesh, in favour of Atomic Minerals Directorate Department of Atomic Energy Government of India, Nagpur.- regarding.

Sir,

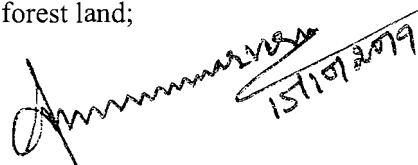
I am directed to refer to the Addl. PCCF - cum - Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MRL/9/2017/10-11/3756 dated 21st December, 2017 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, **Stage-I Clearance/ In-principle** approval of the Central Government is hereby granted for the proposal to obtain prior approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 prospecting of Uranium and Minerals for Drilling of 300 boreholes with 4" diameter in an area of 1650 hectare in Betul District Madhya Pradesh, in favour of Atomic Minerals Directorate Department of Atomic Energy Government of India, Nagpur, subject to the fulfillment of the following General, standard and specific conditions:-

- i. The User Agency shall be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 300 bore holes of 04" diameter on 1650.00 ha. of forest land;
- ii. *The instant proposal shall be recommended in accordance with the condition no.6.8 (V)(h) handbook of guidelines issued on 28.03.2019;*
- iii. The prior approval of Govt. of India under Section 2 of FC Act, 1980 for prospecting in this forest area under consideration is only for resource assessment and mapping and does not confer in any manner any right to the State Government to divert such forest land under Section 2(ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining purpose in future in favour of this user agency or any other mining company on the plea that forest clearance for prospecting has been granted;
- iv. Charges towards NPV & CA as applicable shall be realized by the State Govt. from the User agency & deposited in CAMPA fund through e-portal;
- v. User agency shall seek permission of concerned Divisional Forest Officer before entering into the forest area and borehole shall be dug with prior permission of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and also furnish detailed report thereof on completion of the project;
- vi. Proper plugging of borehole shall be made after exploration activities are complete to the

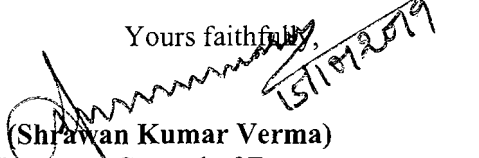

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- satisfaction of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- vii.No tree felling shall be undertaken for exploration activities. Project activities shall be restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches if any for the purpose of site preparation;
 - viii.The user agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding. Any damage done in this regard shall be compensated by the user agency from the project cost as per assessment of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
 - ix.No new road shall be constructed by the user agency for transporting prospecting tools and machines. The user agency may use the existing forest road/ path with prior information to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The area used for path during the prospecting work shall be restored to its original status of forest after completion of prospecting work;
 - x. No other construction activities shall be done by the user agency on forest land. Existing path and roads only will be used by the user agency for the purpose of prospecting activities and drilling of bore holes will be limited to 300 no. with diameter of 04" within forest land will be dug;
 - xi.Any change in the diameter of borehole and number of bore holes will be reported to the concerned Regional Office in advance for consideration and recommendations to the Central Government;
 - xii.Adequate measures shall be taken by the user agency to ensure that prospecting activities do not harm the wildlife in the area. Any damage done in this context, shall be compensated by the user agency as per assessment, by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
 - xiii.No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and no work shall be allowed after sunset;
 - xiv.In case, rights over forest land proposed to be used for prospecting purpose, has already been settled in favour of eligible claimants as per provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the claimants shall either be compensated appropriately or location of borehole by suitably re-located;
 - xv.Initially the permission for prospecting will be granted for two years from the date of issue of this approval which can be extended for one more year with convincing justification from the State Government for extension;
 - xvi.In case of violations of conditions by the user agency, the permission for prospecting of minerals shall be suspended by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. Further it shall be enquired by the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government and report to be submitted to the concerned Regional Office for appropriate action;
 - xvii.The samples collected during the prospecting shall be used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce purpose;
 - xviii.To minimize disturbance to the wildlife, user agency shall take all possible measures to minimize noise during prospecting operations and halt the prospecting activities during night and during such periods in the day as may be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concerned State Forest Department;
 - xix.The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
 - xx.The State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
 - xxi.The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, guidelines, NGT order & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
 - xxii.This permission shall, in no way, confer any rights to the project proponents or any other agency for grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for any other non-forestry use of the said forest land;


15/07/2019

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the central government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,


(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEFCC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.