

F. No. 8-37/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 25 June, 2018

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore

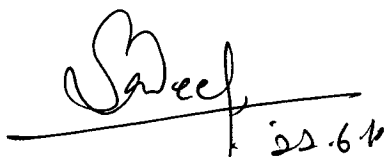
Sub: Proposal for prospecting of Minerals (exploration) over an extent of 325.74 ha of forest land in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease (ML No. 2010) of RMML, NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District by Minerals Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL, Nagpur.

Sir,

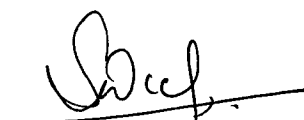
I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 21 FFM 2018 dated 21.04.2018 submitting the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, ***In-principle*** approval is hereby granted for prospecting of Minerals (exploration) over an extent of 325.74 ha of forest land in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease (ML No. 2010) of RMML, NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District by Minerals Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL, Nagpur under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The User Agency shall intimate the maximum number of exploratory drilling/boreholes to be allowed in the proposed forest land of 325.74 ha ;
- (ii) State government shall calculate compensatory levies and NPV for the prospecting proposal as per MoEF&CC guidelines no 5-3/2007-FC dated 09/05/2018. The amount shall be deposited in Adhoc CAMPA account. Prior to stage II approval.
- (iii) Permission granted for prospecting under the provisions of FCA 1980 shall not confer any right of user agency to get permission for extraction of mineral and diversion of Forest land under section 2(ii) of FCA 1980.
- (iv) No tree felling, permanent change in land use of forest land and construction of new road shall be allowed. User agency can utilize existing forest roads and paths without felling and damage to trees.
- (v) User agency shall engage ICFRE to conduct study on the impact of number of bore holes for prospecting over forest and wild life of the area and suggest mitigation measures. The design of study shall be approved by MoEF&CC. All the mitigation measures shall be implemented by the user agency at their own cost under supervision of forest department.


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- (vi) User agency shall prepare a plan to plant 20 tall trees per bore hole area. The cost of preparation of the plan and plantation shall be borne by the user agency. State government shall ensure that plants are planted on abandoned bore hole area and degraded forest land as per prescription of working plan in a contiguous patch.
- (vii) No civil structures (temporary or permanent) shall be erected in the proposed area.
- (viii) Exploration inside forestland shall be limited to the period from sunrise to sunset only.
- (ix) User agency shall not sublease the exploration work
- (x) No fire will be kindled inside and in the vicinity of the forest area.
- (xi) User agency shall follow the forest transit regulations while transporting the forest produce (excavated sample material) from the site
- (xii) User agency shall be liable for any violations under Karnataka Forests Act, 1963 and Rules, 1969 in addition to other relevant laws in and around the forest area concerned.
- (xiii) User agency has to pay the Net Present Value of forest land diverted under this proposal as per orders 28-03-2008 and 09-05-2008 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- (xiv) User agency shall undertake appropriate measures at its own cost to appropriately restore Trenches/Pits dug for prospecting, wherever required, in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests.
- (xv) Boreholes shall be capped by User Agency at own cost, once the exploration is over.
- (xvi) User Agency shall provide a list of authorised officials/ workers engaged in exploration to the forest department before commencing the work and also provide the Identity Cards/ Documents to each such official/ worker, to be produced when demanded by the forest department.
- (xvii) User Agency shall be solely responsible for any injury/death/ disability, damage etc. caused or occurred during the exploration work under the relevant laws.
- (xviii) User Agency shall make available a copy of its exploration findings, as soon as finalized, to the forest department.
- (xix) All other conditions imposed by the PCCF in their letter No. A5 (1).Misc/CR-18/2017-18 Dated 20.03.2018 shall be complied by the User agency.
- (xx) In case of violations of conditions by the user agency, the permission for prospecting of minerals shall be suspended by the DFO and enquired by the Nodal officer (FCA) of the State Government and report submitted to the Regional office for appropriate action.
- (xxi) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- (xxii) 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;
- (xxiii) 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


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be advised by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden, concern State Forest Department ;

- (xxiv) The State Forest Department shall deploy adequate staff to supervise the activities to be undertaken by the user agency to prevent any damage to the flora (especially the fresh regeneration), fauna and also to prevent felling of trees during drilling of holes and movement of equipment;
- (xxv) After completion of the prospecting all bore holes shall be completely filled up and the ground restored back to its original position;
- (xxvi) During transportation of Bore drilling Machine / rigs, no new road / permanent path in the forest area will be constructed.
- (xxvii) The State Government and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the concern Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxviii) The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all 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

After receipt of the report on the compliance to the conditions stipulated in the paragraph-2 above from the State Government of Karnataka, final/stage-II approval for prospecting of Minerals (exploration) over an extent of 325.74 ha of forest land in erstwhile 'C' category mining lease (ML No. 2010) of RMML, NEB Range, Sandur Taluk in Ballari District by Minerals Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL, Nagpur under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be considered by this Ministry.

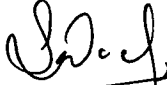
Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 20.6.17

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.


(Sandeep Sharma) 22.6.17

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)