

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 5th July, 2022.

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for according permission for use of 4.62 ha of forest land within total Mining lease area of 192.81 ha. in Roida-C Iron and Manganese Mining lease located entirely inside Sidhamath RF of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar district for undertaking exploratory drilling of 83 boreholes of 4" dia (83 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totaling 1.66 ha and 2.96 ha for construction of road) by M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. 10F (Cons)-45/2016-16613/F&E dated 09.08.2017 and 10F (Cons)-45/2016-14590/F&E dated 12.07.2017 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 135/9F (MG)-150/2016 dated 04.01.2021 and FE-DIV-FLD-0024-2021-3213/FE&CC dated 14.02.2022, **Stage-II/Final** approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use of 4.62 ha of forest land within total Mining lease area of 192.81 ha in Roida-C Iron and Manganese Mining lease located entirely inside Sidhamath RF of Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar district for undertaking exploratory drilling of 83 boreholes of 4" dia (83 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totaling 1.66 ha and 2.96 ha for construction of road) by M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. for prospecting of minerals subject to following conditions:

A. Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department

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- i. State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall be allowed exploratory drilling of a maximum of 83 bore holes of 4" diameter (83 boreholes @ 0.02 ha each totaling 1.66 ha and 2.96 ha for construction of road) of forest land.
 - ii. The State Government ensure that the user agency shall complete the exploration work within 2 years.
 - 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. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that existing path and roads only will be used by the user agency for the purpose of prospecting activities. In addition to existing paths and forest road, user agency is allowed to use 2.96 ha of forest land for construction of temporary path. The temporary path construction shall not involve any tree cutting and same shall be restored to original land use after the work of exploration is accomplished.
- v. The State Government ensure that the user agency shall seek permission of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division before entering into the forest area and each bore-hole shall be dug with prior permission of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division.
- vi. State Government and user agency shall ensure proper plugging of boreholes after exploration activities are complete.
- vii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no work shall be allowed after sunset.
- viii. Mining/Prospecting activities within the ML area shall be subject to having valid lease and other statutory clearances.
- x. State Government shall ensure that the User agency shall not sub-lease the exploration work.
- xi. User Agency shall report the progress of drilling work to the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and also furnish detailed report thereof on completion of the project.
- xii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no tree felling is 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.
- xiii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that no labour camp is established on the forest land and no other construction activities (temporary or permanent) is done by the user agency on forest land.
- xiv. The State Government shall ensure that adequate measures are taken by the user agency to ensure that prospecting activities do not harm the wildlife in the area. In this context, any damage done shall be compensated by the user agency as assessed by the DFO, Keonjhar.
- xv. The State Government ensure that the user agency is made responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding area. In this regard, any damage done shall be compensated by the user agency from the project cost as assessed by the DFO, Keonjhar and the 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 or the State Forest Department.
- xvi. DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division may impose any other condition for protection and conservation of the flora and fauna in the forest area.
- xvii. 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 boreholes be suitably re-located.
- xviii. State Government and user agency shall ensure that no fire is kindled inside and in the vicinity of the forest area.
- xix. State Government shall ensure that the User Agency provides a list of

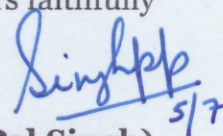
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authorized officials/workers engaged in exploration to the forest department before commencing the work and also provide Identity Cards/ Documents to each such official/ worker, to be produced when demanded by the forest department.

- 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 thereon submitted to the Regional office for appropriate action.
- xxi. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that the samples collected during the prospecting are used purely for investigation purposes and shall in no case be used for trade or commerce.
- xxii. The State Government and the user agency shall comply with any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxiii. The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT orders & Hon'ble Court Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
- xxiv. Violation of any of these conditions shall amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action shall be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully



(Preet Pal Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC
6. Guard File