

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

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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003

**Dated: November, 2023**

To,

16<sup>th</sup>.

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Diversion of 166.41 ha forest land (150.31 ha Reserve Forest and 16.10 ha Protected Forest) in the forest compartment No. RF-720, RF-721 & PF-720-B of Parasia Range under West Chhindwara Forest Division for the Mahadeopuri Underground Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) in Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/37580/2018) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/828/2021/10-11/1942 dated 12.05.2023 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section – 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government & on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and with due approval of the Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to extend the validity of the approval accorded by the Central Govt. vide letter no. 8-372/87-FC dated 11/10/1988 under FCA,1980 for a reduced forest area of 166.41 ha forest land (150.31 ha Reserve Forest and 16.10 ha Protected Forest) in the forest compartment No. RF-720, RF-721 & PF-720-B of Parasia Range under West Chhindwara Forest Division for the Mahadeopuri Underground Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) in Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State subject to the fulfilment of following conditions :

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *The User agency shall make the payment of NPV as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry if not already done.*
- iii. *The period of validity of the approval shall be coterminous with the life of mine as per approved mining plan subject to a maximum period of 50 years from the date of initial assignment of lease by the state govt. i.e. w.e.f. 20.08.1993.*
- iv. *Since, the lease area has now been reduced to 172.87 ha, therefore the State govt. shall ensure that the scheme for further extraction of reserves within 172.87 ha boundary at Mahadeopuri UG mine is prepared as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of coal for the revised mining plans in such cases. The revision in scheme required, if any, shall be commensurate with the proposal submitted to MoEFCC and the same be carried out before commencing the mining operations.*
- v. *The State Govt. shall prepare an Integrated Wildlife Management plan for the area in the surrounding of the proposed mine and implement the same at the cost of User Agency.*
- vi. The State Government shall ensure that process for settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, has been completed in accordance with the relevant guidelines prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013;
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of diverted area shall be uploaded on the

  
16/11/2023

I/57582/2023

- e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before issuing the formal order;
- viii. The State Government and user agency shall monitor the mining induced subsidence and take appropriate mitigative measures to ensure that it remains within the permissible limit;
  - ix. The ground area over the mine shall not be allowed to be used for construction of residential buildings or labour camps;
  - x. Forest land within the project area for which approval has not been obtained by user agency shall not be used for non-forestry purpose;
  - xi. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
  - xii. Area on surface of the mining lease shall be fenced and afforested;
  - xiii. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
  - xiv. The State Government shall ensure that green cover on the ground over the underground part of mine shall be maintained as forest and supplemented by plantations in gaps at the cost of user agency;
  - xv. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
  - xvi. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
    - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
    - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
    - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
    - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 280;
  - xviii. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
  - xix. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
  - xx. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
  - xxi. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xxii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;



16/11/2023

- xxiii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxiv. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxv. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xxvi. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xxvii. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxviii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;
- xxix. The State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance of all conditions stipulated in the previous approval conveyed vide letter no. 8-372/87-FC dated 11/10/1988 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Suneet Bhardwaj) 16/11/2023

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.