

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF RENEWAL FOR DIVERSION OF 134.424 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR JADUGUDA URANIUM ORE MINING AND URANIUM ORE PROCESSING PLANT IN FAVOUR OF M/s URANIUM CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD IN EAST SINGBHUM DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 06.04.2016 in the presence Divisional Forest Officer, Jamshedpur, Assistant Conservator of Forest, Jamshedpur, user agency represented by Manoj Kumar DGM(Mine), R.K.Mishra Chief Supdt (Env Engg), Sridhar Babu Addl Supdt(geology), Rajesh Prasad Supdt (mech), V.K.Mishra Asst Supdt (Survey) Manas Ghosh, Mine Manager, Srinu Badhavat Asst Supdt (mine).

The proposal envisages renewal of diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in favour of M/s Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. in East Singbhum district of Jharkhand. The UCIL has operated the mines previously in 154.464 ha of forest land including 100.681 ha underground mining and 53.783 ha surface area. Now the user agency has applied for renewal of underground mining 100.681 ha and surface area of 33.743 ha. The Ministry had granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No.8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998. As per DFO, the user agency has submitted an undertaking that the rest surface area i.e. 20.04 ha forest land doesn't come under the mining lease and the previous approval issued vide letter No.F.No.8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998 still holds good and doesn't need any renewal.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The legal status of the forest land is Protected Forests and Reserve forests.

S.No	Division	Forest land(Ha)	Legal status
1.	Jamshedpur	92.44	Reserved Forest
2.	Jamshedpur	41.98	Protected Forest

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.

Component	Forest land for underground use (Ha)	Forest land for surface use(Ha)	Village
Sewage Treatment plant		1.773	Ichra
Waste disposal area		17.06	Bhatin and Mechua
Surface mining facilities		14.91	Ichra,Bhatin and Mechua

Underground Mining activities	100.681		Ichra,Bhatin and Mechua
TOTAL	100.681	33.743	

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

Not reported.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

As reported by project authorities total operating cost is 90.00 crores per annum.

5. Wildlife:

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

No rare/endangered species of fauna are found in the area. Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, and Biosphere/Tiger Reserve, but it is a part of Singbhum Elephant Reserve.

6. Vegetation:

The area proposed for diversion seems to be a very thickly forested. General topography is undulating to rugged with low ridges and valleys. The density of vegetation appears to be more than 0.6, however since this is an underground project and there will be no disturbance to the existing flora and fauna.

(a) Total number of trees to be felled.

Nil, Since this is an underground mining renewal project no trees are proposed for felling.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Since this proposal is an underground mining renewal project there will no affect on the general eco-system of the area.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

Since this is an underground mining renewal proposal CA details are not available.

(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

No information is available in records.

(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

No information is available in records.

(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

Not reported.

(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:

No information is available in records.

(e) Map with details:

No information is available in records.

(f) Total financial outlay:

No information is available in records.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

As per the information available in the proposal, before the date of expiry of original Lease i.e. 15.10.87, UCIL submitted application for renewal of lease for next 20 years(1987 to 2007).The ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Mines G.O.I conveyed its approval for renewal of Mining lease for 10 years i.e. from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.1997 vide its letter no.2157/88-M-IV Dated 25.4.1989.The above renewal of 10 years did make the UCIL automatically entitled to get benefit of renewal of the said mining lease for a further period of years i.e. from 16.10.97 up to 15.10.2007,as clarified and conveyed by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines, memo no. 4/108/2005-M I V dated. 21.11.2005 (Copy enclosed).

As a follow up action order for renewal of Mining lease has now been issued by the Department of Mines & Geology, Jharkhand vide its letter no. 2146 dated. 07.10.2014, both for first renewal for 20 years from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.2007 and 2nd renewal also for a period of 20 years, but not starting from 16.10.2007, rather counting it from the date of execution of 2nd lease deed and declaring the mining period from 16.10.2007 till the date of execution of lease deed unlawful.

However,during Site Inspection, the User Agency has submitted a copy of the letter No.B.M.-06-1030/90/2577/M dated 7.12.2015 of Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Jharkhand vide which UCIL has been granted mining lease of 20 years from 16.10.1987 to 15.10.2007 as first renewal and 20 years from 16.10.2007 to 15.10.2027 as second renewal.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :

This is an old mining project. So no rehabilitation is not required

11. Reclamation plan:

Submitted by the user agency and the same is enclosed.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Not applicable.

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:

Not applicable.

13. Cost benefit analysis of project

Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has the sole responsibility of mining and processing of the Uranium ore in India.

The data related to production and reserve of uranium is classified information under section 18 of atomic energy act, 1962 and rule 11 of atomic energy rules 1984 (working of the mines, minerals and handling of prescribes substances). However the unclassified data has been furnished as per the Performa.

Parameters for evaluation of benefit not withstanding loss of Forest.

Sl.no	Parameters	Benefit per annum
1	Increase in Productivity attributable to the specific project Uranium ore	Data is classified as per atomic energy act
2	Benefit to economy from uranium mining.	Data is classified as per atomic energy act
3	No at population benefited	More than 5000 including indirectly benefited
4	Employment potential	1036

5	Cost of acquisition of facilities on non Forest land wherever feasible	Nil
6	Loss of (a) agriculture (b) animal husbandry production due to diversion of forest land	Nil
7	Cost of rehabilitating the displaced person as different from amount from compensation amounts given for displacement	Nil
8	Cast of supply of free fuel wood to workers residing in or near Forest area during the period and construction	Operation in the mining lease has been started in 1967. Alternative fuel like LPG is being supplied though Co-operative stores UCIL has provided subsidized electricity to its employees.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

Recommended by the PCCF / State Government.

15. Addl PCCF (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

Annexed separately.

16. Utility of the project:

Uranium is the basic raw material for operating nuclear reactors, uranium produced from the mine is sent to Nuclear Fuel Complex Hyderabad where it is further processed to cater the countries various nuclear programs.

17 Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

Data unavailable.

(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

Not reported.

(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:


Not reported.

18. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

Proposed area for diversion does not form a part of National Park. Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere/Tiger Reserve.

19. Any other information relating to the project:

During the site inspection it was observed that no work has been started by the user agency and the whole area was demarcated on the ground. The GPS coordinates of some of the points were selected randomly and were verified on the ground by handheld GPS instruments and found to be in order. The user agency shall have to take all possible precautions for protection of environment and control of pollution while operating in the area.


(Vasanta Kiran Babu)
DCF (central).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADDL. PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

The instant proposal is for renewal of diversion of 134.424 ha of forest land for Jaduguda Uranium Ore Mining and Uranium Ore Processing Plant Project in favour of M/s Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

On perusal of records and Site Inspection Report of DCF the following observations are made:

- The legal status of the forest land is 92.44 ha of Reserved Forest and 41.98 ha Protected Forests.
- The item-wise break-up of the forest land is as follows:

S.No	Land details	Area(Ha)
1.	Sewage Treatment Plant	1.773
2.	Waste Disposal Area	17.06
3.	Surface Mining Facilities	14.91
4.	Underground Mining Activities	100.681
	Total	134.424

- The density of vegetation has been reported to be 0.6, however it is an underground project and there will be no disturbance to the existing flora and fauna.
- No tree is proposed to be felled, since it is an underground mining project.
- The Ministry had granted approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No.8-49/97-FC dated 20.04.1998.
- Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Government of India undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has the sole responsibility of mining and processing of the Uranium ore in India.
- Uranium is the basic raw material for operating nuclear reactors etc.

Keeping in view of the above facts it is recommended that the proposal may be considered for approval with standard conditions.

ANSHARAN
27.4.2016

(A.N.Sharan)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

