

भारत सरकार /GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय् परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल/ REGIONAL OFFICE, BHOPAL

Kendriya Paryavaran Bhavan, Link Road No.3, E-5, Ravi Shankar Nagar,

BHOPAL - 462016 (M.P.)

TEL: 0755-2466525 E-mail: rowz.bpl-mef@nic.in

File No. 6-MPA007/2023-BHO

Dated:

11/12/2023.

To,

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Site Inspection for diversion of 229.348 forest land in compartment No. RF-272, 273 & 274 of Waidhan Range for the extension of Nigahi Open-cast Coal Mining Project by M/s Northern Coalfield Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh (Online proposal No. -FP/MP/MIN/140863/2021)-reg.

Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi Letter No. 8-26/2015-FC-Vol. dated 06/10/2023 and 24/11/2023.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of 229.348 forest land in compartment No. RF-272, 273 & 274 of Waidhan Range for the extension of Nigahi Open-cast Coal Mining Project by M/s Northern Coalfield Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Encl: As above.

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

Shri Suneet Bhardwaj, AIGF, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.

Field Inspection Report of A.K. Sinha, IFS, DDGF (C), RO Bhopal

Ref: GoI, MoEF&CC (FC Division), letter No. 8-26/2015-FC, Dated- 06 October, 2023.

Date of Inspection: 28/11/2023 and 01/12/2023.

Officers present at the time of inspection:-

- (i) A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
- (ii) Shri Harish Duhan, Area General Manager, Nigahi project, NCL
- (iii) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, GM (Environment/Forest), NCL
- (iv) Shri Akhil Bansal, Divisional Forest Officer, Singrauli.
- (v) Shri N.K. Tripathi, Sub-DFO, Waidhan.
- (vi) Shri Bhimsen Saket, Forest Range Officer, Waidhan
- (vii) Shri R. N. Tiwari, Dy. Range Officer, Morwa.
- (viii) Shri Badri Shukla, Beat Medhauli.

Title of the Project:		Diversion of 229.348 ha forest land in compartment No. RF-272, 273 & 274 of Waidhan Range for the extension of Nigahi Opencast Coal Mining Project by M/s Northern Coalfield Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State. (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/140863/2021)						
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:		Rese	erved Forest: 2	29.348 ha			
land proposed for Dist			The proposed area for Open Cast Coal Mining in Singrauli District.					
	diversion:		No.	Component	Name of Forest Division	Range	Forest Compart ment no.	Area (ha)
			1.	Mine coal excavation area	Singrauli	Waidhan	RF-272 RF-273	226.988
			2.	Safety Zone			RF-274	2.36
					Total			229.348

3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings(including residential)or not. If yes, details thereof:	No
4.	Total cost of the Project at present rates:	Rs. 392705 Lakhs (As per online Part-I)
5.	Wildlife:	As per the SIR of DFO, Singrauli & CF, Rewa following are mentioned:- Compartment no. RF-272,273 & 274 under Elephant corridor According to working plan of Singrauli Division 2.47 (9)- Any permanent disturbance creating activities like construction of building, establishment of timber depot & labour camp and other permanent & temporary establishments are restricted in this area. 2.47 (10) The compartment falling under Elephant corridor should not be allotted for non-forestry activity if in case it is unavoidable to take these compartment for non-forestry activity than in that case alternative corridor route has to be established. However, the DFO Singrauli and CF, Rewa while recommending the proposal have mentioned that no movement of Elephants have been observed in compartment nos. RF-272,273 & 274 since last 10 years.
6.	Vegetation:	Eco-Class:-5 and Crown Density is 0.4 to 0.6
		The main species found in the area are as follows:-
		(i) Tectona grandis,
		(ii) Pongamia pinnata,
		(iii) Azadirachta indica,
		(iv) Shorea robusta
		(v) Semecarpus anacardium
		(vi) Diasporus melanoxylon
		(vii) Lagerstroemia parviflora
		(viii) Buchanania lanzan
		(ix) Anogeissus latifolia
		(x) Terminialia crenulata
		(xi) Syzigium cumini

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		(.	xii) Madhuca indi	ica		
		(.	xiii) Lannea coron	nandelica		
		(.	xiv) Manilkara he	xandra		
		(.	xv) Miliusa tomer	ntosa		
		(.	xvi) Ficus religios	sa		
		(.	xvii) Chloroxylon s	swietenia		
		,	xviii) Other misc. S			
7.	Background note on the proposal:	The N extracti reserve	CL is already ru on of Coal by Oper in a few years time, as proposed for the i	nning Nigah Cast. As the to meet the d	project is exlemands of Co	hausting its bal then, the
8.	Compensatory	As per	online Part-I			
	Afforestation:	No.	Forest Division	Forest Range	Forest Compartm ent no.	CA Area (Ha)
		1.	Singrauli	Karthua	RF-811	46
		2.	Singrauli	Mada	PF-424	40
		3.	Singrauli	Mada	RF-557	24
		4.	Singrauli	Mada	RF-553	60
		5.	Singrauli	Mada	RF-554	50
		6.	Singrauli	Mada	RF-570	59
		7.	Singrauli	Gorbi	PF-168	13
		8.	Singrauli	Gorbi	PF-176	45
		9.	Singrauli	Gorbi	PF-152	53
		10.	Singrauli	Bargawan	RF-246	20
		11.	Singrauli	West Sarai	RF-662	50
		12.	Singrauli	Mada	PF-420	40
			To	tal		500
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:	No				

10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:	No
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and Financial allocation:	It is included in the approved mining plan.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:28.04
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	The proposal is recommended by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & State Government in Part-IV & Part-V respectively.
15.	Utility of the Project:	The project is aimed at extraction of Coal of average grade-G9 which is very much suitable for thermal power stations. Accordingly, the extracted Coal from the project is proposed to be supplied to NTPC, Vindhyanagar.
16.	Whether land being diverted has any socio cultural/religious value:	No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.	The nearest protected area i.e. Sanjay Tiger Reserve, is more than 10 km away.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	-
19.	Specific comments/ obse	ervation of inspecting officer

Date of Inspection: 28/11/2023

Inspection of the proposed diversion area

Range- Waidhan; Beat Medhauli; Comp. No. RF-272

The area was observed to be covered with very good vegetation of density 0.4 to 0.6. The trees were mostly middle aged with good regeneration of Diospyros melanoxylon, Lagerstroemia parviflora and Butea monosperma. The main species found were as enlisted in column no. 06.

No. of trees, on an average is found to be about 380 trees/ ha. About 87,917 no. of trees are proposed to be felled. The NCL officials informed that the trees would be felled in a phased manner as per requirement.

As per discussion with the forest officials, the wild animals found in the area are very less and the common species found are: Wild Pigs, Neelgai, Chinkara, Jackals, etc.

It was further observed that there are two seasonal streams flowing through the area proposed for diversion. One stream is flowing from west towards East and then towards north. The other seasonal stream is flowing from South to north. There was no water found in the first stream at the time of inspection.

The NCL authorities informed that the first stream which is flowing from west to east and then to north, would be diverted and the diverted stream would be passing through the proposed area for diversion along the northern boundary and would be joined with the same stream in the mid of the northern boundary.

The second stream which is flowing from south towards north would be consumed in the mining and no diversion for the same would be required.

The necessary approval for the same has been obtained from WRD department; A copy of the same is enclosed herewith.

It is further observed that certain construction activities are noticed on the western side of the proposed diversion area which is a non forest land. But a small portion of the construction activity is noticed inside the KML of the proposed diversion area. The said spot was inspected and a boundary pillars was noticed where all the construction activities were found to be outside the forest area. However, as the adjacent pillars were not visible, the DFO informed that the area would be surveyed and if found encroached, necessary action would be taken as per rules against the encroachers and the structure would be demolished. A copy of the report in this regard by DFO Singrauli to PCCF(LM) MP, Bhopal, is enclosed herewith. It was further informed by the local forest & NCL officials that the said constructions were carried out by local land owners in their private lands and the same was not carried out by NCL.

Regarding the dumping of overburden, as informed by the NCL officials, the same would be done for backfilling the de-coaled area in the existing Nigahi project. The coal extracted would be transported by Dumpers to the receiving pits in the existing Nigahi project on the southern side of the proposed diversion.

As per information furnished by the local NCL officials, there are 3 seams on the Eastern section:-

- 1. Purewa top (seam thickness- 4m to 10.94 m)
- 2. Purewa bottom (seam thickness- 8.8 m to 14.7 m) and
- 3. Turra (seam thickness- 11.08m to 19.20 m)

Purewa top merges with Purewa Bottom towards western side.

On the western section there are only two seams i.e. Purewa merged (seam thickness-17.57m to 27.50m) and Turra (seam thickness- 11.08m to 19.20 m).

The extracted coal is proposed to be supplied to NTPC VindhyaNagar. The proposed annual production from the project is estimated to be 25 MLT/annum. Estimated life of the mine is about 18 years.

The safety zone of 7.5 m width would be along the northern and eastern boundary of the proposed diversion area as shown in the KML file. The total area of safety zone is 5.32 ha, out of which 2.36 ha is in the proposed forest diversion area and the rest is in non forest area. Total undisturbed area would be about 126.331 ha (excluding safety zone area) to cater for the passage of the diverted stream and for other statutory requirements.









Inspection of CA areas

The proposed diversion of forest land in the extension of Nigahi open cast coal mining project by M/s Northern Coal field limited is 229.348 ha. NCL, being a Central PSU, as per rules, the CA would be over double the area for diversion on degraded forest land.

Accordingly the DFO Singrauli has identified 500 ha of degraded forest land for CA at 12 different locations spread over 5 Ranges, which is as follows : -

S.No.	Area (ha)	Range	Compartment	Name of place
			No.	
1.	46	Karthua	RF-811	Baheri
2.	40	Mada	PF-424	Sidhi
3.	24	Mada	RF-557	Dhangarh
4.	60	Mada	RF-553	Dhangarh
5.	50	Mada	RF-554	Dhangarh
6.	59	Mada	RF-570	Langhadol
7.	13	Gorbi	PF-168	Bagaiya
8.	45	Gorbi	PF-176	Ajgarh
9.	53	Gorbi	PF-152	Sidhar
10.	20	Bargawan	RF-246	Makari
11.	50	West Sarai	RF-662	Banjari
12.	40	Mada	PF-420	Harrahawa
Total	500			

Out of 12 patches, inspections were made on 6 locations, which are as follows:

Date of Inspection: 28/11/2023

- 1. Shri Ashok Kumar Sinha, DDGF(C), RO Bhopal.
- 2. Shri Akhil Bansal, Divisional Forest Officer, Singrauli.
- 3. Shri R.N. Tripathy, Sub-DFO, Waidhan Range
- 4. Mrs. Trushti Singh, FRO Gorbi Range,
- 5. Shri R.K. Mishra, Dy. RO.
- 6. Shri Ashok Saket, FBO.

(i) Range - Gorbi Compartment No. - PF-152 Area-53.00 ha

It was observed that the area is open forest land with scanty vegetation. About half of the area is mostly plain with slight gradient and the rest is undulating with a number of gullies. These gullies are formed due to erosion as the land is having moderate gradient. The soil is Sandy loam. To arrest the soil erosion, it is advised to take up gully plugging works, construction of small ponds and also staggered contour trenches on the slopes. **The depth of the soil is good and the area is fit for taking up plantation with misc. forest species with suitable protection structure all around.** The species found in the area include Hardwickia binata, Butea monosperma, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Diospyros melanoxylon, Boswellia serrata etc. Plantation must include Hardwickia binata as it is naturally occurring in the region and is a Climatic climax species here.





(ii) Range -Gorbi Area -45.00 ha

Compartment No. - PF-176 Beat - Ajgarh.

The area is mostly a hillock with high gradient and area on foothills having moderate gradient. The area was observed to be totally infested with Ban tulsi (Ocimum basilicum). There were scanty vegetation in the area comprising of Butea monosperma at Lagerstroemia parviflora.

Since the area is having moderate to high gradient, SMC works like staggered Contour trenching is a must. A few ponds may also be constructed at the foothills at suitable locations. Removal of Ban tulsi weed has to be taken up before planting and the said operation have to be continued for at least 3 years after planting. The area is suitable for taking up plantation with suitable protection structures all around.





(iii) Range -Mada

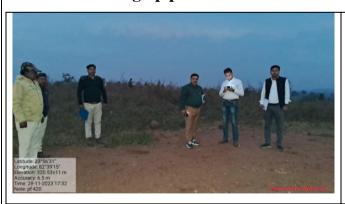
Beat - Makrohar

Compartment No. - PF-420

Area -40.00 ha

The area is located mostly on plateau of a hillock and is mostly a level ground. The area is also very much infested with Ban tulsi (Ocimum basilicum).

The vegetation in the area is very scanty which include Butea monosperma, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Madhuca indica etc. The soil is sandy loam with moderate depth. **The area is suitable for taking up plantation with suitable protection structures all around.**





(iv) Range: Mada

Area -40.00 ha

Compartment No. RF-424

Beat - Sidhi.

Name of Beat Officer - Shri Pawan Kumar Verma.

The area is mostly flat with open forest. The vegetation in the area includes Madhuca indica, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Diospyros melanoxylon, etc..

There was a water harvesting structure constructed adjacent to the area under state funded scheme. The water stored in the pond will help the CA plantation in future. The soil is red sandy loam with considerable depth. Therefore, the area is suitable for taking up plantation with suitable protection structures.





Date of Inspection: 01/12/2023

- 1. Shri Ashok Kumar Sinha, DDGF (C), RO Bhopal.
- 2. Shri Narendra Tripathy, Sub -DFO, Singrauli.
- 3. Shri Hari Shakar Verma, FBO Makari.

(v) Range -Bargawan

Beat- Makari

Compartment No. - RF-246

Area -20.00 ha

The area is mostly plain with gentle gradient. The soil is red sandy loam with excellent depth. An excellent regeneration of Diospyros melanoxylon was noticed in a patch of about 3 to 4 ha. The plantation area may be about 16 ha. Accordingly to plant stipulated no. of plants, either spacement of plantation or its extent may have to be manipulated.

Since the area is having flat topography with gentle gradient, SMC works like staggered contour trenching is a must and the same may be incorporated in the scheme. A suitable protection structure all around the plantation is a must for successful plantation. **The area is found to be suitable for CA.**





(vi) Range - West Sarai Compartment No. - RF-662 Area -50.00 ha Beat - Banjari

The following officers were also present during the inspection:-

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Tiwary, Dy. RO, Banjari

Shri Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi, FBO Banjari

The area was in a valley like topography with flat terrain and moderate slope. The soil was red sandy loom with considerable depth. The area has about 6 ha open forest and about 44 ha as vacant land. The area was found to have silt and gully erosion. Therefore, to treat the same, SMC works like staggered contour trenching, gully plugging and construction of some water harvesting structures may be taken up. Sanjay Tiger Reserve is about 6 Km away and hence there is occasional movement of Tiger, Leopards, Sloth Bear and Spotted Deer in the area. **The area is very much suitable for taking up CA plantation.**





20	Recommendations Of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	Recommended for Approval
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Since, it is a site specific project, no alternative is feasible.

(Ashor Kumar Sinha)
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)
Regional Office, Bhopal

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री जल संसाधन संभाग क्र. 2 सिंगरौली (म0प्र0)

पत्र क्र0 (504 (Email ID - eewrdsingrauli@gmail.com) तिकनीकी / 2023 सिंगरौली सिंगरौली दिनांक 🞖 / 🖟 / 🤉 3 प्रति.

> जनरल मैनेजर निगाही प्रोजेक्ट एन.सी.एल. जिला-सिंगरौली (म०प्र०)

विषय:--

एन.सी.एल. निगाही प्रोजेक्ट के वनभूमि हस्तान्तारण प्रकरण क्र. 1/47834/2023 कम्पार्टमेंट क्र. 272, 273 एवं 274 बैढन रेंज के अन्तर्गत प्राकृतिक नाला को डायवर्ट करने की अनुमति वावत्।

सन्दर्भ:-

आपका पत्र क्र. NGH/GM/SO(M)ENV/23-24/1404 दिनांक 14.07.2023

विषयान्तर्गत सन्दर्भित पत्र द्वारा नाला डायवर्सन की अनुमति प्रकरण प्रस्ताव निम्नानुसार

है:−

- कोल माइन्स हेतु प्रस्तावित वनभूमि 229.348 हे. कम्पार्टमेंट क्र. 272, 273 एवं 274 बैढ़न रेंज के 1. अन्तर्गत दो मौसमी प्राकृति नाले में प्रभावित हो रहे है।
- नाला क्र. 1: नाले की लम्बाई 2.71 कि.मी. चौडाई 6 मी गहराई 3.50 मी. से 4.50 मी. है। 2.
- नाले का बहाय दक्षिण से उत्तर की ओर है। नाले का उदगम एवं अंत खदान के अन्दर होने के कारण नाला का हिस्सा दर हिस्सा कटता जाएगा अतः डायवर्सन की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- नाला क्र. 2:- नाले की लम्बाई 2.97 कि.मी. चौड़ाई 13.00 मी. गहराई 4.00 मी. से 6.00 मी., बहाव 4. पश्चिम से पूर्व की ओर है। उक्त नाला खदान की बाउन्ड्री से होकर अंदर जाता है, अतः डायवर्सन की आवश्यकता है।
- प्रकरण के साथ GRID Plan, Cross Section संलग्न है। 5.

नाला डायवर्सन स्थल पथरीला होने के कारण नहर आकार में खुदाई कर डायवर्ट किया जाना प्रस्तावित किया गया है, जिसे कार्ययोजना अनुसार 10-15 वर्ष के बाद खदान में कार्य प्रारंभ होने के पूर्व निर्मित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। अतः निम्न शर्तो के साथ नाला डायसर्वन हेतु अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है-

- प्रस्तावित डायवर्सन चेनल में प्रवाहित जल को प्रदूषण से बचाने की व्यवस्था की जावे ताकि जल 1. का जपयोग सिंचाई, निस्तार व अन्य प्रयोजन में किया जा सके।
- वर्षाकाल में उक्त डायवर्सन चैनल में प्राकृति नालों से जल संग्रहीत किए जाने की व्यवस्था की 2. जाना आवश्यक है ताकि नाले का प्राकृतिक श्रोत बना रहे और जल का स्थानीय तौर पर समुचित उपयोग होता रहे।
- नाला डायवर्सन निर्माण प्रारंभ होने तथा कार्य पूर्ण होने की सूचना के साथ ही निर्माण कार्य जल 3. संसाधन विभाग के मापदंडों पर कराया जावे।
- नाले से औद्योगिक प्रयोजन हेत् पानी की आवश्कता होने पर नियमानुसार प्रपत्र-199 में मांग पत्र 4. प्रस्तृत कर आवंटन प्राप्त करना आवश्यक होगा।

सहपत्र:-शून्य।

कार्यपालन यंत्री

जल संसाधन संभाग क्र. 2 सिंगरौली जिला-सिंगरौली (म0प्र0)

पुठक0 / राजीकी / 2023

सिंगरौली दिनांक 🗘 / 2023

मुख्य अभियन्ता गंगा कछार जल संसाधन विभाग रीवा की ओर सूचनार्थ सादर सम्प्रेषित। **सहपत्रः-श्**न्य।

> जल संसाधन संगाग क्र. 2 सिंगरौली जिला-सिंगरौली (म0प्र0)

कार्यालय वनमण्डल अधिकारी, वनमण्डल सिंगरौली म.प्र.

Phone: 07805-233336 Fax: 07805-233335 E-mail- dfot.sgl@mp.gov.in

क्रमांक/व्यय/4350

बैढ़न, दिनांक -23-08.2023

प्रति,

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (भू-प्रबंध) म.प्र. भोपाल

विषय:-

वनमण्डल सिंगरौली के परिक्षेत्र बैढ़न के वन कक्ष क्रमांक RF-272, 273 & 274 के रकवा 229.348 हे0 वनभूमि में निगाही विस्तार परियोजना में ओपेन काष्ट कोयला उत्खनन के व्यपवर्तन का – NCL का आनलाईन प्रस्ताव क्रमांक (FP/MP/MIN/140863/2021)

संदर्भ:-

आपका पृ0 पत्र क्रमांक / एफ-1 / 840 / 2023 / 10-11 / 3591 दिनांक 10.08.2023

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विषयान्तर्गत निवेदन है कि आपके संदर्भित पत्र के साथ संलग्न भारत सरकार के पत्र द्वारा कुल 19 बिन्दुओं की जानकारी चाही गई है, जिसके बिन्दु क्रमांक 15 के संबंध में जानकारी निम्नानुसार है:-

In lieu of of point 15 Ltr. No. 3591 Date. 10-08-2023 Satellite imagery shows that the construction of a building has been carried out after the year 2018 within the proposed

forest land for diversion.

Against in point No. 15 it is submitted that a survey of concerned area will be conducted and any such encroachment will be dealed with as per law. Any encroachment found will be removed as per procedure precribed in law.

अतः प्रतिवेदन सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु सम्प्रेषित है।

वनमण्डल अधिकारी सिंगरौली म.प्र.

पृ० क्रमांक/व्यय/ 4351

बैढ़न, दिनांक-23-08-2028

प्रतिलिपि:- मुख्य वन संरक्षक, रीवा वृत्त रीवा की ओर सूचनार्थ सम्प्रेषित।

वनमण्डल अधिकारी सिंगरौली म.प्र.