



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल/ REGIONAL OFFICE, BHOPAL
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File No. 6-MPA008/2023-BHO / 273
To,

Dated: 21/12/2023.

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 80.59 ha forest land (15.549 ha Revenue forest land of Shahdol Range under South Shahdol Forest Division and 46.488 ha in RF-227 & PF-779 of Ghanghunti Range and 18.553 ha Revenue Forest Land under Umaria Forest Division) for Shahpur West Underground Coal Mine Project & Surface use in favour of M/s Sarda Energy & Minerals Ltd. in Shahdol & Umaria Districts of Madhya Pradesh State (Online proposal No. - FP/MP/MIN/151378/2022-reg.

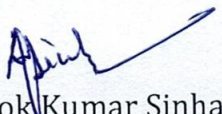
Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi Letter No. 8-10/2023-FC dated 16/11/2023.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of 80.59 ha forest land (15.549 ha Revenue forest land of Shahdol Range under South Shahdol Forest Division and 46.488 ha in RF-227 & PF-779 of Ghanghunti Range and 18.553 ha Revenue Forest Land under Umaria Forest Division) for Shahpur West Underground Coal Mine Project & Surface use in favour of M/s Sarda Energy & Minerals Ltd. in Shahdol & Umaria Districts of Madhya Pradesh is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Encl : As above.


(Ashok Kumar Sinha)
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. 8-10/2023-FC, Dated- 16 November, 2023.

Date of Inspection: 12/12/2023.

Officers present at the time of inspection:-

- (i) A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
- (ii) Shri L. L. Uike, CCF Shahdol
- (iii) Shri Kuldeep Tripathi, Sub DFO
- (iv) Shri S. S. Shrivastava, VP, Sarda Energy & Minerals Limited
- (v) Shri Arjun Singh Bajwa, FRO Ghunghutti Range
- (vi) Shri Gangaram Baiga, Dy. RO Hatpura Circle

Title of the Project:		Diversion of 80.59 ha forest land (15.549 ha Revenue forest land of Shahdol Range under South Shahdol Forest Division and 46.488 ha in RF-227 & PF-779 of Ghanghunti Range and 18.553 ha Revenue Forest Land under Umaria Forest Division) for Shahpur West Underground Coal Mine Project & Surface use in favour of M/s Sarda Energy & Minerals Ltd. in Shahdol & Umaria Districts of Madhya Pradesh State. (Online proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/151378/2022)														
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Umaria(T) Reserved Forest- 34.24 ha Umaria(T) Protected Forest- 12.248 ha Umaria(T) Revenue Forest- 18.553 ha Shahdol South(T) Revenue Forest Land-15.549 ha Total: 80.59 ha														
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	The proposed diversion area is for underground coal mining project and Component details are as follows : <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"><thead><tr><th colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Component wise breakup</th></tr><tr><th>S.no</th><th>Component</th><th>Forest Land (ha.)</th><th>Non-Forest Land (ha.)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Topsoil dump</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0.03</td></tr></tbody></table>			Component wise breakup				S.no	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)	1	Topsoil dump	0	0.03
Component wise breakup																
S.no	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)													
1	Topsoil dump	0	0.03													

			2	Infrastructure Area	0	5.378
			3	Green Belt including Embankment	0	8.02
			4	Settling Pond	0	0.2
			5	UG Entry	0	0.3
			6	Road	0.895	1.886
			7	Undisturbed Area (Mining as per Scientific Study)	79.695	522.596
			Total		80.59	538.41
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. 42186 Lakhs (As per online Part-I)				
5.	Wildlife:	The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km away from the nearest Protected area i.e. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. The said area also does not fall in any Tiger Corridor.				
6.	Vegetation:	<p>Eco-Class:-3 and Crown Density:-0.4 to 0.5</p> <p>This is an underground mining project. The main species present in the field are as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Shorea robusta</i> (ii) <i>Tectona grandis,</i> (iii) <i>Madhuca indica,</i> (iv) <i>Diasporus melanoxylon</i> (v) <i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i> (vi) <i>Buchanania lanzan</i> (vii) <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (viii) <i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (ix) <i>Ficus religiosa</i> (x) <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i> (xi) <i>Butea monosperma</i> (xii) <i>Eucalyptus</i> (xiii) <i>Other misc. Species</i> 				
7.	Background note on the proposal:	The proposal is for underground coal mining.				

8.	Compensatory Afforestation:	The proposal is for underground coal mining with surface rights in the proposed diversion area for 0.895 ha for laying of road. Since the area is less than 1.00 ha, there is no requirement of CA land. However, it is observed that 547 no. of trees have to be felled for laying of road. Accordingly plantation of 5470 no. of plants are required to be taken up. An area of 6.40 ha has been identified in RF-228 of Ghunghutti Range for the same. The KML file is also uploaded on Parivesh portal.
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:	A closure plan is already incorporated in the mining plan.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Not applicable.
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	1:11.15
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:	Apart from extraction and supply of coal, the project would provide employment to a large number of people.
16.	Whether land being diverted has any socio cultural/religious value:	No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.	The proposed diversion area is more than 10 km away from the nearest Protected area i.e. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. It is 2.248 km away from Bandhavgarh- Achnakmar tiger corridor.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	-
19.	Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer	

Date of Inspection: 12/12/2023

Inspection of the proposed diversion area

Division-Umaria; Range-Ghunghutti; Beat-Padri; Comp.-PF-779

The vegetation in the area is having canopy density of 0.4 to 0.5. The species found as shown in column no. 06. The topography of the area is mostly plain with gentle slope. The soil is red sandy loam with excellent depth. On its periphery there are old plantations of Eucalyptus. As the said area is very much close to habitations, the biotic pressure on the forest is quite high which is evident from the fact that there are a number of illicit fellings and cattle droppings in the area. The regenerations of Shorea robusta, Diasporus melanoxyton and Lagerstroemia parviflora are excellent.

Wildlife in the area-

As per discussion with local forest officials, the wildlife in the area includes occasional movement of Leopard in the surrounding areas, Jackals, Wildpigs, Snakes etc.

It is observed that the proposed road is passing through this excellent protected forest and also through adjoining revenue forest. The proposed road would be splitting the compartment PF-779 in to two parts and causing felling of 547 trees which are mainly regenerated Sal.

The laying of proposed road inside PF-779, in the longer run would cause a lot of dust pollution, noise pollution on the surrounding forest which would adversely affect the growth of regeneration and wildlife habitat. Also, as the movement of trucks would be round the clock, there would be more number of wildlife kills and in general disturbance to wildlife. Therefore, in the interest of conservation of the forest and wildlife therein, it is suggested to change the alignment of the proposed road by keeping the road in northerly direction before entering in to revenue/protected forest and then taking a turn towards east through small portion of protected forest and joining the existing alignment. This would reduce the length of the road in forest area, resulting in lesser forest diversion, lesser felling of trees and lesser interference with wildlife habitat. Moreover, the suggested alignment would pass through old Eucalyptus plantation and will save the excellent regeneration of Sal forest. Therefore, in the light of above observation, the User Agency may be requested to change the alignment accordingly.

Division-Umaria; Range-Ghunghutti; Comp.-RF-227

The area is having canopy density of 0.4 to 0.5. The vegetation comprises of mostly Teak plantations and natural Sal forest. The species found in the natural Sal forest is as shown column no. 06. The topography is mostly plain with red sandy soil having good clay content with excellent depth. It was further observed that the mining lease area is encompassing 05 villages and interspersed with streams, ponds and roads. However, as the project is for underground coal mining, the surface won't be affected so as to cause rehabilitation of villages and diversion of any streams/ roads.

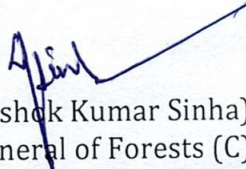
Inspection of CA area

Division-Umaria; Range-Ghunghutti; Comp.-RF-228, Area-6.40 ha

The area is natural Sal forest with scanty vegetation. About 30 to 40 percent of the area is hilly and the rest is plain. A stream is also passing through the CA area. The area is having good soil depth and is very much suitable for raising plantations. However, after the

alignment of road is revised, the number of fellings and area for surface rights would further reduce and hence the number of plants to be planted would accordingly reduce.

20	Recommendations Of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	The proposal is recommended for approval subject to change in the alignment of the proposed road as per the observations made above.
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	It is suggested to change the alignment of the proposed road as per observation made in the column no. 19.


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

Field Photographs

