

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

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

**Dated: January, 2023**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forest),  
Government of Jharkhand,  
Ranchi.

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 455.1108 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Neyvelli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited for Pachwara South Opencast Coal Mining Project located in District Dumka (Jharkhand) – regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van Bhumi-19/2022-3464 V.P. dated 29.11.2022, received in the Ministry on 21.12.2022, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the examination of the proposal revealed the following shortcomings:

- i. Part-I submitted online indicates the forest areas involved in the proposal as 398.3243 ha as well as 455.1108 ha. This discrepancy may be rectified and correct area may be indicated in the Part-II by the DFC concerned. Further current status of progress of the settlement proceedings after notification under section -4 of the IFA may also be informed by the State.
- ii. Examination of the area proposed for diversion and for raising CA, using DSS tools, revealed the following:
  - a. Analysis of the area proposed for diversion, using DSS tools, revealed a road in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government may inform if diversion of said road has been proposed to ensure connectivity or otherwise.
  - b. Further analysis of Google Satellite Imageries of CA sites reveals signs of cultivation, plantation, roads, structures, water bodies, etc. at certain sites. The State Government may submit its comments on the observation made in the DSS report (copy enclosed) and the suitability of sites may, accordingly, be revisited.
  - c. Detail of degraded forest land identified for raising afforestation in lieu of forest area of 8.5003 ha located in the safety zone area needs to be provided along with supporting attributes such as scheme of afforestation, KML/Shape files, suitability certificate, etc.
  - d. KML file depicting the various project components with proper indexing may be submitted by the State.
- ii. As Schedule-I species have been reported in the area and CF also mentioned the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Jharkhand on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife in general and elephant in particular needs to be furnished by the State. Further, comments may also be furnished on the adequacy of mitigation measures like Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan or Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management proposed for the area.
- iii. The authorities in the State Forest Department have recommended preparation of various Plans and their implementation either before or concurrently with the mining operations. Detail of such plans, in tabular form indicating clearly against them, their tentative cost, time required for preparation and duration of implementation, etc. need to be furnished by the State.
- iv. Quantitative details of deaths of human and elephants in Dumka, Pakur and Godda in

last five years may be furnished by the State along with details of existing and proposed elephant corridors in the landscape.

- v. Mining plan has not been uploaded on the online proposal. The same need to be uploaded online.
- vi. The examination of land use proposed in the proposal and in the Mining Plan revealed the following:
  - a. Area required for dumping/backfilling is almost 5 times the area required for mining, which seems to be very high and needs to shifted to nearby non-forest land.
  - b. Similarly, possibility may also be explored to shift the area of 10.313 ha earmarked for infrastructure requirement to non-forest lands.
  - c. The land use proposed in the Mining Plan are at variance with the land use proposed in the proposal. Similarly, variations have also been observed within the components proposed in the proposal and in the Mining Plan. Justification on the same needs to be provided by the State and a discrepancies in the land use components needs to be rectified.
  - d. It will be ensured that land use proposed in the extant proposal are in conformity with the land use approved in the Mining Plan.
  - e. Transportation of coal has been proposed through conveyor belt. Detail of forest land if any, involved in the alignment of conveyor belt may be informed by the State, and in case forest land is involved the same may be included in the extant proposal to enable the Ministry to take an holistic view of the proposal and activities ancillary to project.
- vii. The proposal involves displacement of people. Total 314 families have been reported to be affected from the project. R&R Plan for the rehabilitation/relocation of project affected persons/families, apparently submitted online is an assurance to conduct Social Impact Assessment and not the R&R Plan required for the consideration of the processing authorities. A copy of approved R&R Plan proposed to be implemented by the user agency in the project area needs to be submitted by the State. The user agency may be instructed by the State to upload correct documents on PARIVESH portal.
- viii. The extant proposal has been proposed to be worked by a joint venture company namely NUPPL, the ratio of equity sharing in the JV may be intimated by the State to decide the applicability of the compensatory afforestation in the extant case.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information as indicated above for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**Copy to:**

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