

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER; ANGUL DIVISION: ANGUL.

Memo No. 862 /DRP/2023/Dated. 25.01.2024

To

The General Manager, Hingula Area,
At/PO- Danara Talcher, Angul-759148.

Sub: -

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central government under Section- 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Mahanadi Coal Field Limited, for non-forestry use of 193.845 ha forest land within Mining Lease area over 1265.00 Ha. of Balram Open Cast Expansion (15 MTY) Coal Block of MCL under Angul Forest Division of Angul District, Odisha.

: - Submission of EDS reply observation made by the MoEF & CC.

Ref: -

1. Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/59166/2020.
2. State Sl. No. OR-025/2021 dt. 05.04.2021.
3. File No. 8-143/1989-FC(Vol) dt. 31.10.2023 of GoI, MoEF & CC.
4. Memo No. 22987 dt. 03.11.2023 of OSD-cum-SS to Govt.
5. This office memo No. 7131 dt. 07.11.2023.
6. Your letter No. 418 dt. 27.12.2023.

Sir,

With reference to the above cited memo No. on the captioned subject, it is to inform that the proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central government under Section- 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Mahanadi Coal Field Limited, for non-forestry use of 193.845 ha forest land within Mining Lease area over 1265.00 Ha. of Balram Open Cast Expansion (15 MTY) Coal Block of MCL under Angul Forest Division of Angul District, Odisha is under process for Stage-I approval.

In view of the above, on scrutiny of the diversion proposal by the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department (Forest Conservation Division), certain shortcomings were identified and documented in file No. 8-143/1989-FC(Vol) dated 31.10.2023. These observations were subsequently forwarded by the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to the Government of Odisha, Forest Environment & Climate Change Department, as per memo No. 22987 dt. 03.11.2023.

The user agency had been requested to submit the point wise compliance report with all connecting documents to this office for onward transmission to the higher quarters in due time vide this office letter No. 7131 dt. 07.11.2023.

Now, you have submitted the point wise compliance report vide his Letter No. under reference (6).

Further, as per during discussion on the meeting held on 24.01.2024 at 11.30 AM in cloud nine of Nodal wing, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. on scrutiny of the above diversion proposal and the following shortcomings are noted.

- i. **In context of observation point No. (ii)** KML file along with GPS points of nodes have not been provided. Further, a map is to be attached showing the boundary.
- ii. **In context of observation point No. (iii)** CA land is yet to be notified as protected forest. You are therefore required to submit PF notification after declaration of CA land as protected forest following due procedure.
- iii. **In context of observation point No. (v)** It is to be clarified why biologically reclaimed land has not been handed over the State Forest Department. This is not addressed in the reply by the user agency. Further, you are requested to deposit an amount of = **Rs 10,46,77,097/-** towards the cost of NPV for earlier approved area of 85.201 ha vide Ministry's letter dt. 28.09.1990 for Kalinga OCP (Now Balaram OCP) Coal mining demand letter has been sent vide this office letter No. 580 dt. 16.01.2024.
- iv. **In context of observation point No. (vi)** CA land outside notified DFL is required. CA scheme along with DGPS map etc. may be submitted.
- v. **In context of observation point No. (viii)** As per para 7.9 of FCA guideline, the mining proposal for which diversion of forest land have been approved before 27th May 2015, the UA shall take the approval of forest land in the Safety Zone, if not already taken. Detailed status of any such approval needs to be provided.

Hence, you are requested to submit the point wise compliance report with all connecting documents to this office for onward transmission to the higher quarters in due time for taking further action at this end for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully


Divisional Forest Officer
Angul Division


Memo No. 863 / Dated. 25-01-24

Copy forwarded to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Angul Circle, Angul for kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 22987 dt. 03.11.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government.


Divisional Forest Officer
Angul Division

Memo No. 864 / Dated. 25-01-24

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer FC Act O/O the PCCF Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 22987 dt. 03.11.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government.


Divisional Forest Officer
Angul Division