

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

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

**Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023**

To

The Chief Secretary  
Government of Uttarakhand  
Dehradun

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Mining Division Haldwani for renewal of forest clearance for Collection of Minor Minerals from 1497 ha of forest land of Gaula River under Forest Division Tarai East, Haldwani and District Nainital, Uttarakhand.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to your DO letter dated 20.01.2023 regarding extension of validity of approval for diversion of 1497.0 ha of forest land for collection of boulder, bajri, sand etc. vide letter No. 8-61/1999-FC dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013 as the formal renewal of the same is likely to take some time. The State Govt has submitted an online proposal No. 1260/FP/UK/MIN/147953/2021 for the renewal of the above mentioned approval, which was received by the Ministry on 12.04.2022. After detailed examination of the proposal, the shortcomings observed were communicated to the state vide letter dated 13.05.2022. The reply to the observations was submitted by the State vide letter dated 31.10.2022, which along with the enclosures and the CD containing the kml file was received on 10.11.2022. However, the State did not submit the complete compliance and reply to the observations and accordingly the Ministry vide letter dated 20.12.2022 again requested the State government for the needful.

2. Now the State Govt vide letter dated 04.01.2023 has submitted the compliance and reply to the observations raised, however, the shortcomings as elaborated below are still required to be attended by the State government:

- i. It has been intimated by the state government vide letter dated 04.01.2023 that 173.65 ha area is proposed for advance soil works in 2023-24 for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation and the kml file of the same can not be provided. The State needs to give reasons/justification for not completing the CA within stipulated period. Further, the kml file of the proposed area must also be submitted by the State for analysis.
- ii. The DSS analysis of the KML files of 250.0 ha of CA area submitted by the State has revealed the presence of agricultural land and construction in the

CA site East Jaulasaal CT-20 and the area of two CA sites namely East Jaulasaal CT-20 Part-2 and Kotkhara South A-14 Plot 108 is less than 5 ha. These aspects are required to be looked into and clarified by the State govt.

- iii. The State govt has now submitted the mining plan approved by the Department of Mining and Geology Govt. of Uttarakhand. The said mining plan approved for next 5 years contains a letter No. 1057/VII-A-I/2022-11(ख)2010 dated 29.09.2022 issued by the Government of Uttarkhand wherein the condition no. 13 stipulates that the User Agency will carry out mining after leaving 15% area on each bank of the river. Whereas, the condition at Sr no xiii of the approval dated 23.01.2013 stipulates that *extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to the middle half of the width of the river bed after leaving intact one fourth of the width of the river bed along its each bank*. The said condition which is contrary to the conditions of stage-II approval needs attention of the State government and clarification may accordingly be submitted.
- iv. All the parameters prescribed in the Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 have still not be included in the cost benefit analysis which is required to be done.

3. Keeping in view the request of the state government to extend the validity of the approval accorded vide letter dated 23.01.2013 and based upon the approval of the competent authority, it has been decided that the Government of Uttarakhand may allow the User Agency to collect the minor minerals from already broken up area where the mining operation is presently going on till 28.02.23, beyond the date of validity of the approval dated 23.01.2013 i.e. w.e.f. 24.01.2023 to 28.02.2023.

4. The State Government shall however immediately submit the reply to the observations as contained above in Para 2 of the letter along with the latest point wise status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the S-II approval dated 23.01.2013 so that the proposal for renewal of validity of forest clearance can be placed before the FAC for consideration.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours Sincerely,

**Sd/-**

**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttarkhand, Dehradun.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun (*with a request to expedite the inspection of the remaining CA areas*)
4. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
5. User Agency.

I/37710/2023

6. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.