

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

Aliganj, Jorbagh Road

New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 16th December, 2021

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 14.00 ha Reserved Forest land in Compartment No. 454 of Junnadev Vishala Village of Jamai Range for Bharat Open Cast Coal Mine Phase-II in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited in Chhindwara District, Madhya Pradesh State (Online Proposal No. FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/FP/MP/MIN/26356/2017/3478 dated 21.10.2021 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The detailed examination of the proposal has revealed that:

- i. The proposal has not been recommended by the CF Chindwara, however the State Govt has not given any specific reason or justification to not agree with his opinion.
- ii. The Cost-Benefit Analysis is required to be submitted as per the Comprehensive guidelines/Handbook issued by the Ministry on 28.03.2019.
- iii. The complete compliance of conditions stipulated in earlier approvals accorded vide Ministry's letter no. 8-112/2006-FC dated 17.07.2008 (68.704 ha.) and letter no. 8-112/2006-FC dated 17.01.2015 (19.50 ha.) is required to be submitted.
- iv. The KML files of the 68.704 ha forest area diverted for under-ground mining and 19.50 ha forest diverted for open cast mining within forest compartment No. 454 in favour of same user agency may be submitted for better understanding of the present proposal.
- v. The total Mining lease area is reported as 218.48 ha whereas the Mining lease area as per the submitted KML file is 441.380 ha. This discrepancy needs to be clarified.
- vi. As per the DSS analysis some non-forestry activities are visible outside the lease boundary and in the adjoining areas. This needs clarification.
- vii. As per the DSS analysis plantation activities have been carried out within the 14 ha forest land proposed for diversion. The detail and status of plantations within the proposed area may be submitted.
- viii. As per the DSS analysis of proposed CA sites, it appears that some plantation activities have already been carried out in the past. The State Govt. may look into the matter and propose suitable areas for Compensatory Afforestation. The Site suitability certificate for the proposed CA sites is also required to be submitted.
- ix. CA scheme has been prepared in the year 2017-2018, which is required to be revised

- as per the latest wage rates.
- x. Legible copies of approved Mining plan along with the progressive mine closure plan/ Reclamation plan is required to be submitted.
 - xi. A Geo-referenced detailed land use plan for entire Kanhan area showing the entire mining lease/mines of M/s WCL along with mineralized area (Coal seam) may be submitted.
 - xii. As per online Part-I on PARIVESH portal the user agency has reported that Environmental Clearance is not required in the instant proposal. This needs clarification.
 - xiii. The proposed land is under plantation and management of Forest corporation and has been recommended for the land diversion needs to be clarified. This also needs to be clarified whether the Forest corporation has been given any lease on the forest land in question under FCA or not.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.