



# Government of West Bengal

## Directorate of Forests

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests

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**Memo No. 1513 /3A-1**

**Dated, 02/12/2023**

From :: The Chief Conservator of Forest,  
Central Circle, West Bengal.

To :: The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.

Sub :: Point wise compliance/ reply of EDS regarding Diversion of 338.74 ha of  
forest land for Coal Mining in Barjora North Coal Mine Block in favour of  
The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited, Bankura  
District, West Bengal (Online Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/43000/2019).

Ref :: Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Forest Conservation  
Division, Government of India letter No. I/85056/2024 dated 21st  
October, 2024.

Sir,

In reference to the above-mentioned subject, this is informed that after examination of the said proposal by MoEF & CC, Forest Conservation Division, Govt. of India, few essential details were sought to proceed for the forest diversion proposal. Accordingly, EDS has been raised vide letter No. I/85056/2024 dated 21st October, 2024.

Accordingly, the Point wise compliance /reply are given below by the User agency; Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura North Division along with the comments of the undersigned for your kind perusal.

Sr. No.	EDS Raised by MoEF&CC	Point Wise Compliance of User Agency	Point Wise Compliance Report of DFO, Bankura North Division	Point Wise Compliance Report of Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, W.B
i.	The CWLW while recommending the proposal has mentioned that the impact of the proposed project could be kept at manageable level using extraction technology that does not require blasting. In this regard, the state shall intimate whether the mining is proposed to be done with the extraction technology without blasting	As per Geological Report and Graphic Litholog Data of Boreholes of Barjora (North) Coal Mines, the top most strata is alluvium & top soil of thickness varies from 6m- 21m approximately. The Alluvium & Top Soil are mostly soft material, may not require any blasting operation for removal/excavation and can be excavated without blasting. Geological Report mentioning alluvium & top soil of thickness with Graphic Litholog of Boreholes is attached as Annexure-I for reference.  Thereafter due to presence of hard strata (Sandstone/Shale etc.) blasting is required. Winning of Coal will be done through	As per reply of user agency and as per Geological Report and Graphic Litholog Data of Boreholes of Barjora (North) Coal Mines, the top most strata (6m-21m) approximately is alluvium and may not require blasting operation and can be excavated without blasting whereas in hard strata Blasting is essential for removal of overburden. Controlled deep hole blasting technique will be used with electronic detonator as per DGMS guidelines ( <b>Annexure-I</b> ), so that there will be no adverse impacts of blasting on	The reply of User agency (US) made clear against the query of EDS (MoEF&CC) and further explained by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura North Division.

	<p>or otherwise.</p>	<p>Surface Miner hence no Blasting will be required.</p> <p>CIMFR conducted Scientific Study for Controlled deep hole blasting at Barjora (North) Coal Mine on dated May, 2019. The Report by CIMFR is attached as Annexure-II</p> <p>WBPDCCL has also obtained DGMS Permission to conduct controlled deep hole blasting under Regulation 196(3) of the Coal Mines Regulations, 2017 vide letter no: 010985 EZ Sitarampur Region No. I/Perm/2024/264869 on dated 22.08.2024 as Annexure-III</p> <p>Blasting in hard strata is necessary for removal of Over Burden. The Blasting will be done through advanced Technology i.e., by use of Electronic Detonator so there will be no adverse impacts of blasting on surrounding flora &amp; fauna. The Blasting Operation will be done following the recommendations of Scientific Study of CIMFR &amp; Guidelines of DGMS in order to keep the ground vibration &amp; Sound etc. within threshold limit value so that no harms will cause to flora &amp; fauna. Adequate numbers of blast induced ground vibration monitoring instruments &amp; Noise Level Monitoring instruments will be used to monitor the Vibration &amp; Noise for continuous check and balance mechanism to ensure that there is no harm to flora &amp; fauna.</p> <p>Further Control blasting technique will be adopted to eliminate the possibility generation of fly rocks as per Scientific Study Report by CIMFR.</p>	<p>surrounding flora &amp; fauna.</p> <p>However, the coal winning will be done through surface minor without blasting method.</p> <p>The Blasting Operation will be done following the recommendations of Scientific Study of CIMFR &amp; Guidelines of DGMS in order to keep the ground vibration &amp; Sound etc. within threshold limit value so that no harms will cause to flora &amp; fauna. Adequate numbers of blast induced ground vibration monitoring instruments &amp; Noise Level Monitoring instruments will be used to monitor the Vibration &amp; Noise for continuous check and balance mechanism to ensure that there is no harm to flora &amp; fauna.</p> <p>Further Control blasting technique will be adopted to eliminate the possibility generation of fly rocks as per Scientific Study Report by CIMFR.</p> <p>User Agency committed to adhere the norms of air over pressure/noise threshold level 136 dB(L) as per DGMS standard as recommended in scientific study report by CIMFR.</p>	
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ii.	<p>A brief profile of the company/UA should be submitted giving details of their existing mining leases for coal in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land where mining is completed. Along with this, the State Government should also submit the details of all other coal mining leases with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements. They should fully justify the necessity of opening the proposed mining lease on forest land by giving details like total number of mines with mining lease, area, mineable, reserve life of mine, maximum production achieved in particular year against permission granted for production per year".</p>	<p>Brief profile of WBPDC, of their existing mining leases for coal in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land where mining is completed is herewith submitted as Annexure-IV.</p>	<p>As replied by User Agency the details are attached in (Annexure – II).</p>	<p>The UA has explained their current scenario in their (ANNEXURE-II) reply.</p>
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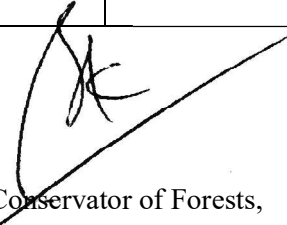
iii.	<p>The "Tartora Nala" flows from west to east of the proposed mine boundary and needs to be diverted as per the approved Mining Plan. A justification for the diversion of the Nala needs to be submitted. The state shall examine the matter and give a reasoned justification as to why the diversion of nala is essential and why it is not possible to retain the nala within the mining lease with a safety zone along the nala. The State Govt. shall submit no objection certificate from irrigation/water resource department with regard to the proposed diversion of the said nala.</p>	<p>Tartora Nala, which is a seasonal Nala (3 km in length &amp; avg. 20m in width within Mining Lease area) flows from west to east through the southern part of the proposed Forest Diversion area. Up to 10th year Nala will be remain in its original course and only after 10th year of mining operations it will be diverted as per Approved Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan.</p> <p>It is essential to divert the Nala as because beneath the Nala approx. 2.5 million tonne Coal reserve is there and as per the approved Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan, coal reserve cannot be left out without mining.</p> <p>As per Approve Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan the detail diversion Plan of Tartora Nala and its Design &amp; Section are attached as Annexure-I</p> <p>If WBPDCCL retain the Nala as it is, with a safety zone of both side from the Nala, approx. 2.5 million tonne of coal reserve will be blocked under the Nala. As per Approved Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan, reserve cannot be left out without mining as this already taken within total extractable Coal reserve considering conservation point of natural resource and safe working of the mine.</p> <p>Justification for the diversion of the "Tartora Nala".</p> <p>There are mainly three reasons for diversion of Tartora Nala.</p> <p>Approved Mine Plan: As per approved Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan, the entire Nala falling within Core Mining Zone, therefore diversion is essential. Stage Plan of 10th to 15th year is Attached as Annexure-II.</p> <p>Coal Reserve: Beneath the Nala approx. 2.5 million tonne coal reserve is there, which cannot be left out as per Approved Mine Plan &amp; Mine Closure Plan by Ministry of Coal (MoC), Govt. of India.</p> <p>DGMS Safety Guidelines: As per DGMS circular No. DGMS/SOMA/(Tech)circular no. 02, dated 22nd May, 2024 Precaution against the danger of</p>	<p>Query raised by Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (North) Division vide memo no. 2502/8-dated 25/11/2024 in order to address the EDS raised by MoEF &amp; CC vide letter no. I/85056/2024 dated 21st October, 2024. User agency replied point wise compliance on dated 29.11.2024. Wherein Tartora Nala need to be diverted as coal reserve falls beneath the Nala. The diversion of Nala will be after 10 years of mining operation as per approved mining plan &amp; mine closure plan and for that diversion plan submitted by User Agency as annexed (<b>Annexure-III</b>).</p>	<p>The UA and the DFO, Bankura North Division have explained their views clearly on shifting of 'Tartola Nala' which seems in evitable and un avoidable. The UA has given an undertaking for the same.</p>
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iv.	<p>The PCCF (HoFF) has recommended the proposal, however, keeping in view the fact that the area proposed is in high conservation zone and part of a landscape which is an elephant habitat, an in-depth analysis of the issue is needed, especially in view of the concerns raised by the Nodal Officer. The PCCF(HOFF) shall therefore submit his clear recommendations duly addressing the specific concerns raised by the Nodal Officer.</p>	<p>Total area of the Forest land proposed for diversion is 338.74 ha. Out of total area of this only 10-13% is Very Dense Forest whereas overall canopy density is 0.4 in entire forest area.</p> <p>In order to mitigate and balance the detrimental impact due to the mining activity, State Forest Department has Prepared the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and Comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan with a financial outlay of Rs 90,13,54,162.00 &amp; of Rs. 16,23,65,280.00 respectively.</p> <p>Further Compensatory Afforestation (CA) Scheme with a financial outlay of of Rs. 22,27,54,343.00 has also been prepared for implementation. The entire implementation cost will be borne by the WBPDCCL.</p> <p>Further any additional plantation as compensatory measure, if directed by Forest Department, WBPDCCL commits to adhere the instruction in totality.</p> <p>In post closure of the mine, the used forest land will be reclaimed biologically &amp; technically and will be handed over to State Forest Department as per the prescribed norms.</p> <p>WBPDCCL, being a State PSU, is dedicated to compensate any impacts due to diversion of the Forest land as per directions/guidelines of Forest Department.</p> <p>In view of the above the proposal of Forest Diversion may kindly be considered as it is unavoidable</p>	<p>Out of 2100 ha (approx.) of forest area in mouza Baguli, Barapukhuria, Ghutgaria, Manohar, Sharjora &amp; Tikargram, 338.74 ha land is proposed for diversion.</p> <p>Out of total 338.74 ha area of this only 45 ha very dense, 107 ha moderately dense and 57 ha open forest area as per DSS analysis by MoEF &amp; CC.</p> <p>In order to mitigate and balance the detrimental impact due to minning activity, State Forest Department has prepared the comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan &amp; comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan with a Financial Outlay of Rs. 90,13,54,162.00 and of Rs. 16,23,65,280.00 respectively.</p> <p>Further compensatory afforestation scheme with a financial outlay of Rs. 22,27,54,343.00 has been prepared for implementation. The entire implementation cost will be borne by WBPDCCL.</p> <p>Further User Agency has committed to bear any additional plantation as compensatory measure, if directed by State Forest Department, WBPDCCL commits to adhere the</p>	<p>In order to mitigate and balance the detrimental impact due to mining activity, State Forest Department has prepared the comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan &amp; comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan with a Financial Outlay of Rs. 90,13,54,162.00 and of Rs. 16,23,65,280.00 respectively.</p> <p>Further compensatory afforestation scheme with a financial outlay of Rs. 22,27,54,343.00 has been prepared for implementation. The entire implementation cost will be borne by WBPDCCL.</p> <p>Further User Agency has committed to bear any additional plantation as compensatory measure, if directed by State Forest Department, WBPDCCL commits to adhere the instruction in totality.</p> <p>In post closure of the mine, the used forest land will be reclaimed biologically &amp; technically and will be handed over to State Forest Department as per the prescribed norms.</p> <p>With the above points, the WBPDCCL made bigger commitments to take care of the proposed mining area.</p>

		in order to meet the Power requirement of the State of West Bengal.	<p>instruction in totality.</p> <p>In post closure of the mine, the used forest land will be reclaimed biologically &amp; technically and will be handed over to State Forest Department as per the prescribed norms.</p> <p>WBPDCCL, being a State PSU, is dedicated to compensate any impacts due to diversion of the Forest land as per directions/guidelines of Forest Department.</p> <p>In view of the above the proposal of Forest Diversion may kindly be considered as it is unavoidable in order to meet the Power requirement of the State of West Bengal.</p>	In view of the above the proposal of Forest Diversion may kindly be considered as it is unavoidable in order to meet the Power requirement of the State of West Bengal.
v.	<p>The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land. The regional Office in the SIR has reported that about 169.41 ha area in Jalpaiguri district is in the riverine area of Teesta river. The suitability of the same has to be ensured. Further, it has been informed that during site inspection, only some of the areas proposed for CA in Bankura District were physically inspected. The Regional Office needs to inspect the remaining areas proposed for CA and ensure their suitability. A detailed report in this regard is required from the Regional Office.</p>	<p>Availability &amp; Suitability of 338.84 Ha Non-forest land has been obtained from Concerned Authority for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) against 338.74 Ha of Forest Land Proposed for Diversion, which has been already uploaded in Part-I, Parivesh Portal.</p>	No comments.	No comments.

vi.	The State Government shall submit the information on the above-mentioned points to the Ministry along with a copy to the Regional Office. The Regional Office shall examine the same and keeping in view the recommendations of the Nodal Officer, West Bengal and the Regional Office shall submit its recommendations on the proposal to the Ministry.	This is related to State Forest Department and MoEF & CC, Regional Office (RO), Bhubaneswar.	Reply against point wise query raised is hereby submitted with a copy to the Regional Office.	As stated by the DFO, Bankura North Division.
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This is being submitted for your kind perusal.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Central Circle, Govt. of West Bengal

**Memo No. 1513/1(2)/ 3A-1**

**Dated, 02/12/2024**

Copy forwarded for kind information to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (HoFF) Govt. of West Bengal.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of West Bengal.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Central Circle, Govt. of West Bengal