

No. Ft. 48-3691/2017(FCA),
Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh

Registered

From: Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA),
O/o Pr.CCF(HoFF) HP Shimla-1.

To: The Addl.Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),
GoI,MOEF& Climate Change, Regional Office(North-Central Zone),
25, Subhash Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand.

Dated Shimla-1, the **06 SEP 2019**
Subject: **Re-diversion of 1.052 ha. of forest land in favour of Mining Officer, Chamba for River Bed Mining in Salandri Khand (Stream) at Mohal Janna, Distt. Chamba, within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, H.P. (Online No. FP/HP/MIN/39231/2019).**

Sir,

P.W. 60-61/ Kindly refer to your office letter No. 8B/HP/05/30/2019/ FC/1113 dated 14.08.2019 on the subject cited proposal.

2. The point wise reply to the observations raised vide letter under reference is submitted as under:-

1. The correct authority letter has issued duly stamped and signed by mining officer has been uploaded in online at para(xvii) in Part-I. copy of same is enclosed herewith.
2. It is submitted, that the Lease area is adjacent to the main HPPWD road and there is no any approach road of 300 meters is available between the mining lease area and HPPWD road . the road 300 meters mentioned in transportation plan and showing the KML file exists inside the proposed mining lease area, and hence no additional forest land is required for approach road and hence not required to be added in the proposal. Accordingly the transportation plan is amended and clarified. The revised Transportation Plan is enclosed herewith.
3. The area lies within the regular course of the Salandari Khad which gets flooded in the rainy season during the monsoon. The mined areas of Salandari Khad are replenished with the eroded material brought down from the catchment rock formation during heavy rainfall in high reaches. There is sudden decrease in the carrying capacity of khad due to blocking of the flow of Salandari Khad by Chamera lake waters, thus of annual deposition up to 30 cms is received at this point. The lease area falls in the acquired reservoir zone of the Chamera Hydro Electric Project. The removal of sand, stone & bajri from the area, diminishes the siltation of the reservoir, thus, increasing the life of the reservoir and Chamera Hydro Electric Project. The Lease area falls in the acquired reservoir zone of the Chamera Hydro-electric Project. The removal of sand & bajri from the area prevents the silting of the reservoir. The more the removal, less the silting of reservoir, therefore, the Joint inspection committee has suggested that mining may be undertaken with the help of mechanical means. The entire safe mineable area is proposed to be mined except during the monsoon period. Post monsoon the water level of the reservoir can be filled up to 764 meters level. The water in the reservoir starts receding in the post monsoon period. The mining will thus be undertaken in the part of leased area

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where the water has receded. The mining will precede downstream with the receding water level. In the per-monsoon period the water level in the reservoir recedes to 747 meters level. Besides the above, few other reasons are as below,

- a. High demand of sand stone & aggregate for construction and other local public/government development projects.
- b. To control the illegal mining of sand, stone and aggregate from the river bed/other govt./forest land.
- c. It will also generate the revenue to the government as royalty & taxes.
- d. It will also generate the employment; the generation of employment is first approach of Govt. in the present time.

The above facts show the necessity to open the new area of mining lease for RBM. Copy of clarification is enclosed herewith.

4. The mined area being part of river course cannot be reclaimed for any other purpose. The proposed mining land/area always remains river bed, prior to, during and post mining. However mid-stream mining in accordance with the approved mining plan would lead to systematic channelization of riverbed and minimize chance of boulders/silt overflowing the banks. Thus, the mining activity in the river bed of Salandri Khad not only protect the adjoining area from fury of monsoon floods but would also prolong the life of Chamera Hydro Electric Project. Copy of same is enclosed herewith.
5. In this case only one meter area is proposed as safety zone as the depth of mining is constrained to one meter. As per the approved Mining Plan and considering the actual technical aspects, the area of 7.5 meters safety zone could not maintained as stated in guidelines para 7.9 . Because this whole mining lease area comes under the HFL of Chamera Dam, and during the monsoon periods or heavy rainy days, it gets refilled with boulder and silts of flood. Hence, in view of technical consideration it is very well clear that no any safety zone etc. could be maintained at the river bed mining. Even, we have already left the area of 1/10th between lease boundary of HFL as a safety zone as per policy guidelines. Copy of same is enclosed herewith.
6. The User agency has provided the strip plantation for width of 10 meters and 50 meters either side of road and natural stream respectively located inside the mining lease. The same is attached herewith duly signed by the User agency i.e Mining Officer, Chamba and DFO concerned.
7. As per the policy guidelines, no mining shall be allowed within 1/10th of river bed or 5 meters whichever is higher. The width of the khad in lease area varies from 40 m to 125 meters. Thus no mining is proposed in the area up to 5 to 13 meters from the bank, depending upon the width of that particular site. Safe distance from the Sundla Banikhet Bridge has been maintained for its safety while planning the yearly mining operation. As submitted in reply to the point No. 5, it has been clarified that the safety zone could not be maintained at the river bed mining in view of technical consideration and approved mining Plan/ Maps. Because, the high flood will destroy the maintained safety zone etc. Hence, whole proposed mining lease area has only one component i.e., Extraction of Sand, Stone & Bajri has been uploaded online at para. B.2.4 in part-1. Copy of same is enclosed herewith.

8. It is submitted, that the lease area is adjacent to the main HPPWD road and there is no any approach road of 300 meters is available between the mining lease area and HPPWD Road. The road 300 meters mentioned in transportation plan exists inside the proposed mining lease area, and hence no additional forest land is required for approach road and does not required to be added in the proposal. Accordingly the Transportation Plan is amended and clarified and attachment is enclosed herewith at page No. 15. Further, it is added that this road which exists/visible inside the mining lease is not a permanent or fixed component. According to the approval mining plan for extraction of mining mineral a temporary road constructed for transportation of material even the present road can be excavated for mining extraction as per the approved mining plan. It is clarified that this road cannot be added as a separate component in component wise breakup at para 2.4 in Part-I. Besides, it is also submitted that except extraction of sand, stone and bajri no any other activity/component can be undertaken in the mining lease area.
9. It has been clarified that the safety zone could not be maintained at the border of the river bed mining, Hence, provide the CA for 1.5 times under the area of safety zone is not applicable. Further, it is also clarified that the Primary User Agency, Chamera Project, NHPC has already provided the CA for whole the area on double of the degraded forest land diverted. Copy of same is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.

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Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA)
O/o Pr. CCF(HoFF),H.P. *90*

Endst.No.Ft.48-3691/2017 (FCA)

Dated Shimla-171001 **06 SEP 2019**

Copy for information is forwarded to:-

1. CCF Chamba, W.r.t. his office memo. No. 4686 dated.04.09.2019.
2. DFO Churah.
3. District Mining Officer,Chamba, Distt. Chamba, H.P.

Received 6/9/19
Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA)
O/oPr.CCF(HoFF),H.P. *90*

9/9/19