



Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Forests

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (North) Division

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Memo. No- __ 1166 __/8-

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Dated, Bankura, the _07_/ _06_/ 2024

From :: The Divisional Forest Officer,
Bankura (North) Division.

To :: The Chief Conservator of Forest
Central Circle, 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 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/57366/2023 dated 10th November,
2023.

Sir,

In reference to the above-mentioned subject, this is informed that after examination of the said proposal by MoEF & CC, Forest Conservation Division, Gol, some information was sought for the processing of the forest diversion proposal. Accordingly, EDS has been raised vide letter No. I/57366/2023 on dated 10th November, 2023.

Point wise compliance /reply is given below for your kind perusal.

Sr. No.	EDS Raised by MoEF&CC	Point Wise Compliance Report
i.	The area proposed for diversion is having very dense forest (VDF) over some portion which is inviolate as per DSS analysis. Further, apprehensions have also been raised by the State Nodal Officer regarding the detrimental impact the mining in this area is likely to cause. The proposal has not been recommended by the State Nodal Officer. In such circumstances the State shall give a detailed justification as to why the use of the proposed forest area for mining cannot be avoided. State may explore mining in other areas before proposing mining in a biodiversity rich area.	As per the reply of the User Agency, the User Agency needs to work in the forest area to meet up the power demand, after the exhaustion of coal reserves in the non-forest area, which abuts the proposed diversion site. In order to balance the trade off between energy security and ecological security, ecological safeguard measures have been proposed in the form of Approved Wildlife Conservation Plan and Approved Soil Moisture Conservation Plan. The same has been uploaded as additional documents in Part II at Parivesh portal. Moreover, the U/A has committed to adhere to additional safeguard measures such as additional plantation, biological and technical reclamation of forest land post closure of mine, and to compensate for any impact due to diversion of forest land, as per directions/guidelines of the Forest Department.

ii.	The State needs to examine as to how the other requirements like transportation, electricity etc. would be met. The detail of additional forest land required for the same (if any) shall be intimated.	The User Agency has informed that diversion of forest land is required for mining purposes only. As per User Agency, it has already established all infrastructure facilities such as Electricity Line, Coal Stock Yard and Coal Transportation Route etc. as per requirement in Non-Forest Land only. Surface Layout Plan Showing Existing Infrastructures such as Electricity Line and Coal Transportation route etc has been uploaded by User Agency in Part-I.			
iii.	The cost benefit analysis has been calculated on old rates of NPV. Therefore, the same may be re-calculated on revised/existing rates and furnished on prescribed format as per the Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019.	The User Agency has prepared the revised cost benefit analysis as per new handbook of guidelines issued on dated 28.03.2019 and uploaded in Part-I in serial no. G.			
iv.	The instant proposal has been recommended by the State Government with a condition of the implementation of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and Comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan to mitigate the negative effect on eco-system. But none of the plan/scheme has been uploaded on PARIVESH. Therefore, the plans duly approved by the competent authority towards instant proposal may be uploaded on PARIVESH.	Approved Wildlife Conservation Plan as well as Approved SMC Plan has been prepared and approved. The same has been uploaded in Part II as additional documents at Parivesh portal. User agency also commits to pay the Lump Sum amount i.e. 2% & 0.5% of the project cost as per MoEF & CC circular dated 7 th June 2023 towards implementation of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and Comprehensive Soil Moisture Conservation Plan respectively as part of compliance of the condition if any delay occurs in approval of the said plans. User Agency has also committed to bear any additional cost to be incurred in respect of approved Wildlife Conservation Plan as well as SMC Plan. In this regard, an undertaking has been uploaded by UA in Part-I as additional documents (Annexure 5 under S. No. 15).			
v.	DSS analysis (copy enclosed) revealed that some area between the two forest patches has not been included in the present diversion proposal. Therefore, the KML file of proposed forest diversion needs to be revisited. In case the same is correct, the justification for leaving the area in between the two patches needs submission.	As per supporting documents provided by U/A, the mentioned Plot Nos. 2864 & 2873 are also part of the existing mining lease as per schedule received from MoC, GOI. Supporting documents have been uploaded by UA in Part-I.			
vi.	A detailed breakup of the Components proposed to be undertaken in the forest land and non-forest land has not been mentioned in the online Part-I. Therefore, the same needs to be updated online and the components wise KML file shall be submitted.	Detailed component wise KML & breakup of Forest & Non-forest land has been uploaded by U/A in Part-I at PARIVESH portal as given below.			
		Component	Forest (Ha)	Non-Forest (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)
		Mine Quarry including Back Filling	213.51	217.81	431.32
		Excavated Void	105.85	72.49	178.34
		Top Soil Dump	0.72	1.09	1.81
		Safety Zone	3.85	4.74	8.59
		Nala Diversion	7.20	4.07	11.27

		Road & Infrastructure	5.91	5.27	11.18
		Garland Drain	Nil	2.25	2.25
		Untouched Area/Mining Rights for UG	1.05	36.58	37.63
		Others	0.65	Nil	0.65
		Total	338.74	344.30	683.04
vii.	Satellite imagery shows that the plantation work has been carried out by the State Forest Department in Village Ghutgoria, Survey No 2689 which is proposed for diversion. This needs clarification.	As per available records, no Plantation work was carried out by the Forest department in Forest Land Proposed for Diversion in Village Ghutgoria, Survey No 2689.			
viii.	Satellite imagery shows that a Nala flows through the proposed forest land for diversion. Therefore, comments of the State Govt in this regard shall be submitted.	User Agency has informed that diversion of Tartora Nala will be as per approved Mine Plan (2 nd Rev.) of Barjora (North) Coal Mine. Relevant Pages of approved Mine Plan has been Uploaded by User Agency in Part-I. In this regard, necessary approval from authorities concerned shall be obtained by User Agency (if required). Undertaking has been received from User Agency.			
ix.	DSS analysis of proposed CA sites (Copy enclosed) revealed the following short comings and therefore the CA areas shall be revisited and submitted in accordance with the guidelines issued by this Ministry: a. No. of patches proposed for CA are 53 patches and there are several CA patches which are having an area of less than 5 ha. b. Mining activity is visible in the proposed CA patches located in Village Saharjora Plot No150 & 3138 under Bankura District. c. One CA patch namely Village Singhghagra-773 located under Purulia District is falling in the forest land.	Proposed CA areas have been revisited and Report has been received from Divisional Forest Officers concerned. a. CA Patches in the Forest Divisions of Bankura North, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia, Kangsabati North, and Baikunthapur having less than 5 ha area are connected to other proposed CA Land or contiguous to RF/PF. In this respect clarification has been obtained from Forest Divisions concerned (Copy Enclosed.) In the case of Bankura North Division, the same has been mentioned in the Site Suitability Report (Copy Enclosed). The CA Land proposed in Birbhum Division (Mouza-Hirapur) has not been considered for CA since the land parcels are not contiguous to proposed CA or PF/RF. Therefore, User Agency has Proposed the additional CA Land of an area 3.63 ha in Mouza -Anandapur, District-Bankura. Land Suitability Certificate and CA Scheme of New Proposed area has been prepared and uploaded in Part II at Parivesh Portal. b. The land parcels mentioned, namely Saharjora Plot No. 150 & 3138 are undulating land as mentioned in site suitability report. In the past, locals may have utilized the soil hence there is some loss of top soil. Pits of 1 m depth and SMC work has been proposed under CA to develop the habitat suitable for Elephants. In the CA Scheme proposal, the above issue has been addressed. Moreover, the land shall be properly demarcated and protected through Energized fencing and maintenance of plantation.			

		<p>c. As per correspondence received from DFO Purulia, proposed CA Land belongs to Govt Land as per clarification received from DFO, ADM & DL & LRO, Purulia, vide Memo No. IV/386190/R/2024 dated 02.02.2024 (Copy Enclosed). In respect of Village Singhagra-773 located under Purulia District.</p> <p>Further, as per MoEF&CC guideline File No: F.No. 11-423/2011-FC issued in April 2019, if 1000 trees can't be planted on the proposed CA land, User Agency will also pay the amount towards balance tree plantation on the degraded forest land. The undertaking in this respect has been received from UA.</p>
viii.	There is slight variation in proposed CA area (340.36 ha.) and suitability certificates (341.443 ha.) furnished by the State. It shall be ensured that the site suitability certificates are correctly given for the proposed CA areas.	Updated CA land availability has been revised by User Agency and District wise CA Land Details has been uploaded in Part-I. Site suitability certificate has been uploaded in Part II.
ix.	Satellite imagery shows that the Mining activity is going on in adjacent to the forest land proposed for diversion. Historical imagery indicates that the mine is working before theyear 2014. As per the DSS, the present mine is working on the Non-Forest land. In this regard, State Govt. may clarify as to whether it is part of the same mining lease or it is a separate mining lease. The detail of approvals shall also be provided.	<p>Clarification has been received from User Agency which is as following:</p> <p>Barjora (North) Coal Block was earlier allocated to M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. Mining activity in Non-forest land of the block started in Jan, 2011 and production of coal continued till 31st March, 2015.</p> <p>Thereafter by order of Hon'ble Supreme Court the Coal Block was deallocated and reallocated by Gol to WBPDCCL vide letter no:103/07/2015/NA dated 31.03.2015 as per Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance,2014 with a provision of end use of coal for its Power Plants situated in West Bengal.</p> <p>After reallocation of Coal Block, WBPDCCL has obtained necessary approvals and started mining operation in 260.14 Ha in Non-Forest land. Mining Lease obtained by DVC EMTA has been transferred in favour of WBPDCCL by Gol. Hence working is continued in same Mining Lease Area in non-forest land.</p> <p>Detailed Chronology of Mining Lease both Non-forest & Forest land as well others requisite permissions has ben Uploaded by User Agency.</p>
x.	Moreover, it has been mentioned that the erstwhile user agency had also carried out some work in the mining lease. A detailed report in this regard along with the time period of mining and requisite approvals shall be submitted.	<p>Reply has been received from User Agency which is as following:</p> <p>Barjora (North) Coal Block was earlier allocated to M/s DVC EMTA Coal Mines Ltd. Mining activity in Non-forest land of the block started in Jan, 2011 and production of coal continued till 31st March, 2015.</p> <p>Thereafter by order of Hon'ble Supreme Court the Coal Block was deallocated and reallocated by Gol to WBPDCCL vide letter no:103/07/2015/NA dated 31.03.2015 as per Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance,2014 with a provision of end use of coal for its Power Plants situated in West Bengal</p>

		<p>After reallocation of Coal Block, WBPDCCL obtained necessary approvals and started mining operation in 260.14 Ha in Non-Forest land. Mining Lease obtained by DVC EMTA has been transferred in favour of WBPDCCL by GoI. Hence working is continued in same Mining Lease Area in non-forest land.</p> <p>Detailed Chronology of Mining Lease both Non-forest & Forest land as well others requisite permissions has been uploaded by UA in Part-I.</p>
x.	In the component wise break-up, an area of 14.17 ha. (Other use), 11.18 (infrastructure area) and 37.63 ha (undisturbed area) forest land have been proposed and no breakup for the same has been given. Therefore, the details of each component involved in the said area with justification may be provided.	User Agency has submitted the reply which is following: Component wise break-up of the area of 14.17 ha. (Other use), 11.18 (road & infrastructure area) and 37.63 ha (undisturbed area) which falls under forest land and non-forest land has been prepared by User Agency with justification as per Approved 2 nd Revision Mine Plan & Mine Closure Plan uploaded in Part-I.
xii.	The detailed component wise break-up of forest land and non-forest land involved in instant lease is not available on PARIVESH. Therefore, the same may be uploaded.	User Agency has uploaded the detailed component wise break-up of Forest and Non-Forest Land as per Approved 2 nd Revision Mine Plan & Mine Closure Plan in Part-I.
xiii.	A chronology of the mining lease both on forest and non-forest land along with the detail of requisite permissions along with documentary evidences shall be submitted.	User Agency has uploaded the details Chronology of the mining lease & details of other requisite permissions on Parivesh Portal in Part-I.

This is for your kind perusal.


Divisional Forest Officer
Bankura (North) Division.

Memo. No- __ 1166 __/8-

; Dated, Bankura, the _07_/_06_/ 2024

Copy forwarded for kind information to:

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Conservation Act, West Bengal.

Sd/- UMAR IMAM, I.F.S.
Divisional Forest Officer
Bankura (North) Division.