



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

No.M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19

Dated: 27.10.2020

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 75.92 ha forest land for Construction of Screening Plant, Tailing Dam, Slurry pipeline Corridor & Water Pipeline Corridor at Donimalai of M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur, (FC Online Application No. FP/KA/OTHERS/14576/2015) – Reg.

- Ref: 1) Online Application No. FP/KA/OTHERS/14576/2015 Dt11.08.2015.
2) Letter No. A(5)/MNG/CR-15/2015-16 Dt.18.07.2019 of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore
3) This office even number Dt.19.02.2019, 27.08.2019, 21.03.2020 & 05.05.2020.
4) Letter No. ಸಆಸ೦/ಸ೦ದವ/ಬಿಿ.ಎ೦ಡಿ/75.92/2019-20 Dt.09.12.2019, 13.05.2020 & 14.10.2020 of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari.
5) Letter No. DNM/ENV/FC Com./2019/2207 dated:24.07.2019, 12.05.2020 & 08.10.2020 of the M/s. NMDC Limited, Donimalai.
6) Letter No.M1/MNG/CR-11/1990-91(NMDC) dated :29.04.2020 of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari.

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With reference to the above subject, the undersigned had submitted a proposal and compliance report to the stipulated conditions in Stage-II approval of ML No. 1111 and ML No. 2396 vide letter under Ref (3). In regard to the same, certain queries were raised from your good office vide letter under Ref (6). Further, as per the directions of the undersigned the field officers have submitted a report in response to the queries raised vide letter under Ref (4).

The response submitted by the User Agency and field officials are re-verified with the records available in the office and a comprehensive response is being submitted as hereunder;

Sl. No.	Particulars	Reply
1	M/s.NMDC Ltd., Donimalai Sandur, is having 2 mining leases i.e., ML No.1111 over an extent of 341.20 Ha whose annual production capacity is 7 MTPA from M/s. Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mines and another ML No.2396 over an extent of 608 Ha whose annual production capacity is 7 MTPA from Donimalai Iron Ore Mines.	Copy of the Stage-II approvals for both the mining leases (ML No. 2396 & ML No. 1111) are enclosed herewith (Annexure-1(a) & 1(b)). The approved production capacity for the said mining leases is 7 MTPA (Annexure-2).
2	On conversation with the representative of the M/s. NMDC Ltd., on 29.04.2020, it is learnt that there already exist one screening plant outside the lease area of M/s. Donimalai Iron Ore Mine bearing ML No. 2396 to cater the iron ore production of 7 MTPA.	User Agency in their reply (Annexure-3) and during the discussions has stated that the existing screening plant is meant to cater to 7 MPTA of Iron ore which is expected to be produced from Donimalai Iron ore mine (ML No. 2396). The proposed screening plant (SP-II) is to exclusively cater to the Iron ore produced from Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mines (ML No.1111).

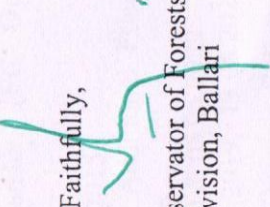
3	<p>The mining lease of Donimalai Iron Ore Mines vide M.L. No.2396 over an extent of 608 ha which was having an iron ore production capacity of 7 MTPA as already expired during the August 2018 itself. How is this mining lease could be linked with the proposed Screening plant (for diversion of 75.92 ha of forest land), in anticipation of FC clearance to be accorded to the above user agency in respect of ML No.2396, this fresh proposal for diversion of 75.92 ha for the purpose of screening plant and other allied components, it may not be desirable for only one mining lease which is existing as of now.</p>	<p>The User Agency has stated that, as per latest MMDR, 2015 rules, mining lease in case of Donimalai Iron Ore Mines (ML No. 2396) is granted for a period of 50 years i.e. upto 03.01.2018. Further the Commerce and Industries Department (Mines), Government of Karnataka (vide letter No. CI 78 MMM 2016 Dt.02.11.2018) has extended the lease period further 20 years with effect from 04.11.2018 i.e. upto 03.11.2038 Annexure-4. The User Agency is expected to resume production for this mine.</p> <p>Further, the User Agency has stated that, the existing screening plant is dedicated for DIOM (ML No.2396) only and the proposed Screening Plant - II (over an area of 75.92 ha) would be dedicatedly utilised for processing of iron ore produced from KIOM (ML No.1111) only. Thus, there would be no linkage or overlapping between both screening plants.</p>
4	<p>You're directed to find out whether the existing screening plant is covered under F(C) Act 1980 or not. And ask the user agency about its capacity and to revise their proposal if necessary.</p>	<p>The forest area where the existing screening plant is situated is not covered under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.</p> <p>However, the User Agency has made an application for diversion of 96.87 ha (initial proposal for 235.648 Ha) of Forest Area in Donimalai Block, Sandur South Range, Ballari District vide online proposal No. FP/KA/Others/17464/2016 where the existing Screening Plant is situated.</p> <p>As regard to the capacity of the existing Screening Plant (SP-I), according to the User Agency, it is only capacited to handle Iron ore produced from the designated mine (DIOM; ML No. 2396) which is upto 7 MMT annually and there is no scope for enhancement of its capacity.</p> <p>Details of the forest area being utilised by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. within the lease are and outside are noted.</p> <p>M/s. NMDC Ltd has submitted an application for diversion of 235.648 ha of forest area (vide online proposal No. FP/KA/Others/17464/2016) which seeks lease for the facilities/infrastructure outside lease area. Upon further</p>
5	<p>As M/s. NMDC campus, as per my earlier inspection is having lot of forest land under encroachment, you are hereby asked to take appropriate action.</p>	<p>Details of the forest area being utilised by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. within the lease are and outside are noted.</p> <p>M/s. NMDC Ltd has submitted an application for diversion of 235.648 ha of forest area (vide online proposal No. FP/KA/Others/17464/2016) which seeks lease for the facilities/infrastructure outside lease area. Upon further</p>

	deliberations with the department officials, the User Agency has revised the online proposal for diversion of 96.87 ha (outside the lease area of ML No. 2396) for regularization of forest area where various infrastructure/facilities and Screening Plant-I are situated. The Copy of the PART-I of the proposal is enclosed as Annexure-5 .
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The reports submitted by the User Agency in this regard where in they have provided detailed justification / clarifications is also enclosed along with the comments / observation of the field officers.

This is for your kind information and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari