



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
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No. 21861 /9F (MG) – 372/2021
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 08th November' 2023

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-1100036

Sub: **Proposal for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in district Jharsuguda in Odisha of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited – Compliance to GoI observations dated 01.09.2023 regarding.**

Ref: Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.09.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi has requested to furnish compliance to 6(six) nos of observations vis-à-vis the meeting by the Advisory Committee (AC) held on 21.08.2023. The point wise compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division and RCCF, Sambalpur Circle are as follows:-

Observation (i)-: The proposal wise KML file of the 541.622 ha forest area which has been already diverted shall be submitted by the State government in different colors.

Compliance-: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the KML file of 541.622 ha of already diverted forest area shown in different colors, has been enclosed in CD format (CD-1).

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Observation (ii)-: The RO Bhubaneswar has submitted the monitoring report for the proposals which were approved for change in land use of 25.238 ha and re-diversion of 84.399 ha. The details of these earlier re-diversion proposals and change in land use with KML file in different colours shall be submitted.

Compliance- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has furnished the details of re-diversion of earlier diverted area as follows:-

SI No.	Project Name	Re-Diversion/Change of Land Use	Clearance granted on
1	Lakhanpur OCP	84.399 Ha [Re-diverted out of 233.43 Ha]	Stage -II Clearance obtained Vide No. F. No. 8-280/1989 –FC(Vol-I) Dated 19 th January, 2012
2	Lakhanpur OCP	25.238 Ha [Re-diverted out of 233.43 Ha]	STAGE -II Clearance obtained Vide No. F. No. 8-280/1989 –FC(Vol-II) Dated 2 nd November, 2018

The KML file of 25.23 Ha and 84.399 ha of change in land use of already diverted forest area shown in different colors, has been enclosed in CD format (CD-2).

Observation (iii)-: The UA has submitted an approved integrated mining plan which was approved in 2018. The area involved in 6 different diversion proposals has now been integrated for which change of land use of 171.77 ha is proposed. Because mining operations are going in the earlier diverted area in which land use change is being sought, therefore, there is a possibility that the mines will have been operating as per the latest land use plan which has not been approved under FCA, 1980 till date. The report on this issue shall be submitted by the State.

Compliance- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the mining plan for Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari OCP (40MTY) has been approved by MCL Board on 23.10.2018 and accordingly the mining activities in 171.774 ha has been proposed. The details of land area of 171.774 ha which are proposed for Change in Land Use are verified with the existing records of the proposals under which they have been previously diverted.

As reported by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, the areas are jointly verified on field by the Range Officer, Belpahar, Brajrajnagar and Tahasildar, Lakhanpur Tahasil to check if the land use has shifted to the change proposed in the Integrated plan. No land is seen to have under gone land use change from the verification. The said Joint Verification Report is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

However, the respective projects viz. Lakhanpur OCP, Belpahar OCM and Lilari OCP are operating as per their respective approved mining plan. The area of 171.774 ha for which change of land use has been proposed has not been disturbed and therefore the land use pattern has been maintained as per the approved mining plan of respective projects i.e. Lakhanpur OCP, Belpahar OCM and Lilari OCP.

Observation (iv)-: State Government shall submit the status of reclamation of the mined out area and explore the possibility of using them for ACA. A detailed report shall be submitted.

Compliance-: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has furnished the Status of Reclamation of the mines which is tabulated below:-

Mines	Backfilled area		External OB Dump		Block & Avenue		Total	
	Area	Plants	Area	Plants	Area	Plants	Area	Plants
Belpahar OCP	108.80	266750	55.33	138250	252.50	413664	416.63	818664
Lakhanpur OCP	129.70	268350	17.50	43750	41.92	200244	189.12	512344
Lilari OCP	26.00	58015	25.40	72251	70.10	178939	121.50	309205
Total	264.50	593115	98.23	254251	364.52	792847	727.25	1640213

Further, as per the approved Mining Plan & Mine Closure Plan of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari OCP, the present area of Lakhanpur OCP and Belpahar OCP have been proposed to be re-handled and for dumping respectively. Therefore, the existing reclaimed areas will be utilized for mining and its allied activities in the proposed Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari OCP (40MTY). Hence, at present it is not feasible to offer the reclaimed areas of the projects for ACA.

Observation (v)-: The State shall submit a detailed report on implementation of SSWLMP along with the justification for delay in implementation.

Compliance-: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted the details of expenditure incurred in respect of SSWLMP, which are furnished below:-

The Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan has been approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha and Lakhanpur OCP and Belpahar OCM of MCL have deposited Rs.2,05,00,000/- on 18.05.2011 and Rs.3,35,17,000/- on 20.01.2014 respectively in the CAMPA fund.

The user agency (MCL) has incurred an expenditure of Rs.1,48,57,425/- (against the approved amount of Rs.36,00,000/-) in respect of Lakhanpur OCP. In case of Belpahar OCP, the user agency (MCL) has incurred an expenditure of Rs.19,47,12,15/- (against the approved amount of Rs. 1,54,00,000/-) for carrying out approved project area interventions.

Further, the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest division has reported that as regards to Impact Area Activities of the approved SSWLCP in both the cases, the same have not been implemented till date. However, the approved interventions will be included in CAMPA APO-2024-25 for implementation in both the projects.

Observation (vi)-: The justification for not filing the Prosecution report in the violation cases shall also be submitted.

Compliance- In compliance to the above, the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest division has reported that OR case No.113 of 96/97, OR case No.120 of 97/98, OR case No.125 of 97/98, OR case No.17 of 1999/2000, OR case No.18 of 1999/2000 of Belpahar Range have been booked against the MCL authorities at that time. Further, the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest division has reported that as per available records of his office, no prosecution report has been filed in the court and the reason for the same is unknown as per the available records.

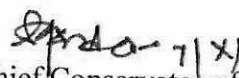
The Jharsuguda Forest Division has been created after reorganization of Forest Department with effect from 1st October, 2003 and the Division was then named as Sambalpur (North) Division. Subsequently, the Division has been renamed as Jharsuguda Division with Headquarters at Jharsuguda in 2013. However, the prosecution report will be filed in the court as soon as possible after obtaining relevant records from the Divisional Forest Officer, Sambalpur Forest Division.

In respect of OR case No.17 of 1999/2000 and OR case No.18 of 1999/2000, the cost of Penal Compensatory Afforestation has been deposited by the user agency and subsequently, 138 ha i.e. four times the area under violation has been raised over degraded forest land in Grindola RF by erstwhile DFO, Sambalpur Division.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations dated 01.09.2023 of the GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

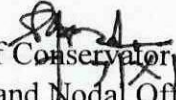
Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 21862 /Dt. 08.11.2023

Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.09.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 21863 /Dt. 08.11.2023

Copy along with the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.09.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Memo No. 21864 /Dt. 08.11.2023

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 2338 dated 29.09.2023.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 21865 /Dt. 08.11.2023

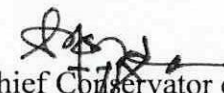
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 2339 dated 29.09.2023 of RCCF, Sambalpur Circle.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 21866 /Dt. 08.11.2023

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Lakhanpur Area, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., Po-Bandhabahal Colony, Dist-Jharsuguda for information and necessary action Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 01.09.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.


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