



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR DIVISION

Phone No- 06766-254315, email ID- dfo.keonjhar@odisha.gov.in

Memo No 12753 /6F-Mining-21/2022
Dated, Keonjhar the 08th November, 2023

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.

Sub:

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(ii) of FC Act 1980 in favour of M/s Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited for non-forestry use of 94.351 ha of forest land including 4.261 ha of Safety Zone (3.858 ha along the ML boundary and 0.403 ha along the PWD road) within the granted LoI for ML over 131.800 ha for Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Block in Keonjhar district of Odisha- reg.

X-Sub:

Submission of compliance report on observation of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India on dated 20.09.2023.

Ref:

1. Letter No. 8-02/2023-FC dt. 20.09.2023 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.
2. Memo No. 20241/FE&CC dt. 26.09.2023 of OSD-Cum-Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC, Govt. of Odisha.
3. Letter No. TEMPL/DFO/2021-22/31dt. 31.10.2023 of the User Agency.

With reference to the aforementioned memo on the captioned subject, the point wise compliance report of observations of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India dt. 20.09.2023 is submitted herewith favour of your kind information and necessary action.

- Regarding Violation, it has been noticed by Regional Office that there are 48 existing small illegal mining pits covering 2.5 ha land at least more than 10 years old. During site visit, mining pits were covered with vegetation. DDGF(C) should get details from the division about the agency to which this illegal mining activity is attributed.**

The details of violation, causes status of land where violation noticed in the applied area has already been intimated to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide this office memo No. 4566 dt. 25.05.2023 with copy to you in the next memo of even date. However, the same is reproduced below for favour of kind reference.

As per the Part- II report of the undersigned – 3.666 ha (Forest- 3.312 ha & Non-forest land- 0.354 ha) land was disturbed by old pits over 2.491 ha & 1.175 ha for road prior to grant of composite license.

A. (i) All the pits area are non-forest revenue land which was found to be Sabik Forest later (non-forest land treated as forest as on 25.10.1980) as per letter No.R&DM-GE(GL)-S-63/13-4822/CS dated 12.02.2015 of Chief Secretary, Odisha and guideline F.No.8-78/1996-FC(pt) dated 10.03.2015 of MoEF&CC, GoI.

(ii) However, this 48 nos. small illegal mining pits over 2.491 ha (round to 2.5 ha) have an average area 520m² (0.052ha) per pit over Revenue Forest land.

(iii) It is ascertained from the field enquiry that it was attributed to local villagers as the mining lease is adjoining to human habitation and it was highly porous and prone for encroachment & theft.

(iv) As per google time series analysis pits are dug for almost last 20-25 years ago.

(v) So the theft of surface mineral in small patches was done when the land was non-forest land. However there is no continuing violation on the said land by any private agencies including present lessee.

B. The said violation is not done by any other private agencies. As it is a fresh composite mining lease granted during 24.01.2019 and violation had happened 20-25 years ago.

Further, it is ascertained from the letter No. 631 dt. 08.02.2022 of Joint Director Mines, Joda addressed to the Directorate of Mines, Odisha, Bhubaneswar that the excavated pits were filled with vegetation as seen from the surface map attached during auction of aforesaid mining lease area.

- ii. The Karo River is crossing between two blocks of the Mining Lease. The mining project will affect the catchment of this Karo river. So there is need for soil and moisture conservation measures in the rest catchment of this river and the forest lands in and around the proposed site.**

It is a fact that the Karo River which is crossing between two blocks but a dedicated over bridge is proposed to be constructed by which road transport will be done. Further it is also to mention that in Laserda part the Karo River is minimum 50 mtrs away from the lease boundary and in Pacheri part the Karo River is minimum 200 mtrs away from the lease boundary. Measures for soil and moisture conservation like retaining wall, garland drain along the dump and settling pond needs to be taken up within the lease area by User Agency. Further as per Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, there is a provision to construct 1500 mtrs retaining wall along the River bed.

- iii. Protection and monitoring of wildlife, wildlife habitat management, support to local forest dependent communities through proper eco-development measures etc. are some of the areas which need specific attention. Since the area is characterized by the movement of elephants, measures proposed for their protection and mitigation of HEC issues are required to be examined.**

The Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan with the financial outlay of Rs. 390.402 lakh has been prepared & approved by the PCCF, (WL). Further, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to give all support if there is any further requirement for proper eco-development measures. The undertaking is enclosed herewith as **Annexure A** for protection of wildlife & management of their habitats etc. Specific measures has been incorporated in the above plan to address & minimise the Human-Elephant Conflict. Apart from the user agency, the measures to be taken up by the Keonjhar & Bonai Division in the impact area for the protection & Conservation of wildlife are depicted below:-

TO BE EXECUTED BY THE KEONJHAR FOREST DIVISION

1. Plantation of 10,000 seedlings of Sal, Siali, Ficus spp, Jamun, Arjun etc along Karo river in urban plantation mode.
2. Engagement of Anti-poaching Squad to assist the regular Forest staff, 10 persons for 5 years.

3. Engagement of 30 nos of Gaja Sathi (@5 nos. per village in 6 villages) through VSS.
4. Two Nos. of Radio collar for monitoring two elephants and one MTS person for their monitoring.

TO BE EXECUTED BY THE BONAI FOREST DIVISION

1. Deployment of Gaja Sathi on year basis.
2. Implementation of Jana Surakshya, Gaja Rakshya in fringe villages 05 KM either through VSS / community / private person and its maintenance.

iv. **The Committee also observed that there is a need to examine the evacuation plan for minerals and how to meet the requirement of Water, Transport and Electricity.**

The user agency has intimated in his letter No. TEMPL/DFO/2021-22/31dt. 31.10.2023 regarding their requirement & planning to meet the requirement of Water, Transport and Electricity.

Water

Detail of Water Requirement for the project and their sources:-

| Sl. No. | Use | Quantity/ Amount | Source | Permission |
|---------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1 | Domestic | 95 KLD | Borewell | CGWA |
| 2 | Water Sprinkling (Dust Suppression) | 740 KLD | Dewater from Mine pit | - |
| 3 | Green Belt Plantation | 10 KLD | Dewater from Mine pit | - |
| 4 | Work shop & Wheel washing | 40 KLD | Dewater from Mine pit | - |

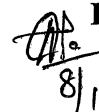
Transport

The lease boundary Pillar No. 15 & 16 is adjoining to 9 mtrs of PWD road from Bolani to Kiriburu. The material will be transported through the same road which lead to Bolani & Barbil siding and also touch NH 520. In this regards detail traffic study has already been completed. As per requirement there will be maximum movement of 12-15 trucks per hour plying on this road, so dust & noise pollution will be minimized. However the user agency shall take adequate measures to mitigate the effects of pollution by adopting appropriate measures. Further it is to mention that, in the said area there is no other mining leases except SAIL, SAIL is doing transportation of ore through conveyor to direct Bolani siding. So the user agency will transport the minerals through the said road.

Electricity

11 KV line is passing through the lease area near to boundary pillar no 15 & 16 along the PWD road. There is a very nominal electricity requirement for the project, for only crushing & Screening Plant and domestic purpose. As intimated, the user agency will use electricity from 11Kv line passing through lease. The necessary permission from Electricity Distribution Company will be taken by the user agency.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Division.


 8/11

PTO

Memo No. 12754 /Dated 08.11.2023

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

(Signature)
08/11/23

**Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Division.**

(Signature)
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