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**Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh
Mandi Forest Circle, Mandi**

From: CCF Mandi

To: Nodal Officer-cum-APCCF(FCA)
O/o Pr.CCF (HoFF) HP Shimla.

Subject: - Diversion of 1.7674 ha. of forest land for mining lease for extraction of Sand, Stone and Bajri in Son Khad Part-III at Kalswai, Tehsil Dharampur, Distt. Mandi HP in favour of Sh. Vinod Kumar, S/o Sh. Swami Ram, Village Trambala, P.O. Longni, Tehsil Dharampur, Distt. Mandi HP, within the jurisdiction of Joginder Nagar Forest Division, Distt. Mandi. HP (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/119019/2021).

Sir,

Kindly refer to EDS raised by GOI vide letter No. FC/HPB/56/2023 dated 20.07.2023 on the subject cited above.

The observations as pointed out vide letter under reference has been attend by DFO J/Nagar & user agency, detail as under :-

Sr. No.	Observations	Reply
1	There is mismatch in KML of diversion area uploaded in Part-I and location (GPS coordinates) mentioned in Mining Plan. Therefore, same may be reviewed and correct location of the proposed DA may be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.	Revised KML file has been uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal against Column No. C(ii) (a) in Part-I
2	In Part-I, M-vii (KML) is marked out of the proposed DA KML file and also intersects the KML of proposed DA of (FP/HP/MIN/129370/2021) proposal. Therefore, State Govt is required to reveal such information (proposed mining proposal in the vicinity) while sending proposals to Regional Office and the 50 m strip on the both sides of the stream as per Para-7.5 of Handbook of FC Act and Rule (Guidelines and Clarifications) also needs to be highlighted in the modified KML and submit the correct KML in the designated column of Part-I of PARIVESH portal.	Revised KML file has been uploaded against Column C(ii)(a) in Part-I. It is further submitted that Another Proposal vide online proposal No. (FP/HP/MIN/129370/2021 has been submitted to GoI for diversion of 0.7984 Ha. for mining purpose in favor of M/s Vinod Kumar. The average width of the river at the mining point is 80 Meter hence it is not possible to leave the 50 Meter strip on the both side of stream. Most oftenly the water stream gets on changing its path, hence it is not possible to find the middle of the river bed. However, However, possibility has been explored to minimize the disturbance of river stream/riverine ecology and KML file has been revised and uploaded accordingly.
3	The approach access from the nearest existing road to the proposed mining area and details of the plan for the	The proposed project is adjacent to the existing road and does not require approach access and NOC of HPPWD of HPPWD has

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	transportation of the minerals proposed to be prospected from the mining lease area is not mentioned in the proposal. Therefore, same may be clarified. If approach road is required the same may be included in the proposal as a separate component.	been uploaded against additional information detail at Sr. No. 22.
4	Layout plan with all components (safety zone, approach access etc) marked with distinct colours needs to be submitted.	Layout Plan of the project has been uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal against additional information detail at Sr. No. 25.
5	Safety zone is not included in the proposal. Therefore, safety zone as per para-7.9 of Handbook of FC Act and Rules (Guidelines and Clarifications) is required to be included in the proposal and accordingly revise the proposal.	It is submitted that the Son Khad has a wide angle at the mining site, due to this most often the water stream gets on changing its path, hence it is not possible to find the middle of the river bed. However, mid stream mining in accordance with the approved mining plan would lead to systematic channelization of river bed and minimize chances of boulders overflowing the banks. This would also protect the adjoining area from the fury of monsoon flood.
6	An Undertaking to the effect that User Agency shall deposit the amount for afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one and half time the area for forest land under Safety Zone with the State Forest Department besides depositing funds with Forest Department for the protection and regeneration of the Safety Zone area is required to be submitted.	The undertaking has been uploaded at Sr. No. 29 against additional information detail of Part-I.
7	As per Para-7.5 of Handbook of FC Act and Rule (Guidelines and Clarifications), extraction of minor minerals shall be from the middle of the river bed after leaving one fourth of the river bed on each bank untouched. Therefore, one- fourth area on bank may be left and accordingly revised proposal including the revised KML file needs to be submitted.	It is submitted that the geology of the proposed area is as such that one fourth of the river bed on each bank of Son Khad cannot be leaved untouched. However, possibility has been explored to minimize the disturbance of river stream/riverine ecology. has a wide angle at the mining site, most often the water stream gets on changing its path, hence it is not possible to find the middle of the river bed. The mid stream mining in accordance with the approved mining plan would lead to systematic channelization of river bed and minimize chances of boulders overflowing the banks. This would also protect the adjoining area from the fury of monsoon flood.
8	State Govt may submit an undertaking that no mining activity will be carrying out during monsoon season.	Undertaking for the same has been uploaded against additional information detail at Sr. No. 28 on the portal.
9	The Land Reclamation Plan including post mining land use plan needs to be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.	The mined area being part of the river course cannot be reclaimed for any other purposes the land under active mining would always remain river bed during as well as post mining. The mid stream mining in

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		accordance with the approved mining plan would lead to systematic channelization of river bed and minimize chances of boulders overflowing the banks. This would also protect the adjoining area from the fury of monsoon flood. However, the reclamation detail as per approved mining plan has been uploaded at Sr. No. 21 against additional information detail of Part-I.
10	State Government may submit a brief profile of the lessee/company along with detail of its existing mining leases, capacity of production, present level of average annual production, location of mining lease area and the status of reclamation of forest land that area exhausted minerals in tabulated form with supporting documents as per para-7.8 (i) of FCA Act and Rule (Guidelines and Clarifications).	It is submitted that the Project Proponent/Lessee i.e. Vinod Kumar has not any mining lease as yet. It is further submitted that there is no existing mining unit in Son Khad and its periphery. The requirement of minerals of local area are being fulfilled by procuring the sand, stone & Bajri from stone crusher. Which does not meet out the requirement of local people hence proposed mining will be beneficial for local people to meet out their requirement of sand, Stone & Bajri and this will decrease the chances of illegal/unscientific mining in the area.
11	“No” is mentioned in Para-H (Status of Environmental Clearance) of Part-I. Therefore, same needs to be reviewed and rectified, if applicable.	Necessary correction at Para-H of Part-I has been done. However, it is submitted that the EC is under process and will be submitted after getting forest clearance as SEIAA has imposed the condition that “The Environment Clearance shall be issued by the SEIAA after submission of FCA clearance, in case applicable in the present case being government land.” Copy of EC conditions uploaded at Sr. No. 19 against additional information detail of Part-I.
12	The Letter of Intent is issued in the name of Sh. Vinod Kumar, however, proposal is submitted in the name of M/s Vinod Kumar (Mining). Therefore, clarification is required how the applicant is related with the M/s Vinod Kumar (Mining). A copy of Incorporation Certificate of Lessee/Company needs to be uploaded on the PARVESH portal.	An undertaking along with certificate of lease/ Company for the same has been uploaded on the portal against additional information detail at Sr. No. 26 in Part-I.
13	Under column M-5 and M-7 of Part-I, value of estimated reserve in forest land is required to be reviewed and properly filled as per the approved mining plan.	The necessary correction against appropriate columns has been done
14	The Letter of Intent (LOI) is renewed up to 03.06.2023, as on date the LOI has been expired. Therefore, fresh Letter of Intent is required to be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.	Latest Letter of Intent has been uploaded on the portal against Column No. M-1(c) in Part-I.
15	The detail of other similar mining leases in the area including capacity, average	It is submitted that there is no existing mining unit in Son Khad and its periphery.

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	annual production and projected future requirements in tabulated form is required to be submitted along with justification of necessity of opening new mining leases in the area.	The requirement of minerals of local area are being fulfilled by procuring the sand, stone & Bajri from stone crusher. Which does not meet out the requirement of local people hence proposed mining will be beneficial for local people to meet out their requirement of sand, Stone & Bajri and this will decrease the chances of illegal/unscientific mining in the area.
16	Proposed Mining in Son Khad may have impact on Riverine Ecology. Therefore, State Government provide mitigation measures to be adopted to address the ill effects of mining post mining closure.	<p>The following mitigation measures will be adopted during execution of the project:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The stream of the river will not be disturbed and all possible measures will be adopted for smooth flowing of the water stream so that riverine ecology could not be disturbed. In view of the effect on climate, mining contract area is very small and mining will be confined within the river bed. 2. Measures will be taken to prevent the cutting of river banks and exceeding 2 m depth limit from the river bed surface. 3. Since no blasting will be involved during the extraction of minor minerals like sand, stone & Bajri and very little dust will be generated during transportation, which would negligible disturbance to air quality of Air & Noise will test through different station for safety of the Environment. 4. There is already vegetation along the banks which falls outside the contracted area hence, there will be no effect on flora & Fona. 5. Necessary arrangement shall be made at the stop piles to prevent silt & sediments flowing in water. 6. No. effluent will be generated due to mining activity. Undertaking for the same has been uploaded against additional information detail at Sr. No. 27 in Part-I.
17	Revenue papers (Tatima, Jamabandi etc.) of proposed project is required to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.	Revenue Papers (Tatima, Jamabandi etc.) has been uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal against additional information detail at Sr. No. 30 in Part-I.
18	As per the DSS analysis report, out of 3.53 ha proposed CA area, 1 ha area is under MDF category. Therefore, the proposed CA site required to be extended towards open forest area to meet the target plantation. Accordingly, revised KML with requisite map needs to be uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.	The 1 ha. area out of 3.53 ha. proposed CA area is not under MDF as the density is being shown due to the shrubs on the said patch of land. The canopy density of proposed CA area is 0.4% . However, revised KML file and DGPS MAP with TOPO Sheet has been uploaded on the Portal in Part-II.

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19	The status of proposed CA land whether it is UPF/DPF/RF notified as forest under IFA, 1927, or a Waste Land declared as Protected Forest under HP Govt. notification, 1952 may be provided along with documentary proof. Further, all fields of table of Para-13(i) of Part- II is required to be filled correctly.	The CA has been proposed in ND-442, Cwhejkhobla, which is notified as DPF under Indian Forest Act 1927 vide GoHP Notification No. Fts (F) 5-1/80 dt. 18.08.1980. However, copy of working plan showing the proposed CA area is attached herewith. Beside, relevant details filled in Para-13(i) of Part-II.
20	NoC of Jal Shakti Department has been provided which is issued for uplifting of water from Son Khad for the purpose of plantation and anti dust sprinkler. However, same is required to be submitted in reference to the extant project i.e.- mining lease.	Revised NoC from Jal Shakti Vibhag has been uploaded on the Portal against additional information details at Sr. No. 23 in Part-I.
21	NoC from Public Works, Fisheries Department etc. needs to be submitted/uploaded on PARIVESH portal.	NoCs from concerned departments has been uploaded on the PARIVESH Portal against additional information detail at Sr. No. 22 & 20 respectively in Part-I.
22	The State Government to confirm that the proposed mining conforms to the DSR [as per EMSMG 2020 (guidelines for Enforcement and Monitoring of Sand Mining in January 2020) and SSMMG-2016 (Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMMG) issued in 2016) issued by MoEF&CC] of the concerned district.	It is confirmed that the proposed mining conforms to the DSR of Distt. Mandi [as per EMSMG 2020 guidelines for Enforcement and Monitoring of Sand Mining in January 2020) and SSMMG-2016 (Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMMG) issued in 2016) issued by MoEF&CC of the Mandi District. Further, a letter from Department of Industries has been uploaded against additional information detail at Sr. No. 24 in Part-I.

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Mandi Forest Circle, Mandi.