

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ,

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003

Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross,
Mallechwaram, Bengaluru- 03

Telephone : 080 2334 6472

Email : apceffc@gmail.com

Old File No:A5(1).MNG.CR-15/2015-16

E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/31/2019-FC

E-79014

Date 12-01-2023

13

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
M. S. Building, Bengaluru

Sir,

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 75.92 ha of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing dams (I & II) and laying of Water pipe line in favour of NMDC limited. Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District

[Online Proposal No.FP/KA/Others/14576/2015, FORM-A]

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number letter dated 11-02-2021 [*submission of Stage-I proposal to GoK*] and 22-11-2022 [*communication of EDS query raised by GOI*]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 16 FLL 2021(e) letter dated 25-06-2021 [*submission of Stage-I proposal Part-V to GoI*] and 07-12-2022 [*communication of EDS query raised by GOI*]
 3. Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on dated 17-10-2022 and its detailed minutes of the said FAC meeting uploaded in parivesh.nic.in.
 4. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), letter No. 8-17/2021-FC dated 10-11-2022 addressed to GoK [*seeking essential information*]
 5. M/s NMDC Limited letter dated 03-12-2022 [*reply to the EDS query raised by GoI*]
 6. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division letter No. M1/MNG/NMDC/ML No. 1111/2018-19 dated 30-12-2022 [*reply to the EDS query raised by GoI*]
 7. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle letter No.M1/MNG/RENW/CR-11/1990-91(NMDC) dated 10-01-2023 [*reply to the EDS query raised by GoI*]

With regard to above, the proposal is submitted by this office vide Ref (1) to the Government of Karnataka and by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 25-06-2021 to the Central Government seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, the matter was discussed in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in the meeting held on 17.10.2022 and accordingly the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change


(Forest Conservation Division) vide Ref (4) has raised an EDS query to the Government of Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 07-12-2022 has forwarded the same to this office. The same was communicated to the field officers vide this office letter dated 22-11-2022.

In response, the reply to the query raised by the Government of India is furnished by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle vide Ref (5), (6) and (7) to this office as below.

Sl. No.	Information sought	Information submitted
(i)	The State Government shall submit the justification for creation of two tailing dams in the forest land in view of the observations made by IRO Bangalore.	Now, M/S. NMDC have dropped the Tailing dam-II and requested for diversion of forest land for only 53.67 hectares (<i>excluding Tailing dam-II i.e, total proposed previously 75.92 ha – Tailing Dam-II 22.25 ha = revised extent 53.67 ha</i>). This includes Screening Plant-II, Tailing Dam-I and Slurry/Water pipeline. Further, the User Agency has also submitted the justification for dropping of Tailing Dam-II enclosed as Annexure-I
(ii)	The State Government shall clarify regarding rights claimed under FRA 2006 as per the submission made vide letter dated. 13.10.2022 <i>vis-a-vis</i> certificate dated. 13.09.2019 submitted by the DC, Bellary earlier with the instant proposal.	The Said issue of FRA claims has been raised with respect to proposed Tailing dam-II area of 22.25 hectare. However, M/s NMDC has dropped the proposed Tailing dam-II (22.25 ha) from the original proposal of 75.92 ha. Moreover, FOC has been booked vide FOC No. 12/2020-21 dated 14-7-2022 and 08/2022-23 dated 15-12-2022 w.r.t encroached area of around 1.83 ha. (which is part of dropped area. of 22.25 ha) and it is reported that this encroachment will be evicted subsequently.

In view of the above, **it is requested to move the matter with the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi for further consideration of the proposal for according the In-principle Stage-I approval.**

Yours faithfully,



(Vijay Sharma, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.

Copy to M/s NMDC, Donimai, Sandur, Ballari District for information.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

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

Dated: 30.12.2022

To,

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) Letter No. 8-17/2021-FC Dt. 10.11.2022 of the Government of India
2) Letter No.A5(1)/MNG/CR-15/2015-16 Dt.22.11.2022 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore.
3) This office even number letter Dt.14.09.2022
4) Letter No.RFO/SSR/M/s. NMDC/ML No.1111/2022-23 Dt.14.12.2022 of Range Forest officer, Sandur South Range, Sandur
5) Letter No. ACF/TA M/s. NMDC/ML No.1111/2022-23 Dt.14.12.2022 of Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari
6) M/s. NMDC Limited letter Dt. 03.12.2022

* * * * *

With reference to the above subject, the Government of India has sought following information regarding 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 vide letter under Ref(1).

Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore has directed the undersigned to submit the information / documents as indicated above at earliest vide letter under Ref(2). The same has been received from the User Agency and as well as field officers vide letter under Ref(4), (5) & (6).

Therefore, I am herewith submitting the following information.

Sl. No.	Information sought	Information submitted
i	The State Government of shall submit the justification for creation of two tailing dams in the forest land in view of the observations made by IRO Bangalore.	Now, M/s. NMDC has dropped the Tailing dam-II and requested for diversion of Forest land is 53.67 hectares (75.92 Ha – 22.25 Ha) which includes Screening Plant-II, Tailing dam-I and Slurry / water pipeline and submitted justification for dropping of Tailing dam-II. The same has enclosed herewith as Annexure-I .

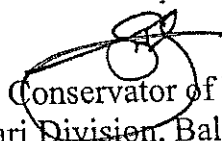
ii	The State Government shall clarify regarding rights claimed under FRA 2006 as per the submission made vide letter Dt.13.10.2022 vis-à-vis certificate Dt.13.09.2019 submitted by the DC, Ballari earlier with the instant proposal.	The said issue of FRA claims has been raised with respect to proposed Tailing dam-II area of 22.25 Ha. However, M/s. NMDC has dropped the proposed Tailing dam-II (22.25 Ha) from the original proposal of 75.92 Ha. Moreover, FOC has been booked vide FOC No. 12/2020-21 Dt.14.07.2020 & 08/2022-23 Dt.15.12.2022 w.r.t encroached area of around 1.83 Ha (which is part of dropped area of 22.25 Ha) and this encroachment will be evicted subsequently.
----	---	--

This is for your kind information and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,
Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari

- 1) Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation), Bangalore for kind information.
- 2) Copy to M/s. NMDC Donimalai, Sandur for information.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Division, Ballari

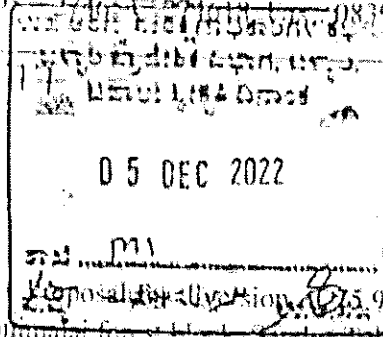
एन एम डी सी लिमिटेड N M D C Limited
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम / A Govt. of India Enterprise)
डोनिमलाई लौह अयस्क खान / Donimalai Iron Ore Mine

FO 0001 2015
FO 13001 2015
FO 14001 2015
SA 0001 2012

Donimalai Township - 583 118, Dist: Ballari, Karnataka,
Phones: 08305 274687 274654

Ref: NMDC/DIOM/75.92/2022/25

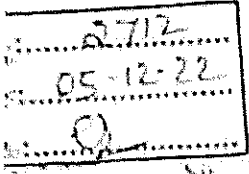
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Forest Division,
Ballari.



Date: 03.12.2022

Sub: Submission of Reply to EDS
No. 2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai forest block, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for
construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing Dams (I & II) and laying of Water
pipe line in favour of NMDC Limited, Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari
District, Ballari District-reg.

- Ref:
1. Online proposal No.FP/KA/Others/14576/2015, Form-A.
 2. Minutes of FAC, MoEFCC meeting held on 17/10/2022.
 3. Letter No.8-17/2021-FC dated 10/11/2022 received from AIGF, MOEF&CC.
 4. I-office File No.KFD/IIoFF/A5-1(MNG)/31/2019-FC dated 22/11/2022 from PCCF (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA).



Sd/-

With reference to above mentioned subject matter, our FC proposal for diversion of 75.92 Ha Forest land for construction of new Screening Plant-II at Donimalai has been considered and discussed in the FAC meeting held on 17.10.2022. In the said FAC, our proposal has been deferred for want of below mentioned information from the State Government.

1. The State Government shall submit the justification for creation of two tailing dams in the forest land in view of the observation made by IRO, Bangalore.
2. The State Government shall clarify regarding rights claimed under FRA, 2006 as per the submission made by the letter dated 13.10.2022 vis-à-vis certificate dated 13.09.2019 submitted by the DC, Ballari earlier with the instant proposal.

In this regard, we would like to submit the following reply based on observation of IRO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.

Reply to point No.1

The proposal involves diversion of 75.92 Ha Forest land which involves 12.96 Ha for construction of screening plant-II, 40.25 Ha for Tailing dam-I, 22.25 Ha for Tailing dam-II and 4.46 Ha for water & slurry pipeline. At the proposed Screening cum Beneficiation Plant-II, the iron ore tailings will be generated from beneficiation plant. The processed water after washing of iron ore in plant contains concentration of suspended solids and is called as iron ore tailings (slimes). The equipment such as Classifiers, de-slimes cyclones, densifying cyclones, horizontal belt filters and thickeners have been considered in the beneficiation circuit of proposed plant to recover iron ore fines and also water to the maximum extent.

As per process, for feed rate of 1800 TPH, only 2.38% of slimes will be generated which contains 43.01% of Fe. The quantity of tailings expected to be generated is 0.1666 MTPA during Phase-I (7 MTPA) and 0.238 MTPA in Phase-II (10 MTPA). Considering the density

हिन्दी में पत्र व्यवहार को हम प्राथमिकता देते हैं। हिन्दी में पत्र व्यवहार का स्वागत है।

पञ्जीवन कार्यालय - 10-3-311/ए खानिज भवन, कैसल हिल्स मासाब टैंक, हैदराबाद 500 083
Regd. Office: 10-3-311/A, Khanij Bhavan, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad 500 083

of tailings as 2.4 t/m³. 69417 m³ during Phase I; during Phase II, 99,167 m³ of tailings will be generated annually.

The tailings will be disposed-off in proposed 2 no's of tailing pond(s) located nearby Screening Plant-II. The tailings will be pumped to the tailings pond(s) through two pipelines. one of 200 m length, the other 1110 m long. The pumping arrangements will be made at Tailing Pond in such a way that slime will be discharged at one end and clear water available at other end will be pumped back to the re-circulation water tank for re-use.

Tailing Pond-I (capacity ~2.386 Mm³, 40.25 Ha) can meet the requirement for 24 years and Tailing Pond-II (capacity~1.162Mm³, 22.25 Ha area) for next 13 years.

It was proposed to construct Tailing dam-I & II in a phase wise manner. However, NMDC has submitted Forest clearance proposal for obtaining diversion of forest land in one go for complete area i.e 75.92 Ha which involves areas of both Tailing dams and Screening Plant-II area and slurry pipeline etc.

In view of the observation of FAC, NMDC propose to construct Tailing dam-I (40.25Ha) area which will meet the requirement for 24 years. Hence, the effective diversion area will be 53.67Ha (12.96Ha for SP-II+40.25Ha for Tailing dam+0.46Ha for slurry/water pipeline).

Reply to observation of IRO, MoEF&CC, Bangalore:

Justification on availability of water:

NMDC has obtained approval of water allotment of 13.45 Cusecs (32,910 KLD) from Narihalla dam constructed near Taranagar, Sandur Tehsil, Ballari District from Water Resource Dept, Government of Karnataka. NMDC has made necessary pumping arrangements for drawl of water for use in Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (DIOM) and Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine (KIOM). There is adequate quantity of water available for mining, plant operations including screening plant and domestic use for NMDC mines i.e. DIOM & KIOM.

Justification for not putting existing Tailing dam at Donimalai to use for proposed Screening Plant-II:

NMDC has constructed one tailing dam at Donimalai in the year 1968 for impoundment of slimes generated due to wet Screening operations at Screening Plant-I of Donimalai iron ore mine. The capacity of tailing dam is 13 million tons capacity at RL 672mRL. The total area of dam is 43.69 Ha. Further, NMDC has established 1.2 MTPA capacity Iron Ore Beneficiation Cum Pellet plant at Donimalai. The slimes accumulated in the existing Tailing Dam over a period of time is a raw material for Iron Ore Beneficiation plant. The lean tailings generated from the Beneficiation Plant shall be impounded in the same Tailing dam by construction of dykes so that the same shall not be intermixed with slime material already existing in the Tailing dam.

At present, the Tailing dam is at its full capacity and hence, the existing screening plant-I is operated on dry mode which is otherwise not due to shortage of water. The existing Tailing dam caters to the requirement of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine.

Hence, the existing Tailing dam at Donimalai cannot be connected to proposed Screening Plant-II. For this reason, only, the separate Tailing dam is proposed for catering to the requirement of proposed Screening plant-II.

No.M1/MNG/RENW/CR-11/1990-91(NMDC)
Encls:

Office of the
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari,
Date:07-01-2023.

10

To,
✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer(FCA),
Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Sir,

Sub:-Diversion of 75.92 ha of forest land for construction of screening plant, Tailing dam, Slurry pipeline corridor & water pipeline corridor at Donimalai in favour of M/s National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur – reg.
(FC online application No.FP/KA/OTHERS/14576/2015)

- Ref:- 1) Minutes of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on dated: 17-10-2022.
2) Letter No.KFD:HoFF:A5-1(MNG)/31/2019-FC dated:22-11-2022 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) Bengaluru.
3) This office letter even no. 29-11-2022.
4) Letter No.M1/MNG/NMDC/ML No.1111/2018-19 dated: 30-12-2022 of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari.

In light of the directions issued by your goodself in the letter (2) cited above and followed by the additional information as called for by the Government of India, MOEF & CC, New Delhi in its letter (1) cited above, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari has been directed vide this office letter (3) cited above to submit the additional information as raised therein.

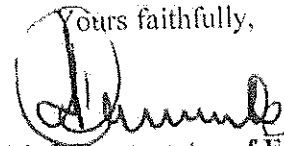
In this regard, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari has obtained additional information from the user agency and submitted the following additional information to this office vide his letter (4) cited above for onward submission of the same.

Sl. No.	Information sought	Replies.
1.	The State Government shall submit the justification for creation of two tailing dams in the forest land in view of the observations made IRO Bengaluru	Now, M/s. NMDC have dropped the Tailing dam-II and requested for diversion of forest land is 53.67 hectares (75.92 ha. - 22.25 ha.) which includes Screening Plant-II, Tailing Dam-I and Slurry/Water pipeline and submitted justification for dropping of Tailing Dam-II.

2.	The State Government shall clarify regarding rights claimed under FRA 2006 as per the submission made vide letter dated. 13-10-2022 vis-à-vis certificate dated 13-9-2019 submitted by the DC Bellary earlier with the instant proposal	The said issue of FRA claims has been raised with respect to proposed Tailing dam-II area of 22.25 ha. However, M/s. NMDC has dropped proposed Tailing Dam-II (22.25 ha) from the original proposal of 75.92 ha. Moreover, FOC has been booked vide FOC No. 12/2020-21 dtd. 14-7-2022 & 082022-23 dt. 15-12-2022 having encroached an area of 1.83 ha. (which is part of dropped area of 22.25 ha) and it is reported that this encroachment will be evicted subsequently by the user agency.
----	---	--

Therefore, I am submitting herewith the copy of the self contained report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari for kind information and taking further needful action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari.