

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No. FLD-3616/C.R.01/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032.
Date: 19.06.2023

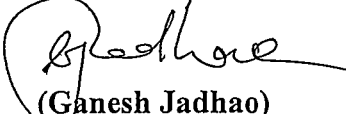
To,
Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,
Nagpur-440 001.

Sub.:- Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni-III) Opencast Mine Project at Village- Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur - regarding.

Ref: 1. Your Office Letter No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, Dt.09.02.2023
2. APCCF & Nodal Officer Letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/I.D. 12417/636/23-24, Dt.31.05.2023

Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Government of India has sought additional information with respect to proposal for diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni-III) Opencast Mine Project at Village- Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, vide letter under reference no.1.

2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted compliance report to the Government of Maharashtra vide letter under reference no.2, Compliance Report submitted by the APCCF & Nodal Officer is self-explanatory and attached herewith for further necessary action in the matter.



(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to
the Government of Maharashtra
Under Secretary

Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Nagpur



सत्यमेव जयते
महाराष्ट्र शासन

**Office of The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoFF) Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.**

**The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.**

0712-2556916

Email: apccfnodal@mahaforest@gov.in

Speed Post/Email

No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/I.D.12417/636 /23-24
Nagpur – 440 001 Dated 31 / 05/2023.

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forests Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.

Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni-III) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State- Regarding.

Ref: 1.Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter no. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, dt.09.02.2023.
2.Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur's letter no.Desk- 3(1)/Land/ C.R.44/23-24/247, dtid.24.05.2023.

The Govt. of India vide letter under reference 1 had raised 7 queries for which the User Agency has to submit the compliance report. Accordingly the User Agency has submitted the compliance report on the conditions laid down by the Govt. of India vide letter under reference 1 to Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda for onward submission to this office through Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur.

The same has been forwarded to this office by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur vide letter under reference 2. The details of conditions and remarks of the User Agency are as follows:-

S. No	Conditions	Compliance
1.	Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tonnes per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010. However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. IRO needs to ensure if the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.	As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submitted that the Project Report for Pauni III OC mine was prepared in March, 2009 for a target capacity of 1.25 My The Project Report for Pauni-II OCP updated February 2010) was placed in the 224th meeting of the Board of Directors of WCL held on 29.04.2010.As desired a copy of the approval of Board of Directors of WCL (Board Resolution) in respect of the subject proposal for the project Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni III OC) is enclosed for ready reference as Annexure-I .(Page no.-10) It may be seen from the above

mentioned Board Resolution that after deliberations at length, the Board accorded first stage approval, i.e. approval of the Mining Plan to facilitate application of forestry and environment clearance for a capacity of 1.25 Mty at a capital investment of Rs 360.7987 crores with Departmental Option. The Board directed for entering into Coal Supply Agreement with prospective consumer on Cost Plus Basis to yield 12% IRR at 85% target capacity and clearance from CIL. However, the Cost Plus agreement could not be finalized & the project did not take off. It may also be seen from the Board resolution that Board also accorded approval for enhancement of capacity of Sakhari-Irawarti (Pauni- III OCP) to 1.55 MTY without any capital investment for the purpose of obtaining EMP clearance.

Subsequently, the land rates were also increased in Maharashtra as per MSGR 2014 and in absence of Cost Plus Agreement with prospective consumers in respect of Pauni-Mine OC it was decided by the management of WCL to combine the Pauni-II OC & Pauni-III OC projects with common infrastructure facilities for better economics of the two projects. It may be worthwhile to mention here that Pauni-II OC is another project of WCL adjacent to the subject project.

Accordingly, a Project Report for Amalgamated Pauni-II & III OC mine was prepared by CMPDI in May, 2015. The target of this Amalgamated mine was envisaged as 3.25 Mty (0.75 Mty of Pauni II OC and 2.50 Mty of Pauni-III OC) & maximum possible proved reserves in both the blocks were considered.

As per the recommendation of EAC, the project was renamed as Pauni-II Expn. OC which was approved by WCL Board in its 281 meeting held on 19.09.2016 with total land area of 1152.66 Ha. The Corresponding Board approval is enclosed as **Annexure-II** (Page no.-11) The forest land involved in Pauni II Expansion OC was 12.07 Ha.

Subsequently, looking into the fact of non availability of forestry clearance in respect of 12.07 Ha forest land, the proposal for seeking Environmental Clearance was processed with a revised Mining Plan with total Mine Lease area of 1095.52 Ha (excluding forest land and adjacent non-forest land) and approved by WCL Board on 26.12.2018. The same was also placed before EAC in its meeting held on 24.01.2019 where it was also noted by EAC that total land requirement for Pauni-II Expn. OC is 1152.66 Ha with about 12.7 Ha forest land. Detailed minutes of the meeting attached for ready reference as **Annexure-III** (Page no.-12 to 14) Based on the recommendation of EAL, EC for Pauni-II OC for 1095.52 ha (without 12.07 ha of Forest land) was granted. A copy of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-IV** (Page no.-15 to 23)

It may be seen from the EC that Pauni-II Expansion OC is having a total land area of 1095.52 and there is no forest land involved in the project. It has also been recorded in the EC that FC for 12.07 is yet to be secured and fresh proposal for EC amendment there in shall be submitted to take into account the additional land after receipt of Stage-I FC for the forest land of 12.07 ha. As such, it is humbly submitted that the


		<p>Mining Plan presently in vogue is of Pauni-II Expn. OC and the land use provided by WCL in its reply dtd. 10.10.2021 (copy attached as Annexure-V, (Page no.-24 to 25)) is in conformity with the approved Mining Plan. An undertaking for the same is attached as Annexure-VI (Page no.-26)</p>
2.	<p>Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished.</p>	<p>As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency in its compliance submitted that the Project Report for Pauni- OC mine was prepared in March, 2009 for a target capacity of 1.25 Mty. The Project Report for Pauni II OCP updated February 2010) was placed in the 224th meeting of the Board of Directors of WCL held on 29.04.2010. After deliberations at length, the Board accorded first stage approval, i.e. approval of the Mining Plan to facilitate application of forestry and environment clearance for a capacity of 1.25 Mty at a capital investment of Rs 360,7987crores with Departmental Option. The Board Directors for entering into Coal Supply Agreement with prospective consumer on Cost Plus Basis to yield 1.2% IRR at 85% target capacity and clearance from CIL. However, the Cost Plus agreement is not yet finalized. The Project Report envisaged acquisition of 821.84 Ha land.</p> <p>The acquisition process was started in the year 2012 wherein 820.70 Ha land notified under section 4(1) of CBA(A&D) act, 1957 vide S.O. no. 3159 dtd. 03/10/2012 including 12.07 Ha. Forest Land. Subsequently, 778.54 Ha land (including 12.07 Ha forest land) notified under section 7(1) of CBA(A&D) act, 1957 vide S.O. no. 3054(E) dtd. 09/10/2014 which is "Intention to acquire".</p> <p>The Application for diversion of 12.07 Ha was submitted vide ref. no.WCL/BA/AGM/PLG/83 dtd. 14 - 16/02/2015. The application was forwarded to MH State Govt. by APCCF & Nodal Officer-FC vide letter dtd. 15.12.2015. However, the same was not processed further for want of NOC under FRA 2006</p> <p>The matter was taken up at different levels of MH State Govt. as well as MOEF&CC quoting Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2016 as per which the compliance of FRA 2006 is required to be submitted along with Stage-I FC compliance. However, the process took almost 3 years and finally Maharashtra State Govt. issued directives vide CR dtd. 15.01.2019 indicating NOC under FRA 2006 required to be submitted along with Stage-I FC compliance report. As such, the delay was caused majorly due to NOC under FRA 2006. However, it is to submit that NOC under FRA 2006 has now been obtained from Collector, Chandrapur vide letter dtd. 24.01.2022.</p> <p>In the meantime the subject Pauni-III OC Project was amalgamated with adjacent Pauni-II OC based on the approved Mining Plan of Amalgamated Pauni-II & Pauni III vide Board approval dated 26/06/2015. Subsequently, this amalgamated project was renamed as Pauni II Expansion OC following the directions of MOEF&CC and Board approval was secured vide WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-281/2016/618 dt.29/9/2016.</p>

		<p>Thus, this 12.07 ha of forest land is involved in Pauni-II OC Expansion with total land area of 1152.66 ha land accordingly Board approval was secured vide WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-281/2016/618 dt.29/9/2016.</p> <p>This Mining Plan has further been revised for total land of 1095.52 ha thereby based on the aforesaid Mining Plan, EC has been granted for Pauni-II OC Expansion recording the facts & figures of excluding 12.07 ha of Forest land and surrounding Non forest land.</p>																													
3.	It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operation in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the IRO.	<p>As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submitted that as already indicated that the project involving 12.07 ha of forest land is for Pauni-II Expansion OC with a total land of 1152.66 ha for a Capacity of 3.25 Mty as per the approved Mining Plan dated 26/06/2015. This Mining Plan was subsequently revised with same capacity 3.25 Mty) due to the fact that there was urgent need to enhance the coal production and simultaneously stage-I FC was not in possessing with land of 1095.52 ha thereby deleting 12.07 ha of forest land and surrounding non forest land lying in the immediate vicinity of said forest land.</p> <p>Based on the revised Mining Plan (without Forest Land) of 1095.52 ha with same capacity, Pauni-II Expansion OC was granted EC while recording all these facts and figures about deletion of forest land and subsequent directions. The mine is in operation within 1095.52 ha of land as per the aforesaid EC.</p>																													
4.	Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal.	<p>As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submitted that the Land-use proposed in 12.07 Ha forest land is for excavation of coal as already submitted by WCL in its reply dtd. 9.10.2021 (Copy of the same attached as Annexure- VII.(Page no.-27) for ready reference).</p>																													
5.	As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha. (Pg 10/c) while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the IRO.	<p>As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submitted that the details of total project area has already been submitted by WCL in its reply dtd. 19.10.2021 (Copy of the same attached as Annexure- VII .(Page no.-27)for ready reference) and presentation made by WCL in REC meeting held on 14.10.2022. The total land acquired for the projects as per requirement is 1152.66 Ha.</p> <p>The details are as follows :</p> <table><tr><th>Sl.No.</th><th>Particulars</th><th colspan="2">Quarry-I</th><th rowspan="2">Total land</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th>Existing Land (Acquired for Pauni OC)</th><th>Additional Land</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Tenancy land</td><td>21.61</td><td>281.03</td><td>302.64</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Govt. land</td><td>0.00</td><td>24.77</td><td>24.77</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Forest land</td><td>0.00</td><td>0.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Total:</td><td>21.61</td><td>305.80</td><td>327.41</td></tr></table>	Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarry-I		Total land			Existing Land (Acquired for Pauni OC)	Additional Land	1	Tenancy land	21.61	281.03	302.64	2	Govt. land	0.00	24.77	24.77	3	Forest land	0.00	0.00	0.00		Total:	21.61	305.80	327.41
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3	Forest land	0.00	0.00	0.00																											
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6	To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State (pg 5/c). Efficacy of the same needs to be assessed by the IRO in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna.	As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency has agreed to prepare Wildlife Management Plan of Rs.20.00 lakh and this letter is being forwarded with the afore mentioned conditional compliance (UA letter attached)
7	The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of fait accompli, since mining is on in NFL and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.	As per the compliance submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submitted that as 12.07 ha forest land is part of total project area of 1140.59 ha (Forest land is 1% of total area) and there is no imposition on the Government to sanction approval to the project. It is the opinion of this office that the case may be difficult to be argued as fait accompli. (As public resources are non utilized in the NFL)

This office agrees to the compliance submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur vide letter under reference 2 to this office for onward submission. The same in two (2) copies are enclosed for perusal and further necessary action.

Encl: As above


(Naresh Zurmure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur for information.



महाराष्ट्र शासन
वन विभाग



मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपुर यांचे कार्यालय
सिव्हील लाईन, नागपुर रोड, चंद्रपुर- 442401

दुरध्वनी क्र. 07172-256279, 252232

Email id- cc@chandrapur@gmail.com, cc@chandrapur@mahaforest.gov.in

क्रमांक : कक्ष-3(1)/जमिन/प्र.क्र.44/2023-24/ 286

दिनांक :- 28-4-2023

प्रति,

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी,
महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर

विषय :- Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, Ta. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State - Regarding.

- संदर्भ :- 1. केंद्र शासनाचे पत्र क्र. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, दिनांक 09.02.2023
2. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-3(1)/जमिन/प्र.क्र.44/2023-24/1956, दिनांक 29.03.2023
3. आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्र. कक्ष-17/नोडल/चंद्रपूर/आयडी. 12417/61/23-24, दिनांक 06.04.2023
4. उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांचे पत्र क्र. कक्ष-सर्व्हे/जमीन/2023-24/255, दिनांक 16.05.2023

या कार्यालयाचे संदर्भित पत्र क्र. 2 अन्वये विषयांकीत प्रस्तावाचे अनुषंगाने केंद्र शासनाचे पत्रातील उपस्थित केलेल्या 1 ते 7 मुदयांबाबतचा अहवाल सादर करण्यात आलेला होता. परंतु सदर अहवाल हा त्रोटक स्वरूपाचा असल्याने आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्र. 3 अन्वये सुधारीत व स्वयंस्पष्ट अहवाल सादर करण्याबाबत सुचना दिलेल्या आहेत. त्यानुषंगाने उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा यांना या कार्यालयाकडून कळविण्यात आलेले होते.

उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा यांचे संदर्भित पत्र क्र. 4 अन्वये प्रकल्प यंत्रणेशी संबंधित असलेल्या मुदयांचा अहवाल व त्यांचेशी संबंधित असलेल्या मुदयांचा अहवाल एकत्रित करून सुधारीत 1 ते 7 मुदयांचा त्रुटी पुर्तता अहवाल या कार्यालयास सादर केलेला आहे. तेव्हा केंद्र शासनाच्या पत्रातील उपस्थित केलेल्या 1 ते 7 मुदयांचा त्रुटी पुर्तता अहवाल योग्य असल्याने हे कार्यालयसुद्धा सहमती दर्शवून 3 प्रतीत पुढील कार्यवाहीस्तव सादर करण्यात येत आहे.

करीता माहितीस्तव सविनय सादर.

सहपत्र:- वरिलप्रमाणे 3 प्रतीत

(डॉ. जितेंद्र रामगावकर)

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक,
चंद्रपूर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपूर

प्रतिलिपी- उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांना माहितीकरीता अद्योषित.



महाराष्ट्र शासन
वनविभाग

17/05/2023



उपवनसंरक्षक मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, यांचे कार्यालय मुल रोड, चंद्रपूर

दुरध्वनी क्र 250561/233508-07172 .E-mail :- dycfcentralchanda@mahaforest.gov.in

क्रमांक- कक्ष/सर्व्हे/जमीन/2023-24/ 255

चंद्रपूर, दिनांक 16/05/2023

प्रति,

मा. मुख्य वनसंरक्षक
चंद्रपूर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपूर

विषय :- Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari - Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, ta. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State-Regarding.

संदर्भ :- १) मा. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी, म. रा. नागपुर यांचे कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्रमांक कक्ष- १७/नोडल/ आयडी- १२४१७/३०६२ दिनांक १०/०२/२०२३.
२) आपले कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्रमांक कक्ष ३(१)/जमीन/ ४२६४ दिनांक १३/०२/२०२३.
३) प्रकल्प यंत्रणेचे पत्र क्रमांक WCL/BA/AGM/PLG/743 दिनांक १९/०३/२०२३.
४) आपले कार्यालयाकडून प्राप्त दुरध्वनी संदेश.

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उपरोक्त विषयांकीत प्रकल्प प्रस्तावात केंद्र शासनाने एकुण ७ आक्षेप नोंदवून पुर्तता करणे बाबत संदर्भित पत्र क्रमांक १ व २ अन्वये कळविलेले होते. प्रकल्प यंत्रणेने त्यांचे स्तरावरील त्रुटी क्रमांक १ ते ५ व ७ चा पुर्तता अहवाल या कार्यालयास सादर केलेले आहे. सदर अहवालाशी हे कार्यालय सहमत सदरचा पुर्तता अहवाल पुढील कार्यवाहीस्तव सादर करण्यात येत आहे.

Sr. No.	Queries	Compliance
1	Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tons per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010 However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. IRO needs to ensure if the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.	This point has been complied by User Agency.
2	Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished.	This point has been complied by User Agency.
3	It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operation in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the IRO.	This point has been complied by User Agency.
4	Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal.	This point has been complied by User Agency.
5	As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha. (Pg 10) while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the IRO.	This point has been complied by User Agency.

175

6	To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State Government, same need to be approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and specific comments in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna need to be submitted.	User Agency has agreed to prepare Wildlife management plan of 20 lakh and this letter is being forwarded with the afore mentioned conditional compliance. (UA letter attached)
7	The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of 'fail to accomplish', since mining is on in NFL and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.	As 12.07 ha. Forest land is part of total project area of 1140.59 ha, (Forest land is 1% of total area) and there is no imposition on the Government to sanction approval to the project, it is the opinion of this office that the case may be difficult to be argued as 'fail to accomplish' (as public resources are not utilized in the NFL)

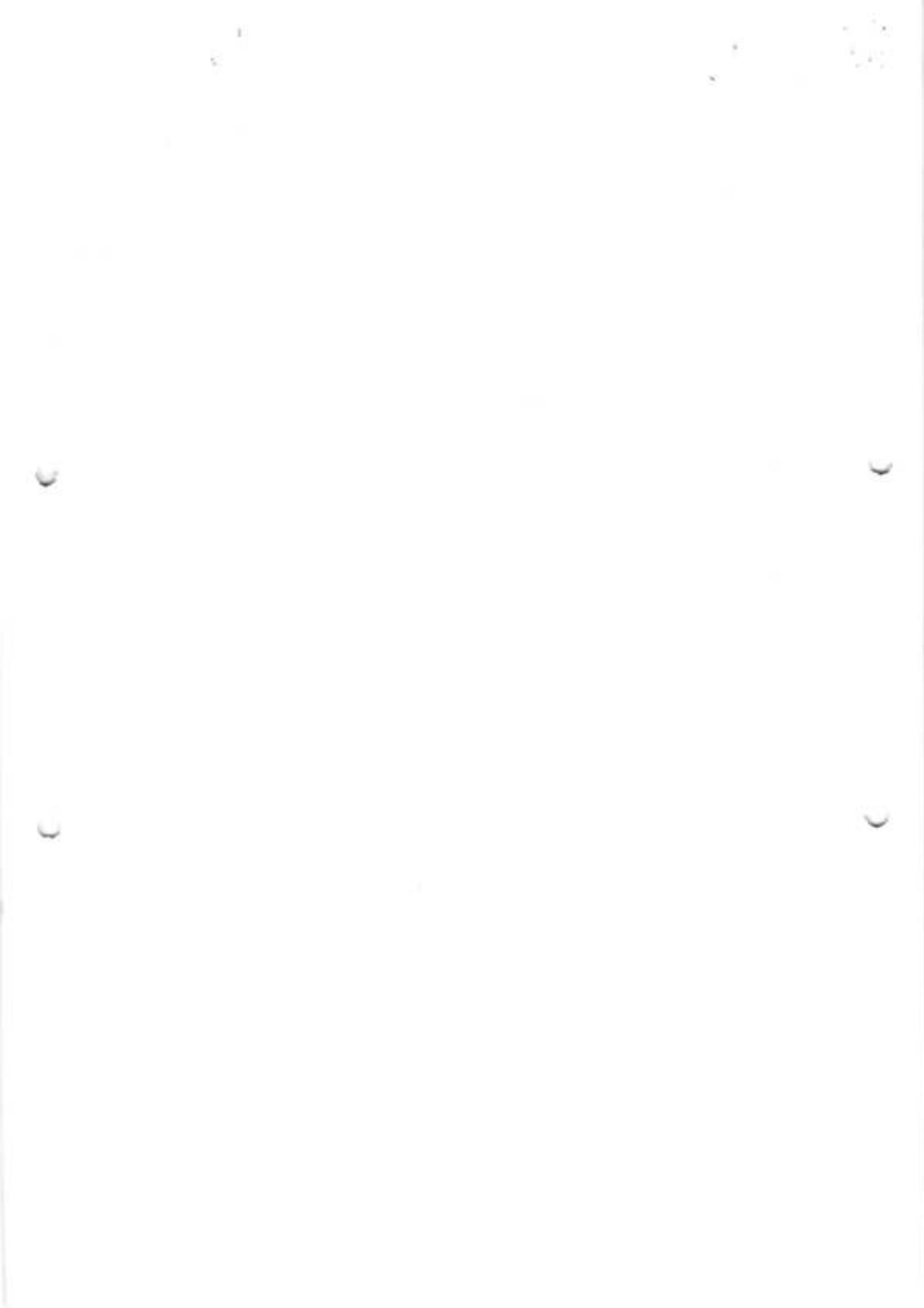
सहपत्र :- वरील प्रमाणे


 (श्वेता बट्ट)

उपवनसंरक्षक,

मध्य वॉन वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर

प्रतिलिपी :- क्षेत्रीय महाप्रबंधक, वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्ड लिमी. चंद्रपूर यांना हिंदीस व आवश्यक कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.





वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

कार्यालय : क्षेत्रीय महाप्रबंधक,

बल्लारपुर क्षेत्र

योजना एवं राजस्व विभाग

पेस्ट : झाली, तह : चन्द्रपुर, जिला : चन्द्रपुर (म.प्र.) ४६२००९

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

Office of the Area General Manager

Ballarpur Area

Planning & Revenue Department

PO, NANTI, SAM, BALLARA DISTT/CHANDRAPUR (MN) Pin-442709



Ref: WCL/BA/AGM/ 16

Date: 04.05.2023

05

Under Taking letter for preparation of Wildlife Management Plan

To,

The Deputy Conservator of Forests

Chandrapur District

Subject :- Western Coal fields Limited – Ballarpur Area agreed to prepare Wildlife Management plan/bear to Expenditure occurred in preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs 20 Lakh.

Ref. :- कस-३(१)/जमिन/प्र.क्र.४४/२०२२-२३/१९५६ दिनांक :- २९.०३.२०२३.

Respected Sir,

As per letter no. कस-३(१)/जमिन/प्र.क्र.४४/२०२२-२३/१९५६ दिनांक :- २९.०३.२०२३ Western Coal fields Limited, Ballarpur area has agreed to prepare Wildlife Management plan of 20 lakh rupees whenever instructions received from your side.

Thanking you

Yours Faithfully


Area General Manager
WCL, Ballarpur Area
क्षेत्रीय महाप्रबंधक
AREA GENERAL MANAGER
झाली - बल्लारपुर क्षेत्र
WCL - BALLARPUR AREA



महाराष्ट्र शासन

वन विभाग

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपुर यांचे कार्यालय

सिव्हील लाईन, नागपुर रोड, चंद्रपुर- 442401

दूरध्वनी क्र. 07172-256279, 252232

Email id- ccfchandrapur@gmail.com, ccfchandrapur@mahaforest.gov.in

क्रमांक : कक्ष-3(1)/जमीन/प्र.क्र.44/2022-23/ १९५६

दिनांक : 28-3-2023

प्रति,

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी,
महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपुर

विषय :- Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari- Irawati (Pounill) Opencast Mine Project at village Sakhari, ta. Rajura in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State-Regarding.

- संदर्भ :-
1. केंद्र शासनाचे पत्र क्र. F-II/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, दिनांक 09.02.2023
 2. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी महाराष्ट्र राज्य नागपुर यांचे कडील पत्र क्र. कक्ष-17/नोडल/आयडी/12417/3062, दि. 10.02.2023.
 3. उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपुर यांचे कडील पत्र क्र. कक्ष/सर्व्हे/जमीन/2022-23/1754, दिनांक 28.03.2023

केंद्र शासनाचे संदर्भित पत्र क्र. 1 अन्वये विषयांकीत प्रस्तावानध्ये 1 ते 7 मुद्दे उपस्थित केलेले आहेत व आपले संदर्भित पत्र क्र. 2 अन्वये सदर मुद्द्यांची पूर्तता करण्याकरीता कळविण्यात आलेले होते. त्यानुषंगाने प्रकल्प यंत्रणेने त्याचे स्तरावरील असलेली त्रुटी क्रमांक 1 ते 5 व 7 ची पूर्तता करून उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपुर यांचेकडे सादर केलेला असता त्यांनी सदर अहवालाचे संस्करण करून त्यांचेशी संबंधित असलेला मुद्दा क्रमांक 6 ची पूर्तता करून अहवाल योग्य असल्याची खातरजमा करून शिफारशीसह त्यांचे संदर्भित पत्र क्र. 3 अन्वये या कार्यालयास 4 प्रतीत सादर केलेला आहे.

उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपुर यांनी सादर केलेला त्रुटी पूर्तता अहवाल 3 प्रतीत पुढील कार्यवाहीस्तव सादर करण्यात येत आहे.

करीता माहितीस सविनय सादर.

सहपत्र :- वरीलप्रमाणे 3 प्रतीत

(प्र.ज.लक्षणकर)

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक
चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपुर

प्रतिनीधी :- उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांदा वनविभाग, चंद्रपुर यांना माहितीस अर्पित.



सत्यमेव जयते
महाराष्ट्र शासन

Office of The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoFF) Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440-001.

0712-2556916

Email: apccfnodal@mahaforest@gov.in

Speed Post/Email

No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/I.D.12417/ 3062 23-23
Nagpur - 440 001 Dated 10/02/2023.

Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pounthi) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State- Regarding.

Ref: Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter no. FC-4/ MH-165/2021-NGP/11158, dt.9th February 2023.

Please find enclosed a copy of letter under reference. The Govt. of India vide letter under reference has raised 7 queries on the proposal mentioned under subject above. It is requested to submit point wise reply in English to this office at the earliest.

Encl: As above

Handwritten signature
10/2/23

(Naresh Zurnure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

To,
The Chief Conservator of Forests (T)
Chandrapur Circle.

Copy two to Principal Secretary (Forests) Revenue and Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32 for information.

Copy two to Area General Manager, Western Coalfields Limited, Ballarpur Area, P.O. Sasti, Dist. Chandrapur 442 706 along with letter under reference.

क्रमांक कक्षा-307/जमीन/प्र.क. 122-23/8284
चंद्रपूर, दिनांक:- 93-02-23

प्रतिलिपि: उपवनसंरक्षक, मध्य चांद्र वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व आवश्यक कार्यवाहीस सादर. केंद्र शासनचे पत्रातील 1 व 7 मुद्द्यांची पुर्तता करून पुर्तता अहवास तात्काळ या कार्यालयास सादर करावा ही निर्देशाती.

(OFFICE) CHANDRAPUR, CIRCLE, DIVISION OF 12.07 HA SAKHARI IRAWATI, I.D. 12417, 2023

Handwritten signature
मुख्य लेखपाल

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक यांचे कार्यालय
चंद्रपूर वनवत, चंद्रपूर



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
apccfcentral-nagp-mef@gov.in

F.No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP /11158

Date: 9th February, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd., Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village- Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, Distt- Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-3616/CR-01/P-10 dated 10.06.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/LD- /1715/15-16 dated 15.12.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal was forwarded to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval of the competent authority. Now the proposal has been returned with a request to submit the additional information on the following points:

- i. Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tonnes per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010. However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. A copy of mining plan for enhanced capacity along with the undertaking from the User Agency that the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.
- ii. Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under the FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished.
- iii. It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operations in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the State Government.
- iv. Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal, same need to be submitted.
- v. As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the State Government.
- vi. To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State Government, same need to be approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and specific comments in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna need to be submitted.

Chandrapur
11/2/23

- vii. The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of *fait accompli*, since mining is on in NPL, and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of Regional-Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,

(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)

Copy to:

- i. The PCCE (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ii. The Addl. PCCE & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.

Sd.

(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)



Western Coalfields Limited
Office of the Area General Manager
Ballarpur Area
 P.O.SASTI, DISTT.CHANDARPUR(MS) Pin-442706
 Tel. 07173-230105, 230266 Fax. 07173-230076

File No : W.C.L./BA/AGM/PLG/743 Date 18/03/2023

To,

The Dy.Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer
 Maharashtra State Nagpur.

Sub :- Diversion of 12.07 Ha. Forest land in favor of Western Coalfields Ltd.
 Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 for Sakhari- Irawati
 (Pouni-III) Opencast Mine project at Village Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, in
 Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State- Regarding

Ref. :- 1) No.Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/L.D.12417/3062/22-23 Nagpur-440001 Dated 10/02/2023.
 2) क्रमांक कव-3(1)/ जमीन/प्रक/22-23/4284 नंदपुर, दिनांक- 13/02/2023

Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned subject please find enclosed
 herewith the point wise reply in english of 7 queries alongwith annexures.

This is kind information and further necessary action at your end.

Yours Faithfully

[Signature]
 Area General Manager
 Ballarpur Area

Encl. A.a.
 C.C. to
 1. APO, BA.
 2. SAM, PSA

WCL

BALLARPUR AREA

<p>1 Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tones per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010. However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. IRO needs to ensure if the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.</p>	<p>Reply: The Project Report for Pauni III OC mine was prepared in March, 2009 for a target capacity of 1.25 My. The Project Report for Pauni-II OCP (updated February 2010) was placed in the 224th meeting of the Board of Directors of WCL held on 29.04.2010. As desired a copy of the approval of Board of Directors of WCL (Board Resolution) in respect of the subject proposal for the project Sakhri-Irawati (Pauni III OC) is enclosed for ready reference as <u>Annexure-I (Page no. 10)</u>. It may be seen from the above mentioned Board Resolution that after deliberations at length, the Board accorded first stage approval, i.e. approval of the Mining Plan to facilitate application of forestry and environment clearance for a capacity of 1.25 Mty at a capital investment of Rs 360.7987 crores with Departmental Option. The Board directed for entering into Coal Supply Agreement with prospective consumer on Cost Plus Basis to yield 12% IRR at 85% target capacity and clearance from CIL. However, the Cost Plus agreement could not be finalized & the project did not take off. It may also be seen from the Board resolution that Board also accorded approval for enhancement of capacity of Sakhri-Irawati (Pauni- III OCP) to 1.55 MTY without any capital investment for the purpose of obtaining EMP clearance.</p> <p>Subsequently, the land rates were also increased in Maharashtra as per MSGR 2014 and in absence of Cost Plus Agreement with prospective consumers in respect of Pauni-Mine OC it was decided by the management of WCL to combine the Pauni-II OC & Pauni-III OC projects with common infrastructure facilities for better economics of the two projects. It may be worthwhile to mention here that Pauni-II OC is another project of WCL adjacent to the subject project.</p> <p>Accordingly, a Project Report for Amalgamated Pauni-II & III OC mine was prepared by CMPDI in May, 2015. The target of this Amalgamated mine was envisaged as 3.25 Mty (0.75 Mty of Pauni II OC and 2.50 Mty of Pauni-III OC) & maximum possible proved reserves in both the blocks were considered.</p> <p>As per the recommendation of EAC, the project was renamed as Pauni-II Expn. OC which was approved by WCL Board in its 281 meeting held on 19.09.2016 with total land area of 1152.66 Ha. The Corresponding Board approval is enclosed as <u>Annexure-II (Page no. 11)</u>. The forest land involved in Pauni II Expansion OC was 12.07 Ha.</p> <p>Subsequently, looking into the fact of non availability of forestry clearance in respect of 12.07 Ha forest land, the proposal for seeking Environmental Clearance was processed with a revised Mining Plan with total Mine Lease area of 1095.52 Ha (excluding forest land and adjacent non-forest land) and approved by WCL Board on 26.12.2018. The same was also placed before EAC in its meeting held on 24.01.2019 where it was also noted by EAC that total land requirement for Pauni-II Expn. OC is 1152.66 Ha with about 12.7 Ha forest land. Detailed minutes of the meeting attached for ready reference as <u>Annexure-III (Page no. 12 to 14)</u>. Based on the recommendation of EAL, EC for Pauni-II OC for 1095.52 ha</p>
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		<p>(without 12.07 ha of Forest land) was granted. A copy of the same is enclosed as Annexure-IV (Page no.-15 to 23)</p> <p>It may be seen from the EC that Pauni-II Expansion OC is having a total land area of 1095.52 and there is no forest land involved in the project. It has also been recorded in the EC that FC for 12.07 is yet to be secured and fresh proposal for EC amendment there in shall be submitted to take into account the additional land after receipt of Stage-I FC for the forest land of 12.07 ha.</p> <p>As such, it is humbly submitted that the Mining Plan presently in vogue is of Pauni-II Expn. OC and the land use provided by WCL in its reply dtd. 10.10.2021 (copy attached as Annexure-V (Page no.-24 to 25)) is in conformity with the approved Mining Plan. An undertaking for the same is attached as Annexure-VI (Page no.-26)</p>
2	<p>Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished</p>	<p>Reply: The Project Report for Pauni- OC mine was prepared in March, 2009 for a target capacity of 1.25 Mty. The Project Report for Pauni II OCP updated February 2010) was placed in the 224th meeting of Board of Directors of WCL held on 29.04.2010. After deliberations at length, the Board accorded first stage approval, i.e., approval of the Mining Plan to facilitate application of forestry and environment clearance for a capacity of 1.25 Mty at a capital investment of Rs 360,7987 crores with Departmental Option. The Board Directors for entering into Coal Supply Agreement with prospective consumer on Cost Plus Basis to yield 1.2% IRR at 85% target capacity and clearance from CIL. However, the Cost Plus agreement is not yet finalized. The Project Report envisaged acquisition of 821.84 Ha land.</p> <p>The acquisition process was started in the year 2012 wherein 820.70 Ha land notified under section 4(1) of CBA(A&D) act, 1957 vide S.O. no. 3159 dtd. 03/10/2012 including 12.07 Ha Forest Land. Subsequently, 778.54 Ha land (including 12.07 Ha forest land) notified under section 7(1) of CBA(A&D) act, 1957 vide S.O. no. 3054(E) dtd. 09/10/2014 which is "Intention to acquire".</p> <p>The Application for diversion of 12.07 Ha was submitted vide ref. no. WCU/BAVAGM/PLG/83 dtd. 14 - 16/02/2015. The application was forwarded to MH State Govt. by APCCF & Nodal Officer-FC vide letter 15.12.2015. However the same was not processed further for want of NOC under FRA 2006</p> <p>The matter was taken up at different levels of MH State Govt. as well as MOEF&CC quoting Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2016 as per which the compliance of FRA 2006 is required to be submitted along with Stage-I FC compliance. However, the process took almost 3 years and finally Maharashtra State Govt. issued directives vide CR dtd. 15.01.2019 indicating NOC under FRA 2006 required to be submitted along with Stage-I FC compliance report. As such, the delay was caused majorly due to NOC under FRA 2006. However, it is to submit that NOC under FRA 2006 has now been obtained from Collector, Chandrapur vide letter dtd. 24.01.2022.</p> <p>In the meantime the subject Pauni-III OC Project was amalgamated with adjacent Pauni-II OC based on the approved Mining Plan of Amalgamated Pauni-II & Pauni III vide Board approval dated 26/08/2015.</p>

		<p>Subsequently, this amalgamated project was renamed as Pauni II Expansion OC following the directions of MOEF&CC and Board approval was secured vide WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-281/2016/618 dt.29/9/2016.</p> <p>Thus, this 12.07 ha of forest land is involved in Pauni-II OC Expansion with total land area of 1152.66 ha land accordingly Board approval was secured vide WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-281/2016/618 dt.29/9/2016.</p> <p>This Mining Plan has further been revised for total land of 1095.52 ha thereby based on the aforesaid Mining Plan, EC has been granted for Pauni-II OC Expansion recording the facts & figures of excluding 12.07 ha of Forest land and surrounding Non forest land:</p>																											
3	It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operation in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the IRO.	<p>Reply: As already indicated that the project involving 12.07 ha of forest land is for Pauni-II Expansion OC with a total land of 1152.66 ha for a Capacity of 3.25 Mty as per the approved Mining Plan dated 26/06/2015. This Mining Plan was subsequently revised with same capacity 3.25 Mty) due to the fact that there was urgent need to enhance the coal production and simultaneously stage-I FC was not in possessing with land of 1095.52 ha thereby deleting 12.07 ha of forest land and surrounding non forest land lying in the immediate vicinity of said forest land.</p> <p>Based on the revised Mining Plan (without Forest Land) of 1095.52 ha with same capacity, Pauni-II Expansion OC was granted EC while recording all these facts and figures about deletion of forest land and subsequent directions. The mine is in operation within 1095.52 ha of land as per the aforesaid EC.</p>																											
4	Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal.	<p>Reply :- Land-use proposed in 12.07 Ha forest land is for excavation of coal as already submitted by WCL in its reply dtd. 19.10.2021 (Copy of the same attached as Annexure-VII (Page no-27) for ready reference).</p>																											
5	As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha. (Pg 10/c) while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the IRO.	<p>Reply :- The details of total project area has already been submitted by WCL in its reply dtd. 19.10.2021 (Copy of the same attached as Annexure-VII (Page no-27) for ready reference) and presentation made by WCL in REC meeting held on 14.10.2022. The total land acquired for the projects as per requirement is 1152.66 Ha.</p> <p>The details are as follows :</p> <table><tr><th rowspan="2">Sl.No.</th><th rowspan="2">Particulars</th><th colspan="2">Quarry-I</th><th rowspan="2">Total land</th></tr><tr><th>Existing Land (Acquired for Pauni OC)</th><th>Additional Land</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Tenancy land</td><td>21.61</td><td>281.03</td><td>302.64</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Govt. land</td><td>0.00</td><td>24.77</td><td>24.77</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Forest land</td><td>0.00</td><td>0.00</td><td>0.00</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total:</td><td>21.61</td><td>305.80</td><td>327.41</td></tr></table>	Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarry-I		Total land	Existing Land (Acquired for Pauni OC)	Additional Land	1	Tenancy land	21.61	281.03	302.64	2	Govt. land	0.00	24.77	24.77	3	Forest land	0.00	0.00	0.00	Total:		21.61	305.80	327.41
Sl.No.	Particulars	Quarry-I			Total land																								
		Existing Land (Acquired for Pauni OC)	Additional Land																										
1	Tenancy land	21.61	281.03	302.64																									
2	Govt. land	0.00	24.77	24.77																									
3	Forest land	0.00	0.00	0.00																									
Total:		21.61	305.80	327.41																									

6	To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs 20 lakh has been recommended by the State (pg 5/c) Efficacy of the same needs to be assessed by the IRO in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna.	Reply :- Necessary action in this regard may please be taken by MH, State Forest Deptt
7	The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of fait accompli, since mining is on in NFL and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.	<p>Reply :- As already deliberated in the earlier paragraphs, the presently operating Pauni-II Expansion OC mine does not involve any forest land.</p> <p>The Mining Plan of Pauni-II Expansion was originally prepared for 3.25 MTY with 1152.66 ha land involving 12.07 ha of Forest land. But due to the fact that Stage-I FC was not in possession for 12.07 ha and simultaneously there was an urgent need for enhancement of coal production to meet the surged demand of power coal, the aforesaid Mining was subsequently revised with same capacity and with reduced land area of 1045.50 ha (excluding 12.07 ha of forest land plus surrounding non forest land). On receipt of the approval of the said Mining Plan, the application for grant of EC was made & after detailed deliberation of the same in the EAC, the formal EC was granted by MOEFF & CC wherein all these facts & figures about deletion of forest land have been duly recorded. The Pauni-II OC Expansion mine is in operation as per the aforesaid EC without any involvement of forest land.</p> <p>As directed by MOEFF & CC, fresh application for amendment of existing EC for addition of land including 12.07 of Forest land will be made on receipt of Stage-I FC for the same. So, question of fait accompli does not arise at all.</p>

14/5/23
Area General Manager
Ballarpur Area

Sl. No.	Project Name	Project Area
1	To mitigate the impact of project activities on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State Government. Same need to be approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and specific comments in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna need to be submitted.	As per the inspection report sent by DCF, Central Chanda, there is no significant flora & fauna found in the area proposed for diversion and the required forest land is not a part of any protected area, tiger corridor or Biosphere reserve. Therefore, Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared as per the instructions from State Government.

(सबल बाबु),
उपवनसंरक्षक,
मध्य बाढ़ा वनविभाग, बरदपुर

BOARD MATTER
CONFIDENTIALWESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
BOARD SECRETARIAT
COAL ESTATE, CIVIL LINES, NAGPUR

WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-224/2010/ 2688

DATE - 29.05.2010

We reproduce below the relevant excerpts from the minutes of 224th meeting of the Board of Directors of WCL held on 29th April, 2010

*ITEM NO.224/ C-11

SUB Project Report of Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni-III) OC -
Updated February, 2010 (Departmental Option).
(Deferred Item No.223/ C-27)

- i) After deliberations at length, the Board accorded first stage approval, i.e. approval of the Mining Plan to facilitate application of forestry and environment clearance for Project Report of Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni-III) OCP for a capacity of 1.25 Mty. at a capital investment of Rs.360.7987 crores (Rupees three hundred sixty crores, seventy nine lakhs eighty seven thousand only) (updated February, 2010) with Departmental Option, as brought out in the agenda note. The Board directed for entering into Coal Supply Agreement with prospective consumer on Cost Plus Basis to yield 12% IRR at 85% target capacity and clearance from CIL.
- ii) The Board also accorded approval for enhancement of capacity of Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni-III) OCP to 1.55 Mty, without any capital investment, for the purpose of obtaining EMP clearance
- iii) GM (P&P) to take necessary action in the matter.

[Signature]
COMPANY SECRETARY

[Signature]
GENERAL MANAGER (P&P)

cc: DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL)
DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) OP
DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) P&P
DIRECTOR (FINANCE)

वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड
Western Coalfields Limited

बोर्ड सचिवालय
BOARD SECRETARIAT

Regd. Office : कोल ईस्टेट, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपुर - 440 001
Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440 001

☎ का/० 0712-2511216
e-Mail : ramehar@westerncoal.gov.in

BOARD MATTER
CONFIDENTIAL

WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-281/2016/618

DATE : 29/09/2016

Reproduced below is the relevant excerpt from the minutes of 281st meeting of the Board of Directors of WCL held on 19th September, 2016 :

*ITEM NO.281/ C-7

SUB Approval for change of Name of Amalgamated Pauni-II & Patni-III OC Mine to Pauni-II Expansion OC Mine

- i) In consideration of the proposal brought out in the agenda note, the Board after deliberation approved the proposal for renaming the Project Report of Amalgamated Pauni-II & Pauni-III OC Mine as the "Project Report (Including Mining Plan) of Pauni-II Expansion OC Mine"
- ii) GM (P&P) to take necessary action in the matter."



COMPANY SECRETARY

✓ GENERAL MANAGER (P&P)

cc : DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) OF
DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL)
DIRECTOR (FINANCE)
DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) P&P

- 2 D. CMFO, A-IV.
- AGM, BLP A.
- All HOD's, WCL-HQ.
- Pauni-II Expn. OC, BLP A. File
- E/C
Jm 29/9/16

- Air quality for PM_{10} (98th percentile values) already on much higher side at many of the locations, would not allow more mining operations without adequate mitigating measures.
- Diversion plan for Katna Nallah requires approval of the concerned regulatory authority (Water Resources/Irrigation Department).
- Mine Plan for the project duly approved by the competent authority.
- R&R Plan for the project affected families.
- Diversion of 24.6 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes.

The proposal was, therefore, deferred for want of needful on the above lines.

Agenda No.42.10

Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mine from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA with increase in ML area from 316.30 ha to 1095.52 ha of M/s Western Coalfield Limited located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra)- Environment Clearance reg.

42.10.1 The proposal is for grant of Environment Clearance to expansion of Pauni-II OC from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA with increase in ML area from 316.30 ha to 1152.66 ha of M/s Western Coalfield Limited located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra).

42.10.2 Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:

- The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo Sheet No56 M/1 and 56 M/5 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from N 19° 48' 19" to N 19° 48' 19" N and longitudes E 79° 13' 48" and E 79° 16' 13".
- Coal linkage of the project is proposed for MahaGenco, KPCL, GSCCL & various consumers
- Joint venture cartel has not been formed.
- Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA), where the MoEF&CC's vide its OM dated 13th January, 2010 has imposed moratorium on grant of environment clearance.
- Employment generated is 945 Nos. Employment provided is 182 nos., Monetary compensation given- 20 Nos. balance 743 Nos. persons will be provided employment from the project
- The project is reported to be beneficial in terms of: It will bridge the gap (to the extent of the peak production capacity of the project) between demand & supply of non-coking coal for the power houses and other bulk consumers of western as well as southern part of the country.
- Earlier, the environment clearance to the project was obtained under EIA Notification, 1994 vide Ministry's letter NoJ-11015/71/2005-IA.II (M) dated 02.02.2006 for 0.60 MTPA in mine lease area of 316.30 ha.
- Total mining lease area is 1095.52 ha. Mining Plan (Including Progressive Mine Closure Plan) has been approved by the WCL Board on Vide letter no WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-307/2018/830 dated 26.12.2018.
- The land usage pattern of the project is as follows:

Pre-mining land use details (Area in Ha)

S. No.	Land Use	Within ML Area	Outside ML Area	Total
1	Agricultural Land	718.69	0	718.69
2	Forest Land	0	0	0
3	Wasteland	60.53	0	60.53
4	Grazing Land	0	0	0
5	Surface Water Bodies	0	0	0
6	Settlements	0	0	0
7	Others (Industrial)	316.30	0	316.30

8	Old Excavation Area (East Quarry)	0	0	0
9	Old Excavation Area (West Quarry)	0	0	0
10	Old OB Dumps	0	0	0
11	Roads & Mine Infrastructure	0	0	0
12	R & R Colony	0	0	0
13	Staff Colony	0	0	0
14	Green Belt	0	0	0
15	Balance Area	0	0	0
	Total Project Area =	1095.52	0	1095.52

Post Mining

(x) The total land requirement for Pauni-II Expansion OC Mine is 1152.66 ha. Out of 1152.66 ha land, 21.61 ha land which is already acquired for Pauni OC has to be transferred to Pauni-II Expansion OC by boundary readjustment.

(xi) Total agricultural land of 1050.99 ha and govt land of 89.60 ha is involved in the project. About 12.7 ha of forest land is also required. The application for Stage – I FC has already been made but FC is yet to be secured.

(xii) Now considering the present position of the mine and the surged demand of power grade coal from WCL mines for the power plants of Maharashtra and as per the requirements of MoEF& CC (for project involving forest land but not having Stage – I FC in hand), a Mining Plan by excluding the Forest land and adjacent non-forest land (for maintaining mine geometry) has been prepared as **Phase – I** for the expansion capacity (0.60 to 3.25 MTPA) and balance land area (316.30 ha to 1095.52 ha).

(xiii) However, as soon as, the Stage – I FC is received, the application for EC will again be made for additional land only, since the Public Hearing and ToR have been secured for the total land of the project i.e. 1152.66 ha.

(xiv) The proposed arrangement of proceeding ahead with **Phase – I** (with the expansion capacity excluding the forest and adjacent non – forest) is an interim arrangement for a period of maximum 24 months (considering physical possession of forest land) and it will help the project to achieve considerable increase in production following all the requirements

S. No.	Land use	Land use (ha)				Total
		Plantation	Water Body	Public Use	Undisturbed	
1	External OB Dump	214.57	0	0	0	214.57
2	Top Soil Dump	35.40	0	0	0	35.40
3	Excavation / Quarry	107.0	188.35	0	0	295.35
4	Roads	0.5	0	1.5	0	2.0
5	Built-up Area (Colony/office)	3.0	0	7.0	0	10.0
6	Green Belt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
7	Undisturbed Area	0.0	0.0	186.41	0.0	186.41
8	Internal OB dumps	58.93	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.93
9	Virgin area	350.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
	Total Area =	769.4	188.35	194.91	0.0	1152.66

- (xv) Total geological reserve reported in the mine lease area is 42.847MT with 30.63 MT mineable reserves. Out of total mineable reserve of 30.63MT, 30.63 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 72.0 %.
- (xvi) Two seams with thickness ranging from 2.55 m – 10.95 m are workable. Grade of coal is G-9, stripping ratio 1 in 6.19, while gradient is 1 in 6 to 1 in 7.
- (xvii) Method of mining operations envisages by Opencast with Shovel dumper combination method
- (xviii) Life of mine is 13 years.
- (xix) The project has three external OB dumps in an area of 214.57 ha with 90 m height and 184.32 Mm³ of OB. The OB from the current mining operations shall be backfilled from 6th year onwards, one internal OB in an area of 107.0 ha with 80.73 Mm³ of OB is envisaged in the project.
- (xx) Total quarry area is 295.35 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 107 ha while final mine void will be created in an area of 188.35 ha with a depth of 200 m. Backfilled quarry area of 107 ha shall be reclaimed with plantation. Final mine void will be converted into water body
- (xxi) Transportation of coal has been proposed by dumpers in mine pit head, from surface to siding by tippers/dumpers and at sidings by payloaders.
- (xxii) Reclamation Plan in an area of 769.4 ha, comprising of 214.57 ha of external dump, 35.40 ha of top soil dump, 107.0 ha of internal dump, 412.43 ha for green belt development.
- (xxiii) No forest land has been reported to be involved in the Phase-I project.
- (xxiv) No National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-Sensitive Zones have been reported with 10 km boundary of the project.
- (xxv) The ground water level has been reported to be varying between 6.05 m to 8.40 m during pre-monsoon and between 1.85 m to 7.90 m during post-monsoon. Total water requirement for the project is 880 KLD.
- (xxvi) Application for obtaining the approval of the Central Ground Water Authority for withdrawal of groundwater from CGWA has been applied vide 21-4/728/MH/MIN/2017 on 19.01.2017.
- (xxvii) Public hearing has been conducted on 01.12.2018 for Pauni-II Expansion OC as per ToR granted vide letter no. J-11015/80/2016.IA-II (M) dated 30.03.2017 (3.25 MTPA production capacity in an area of 1152.66 ha). Place of Public Hearing: Manoranjan Kendra, Sasti colony, Near CGM office, WCL Ballarpur area, Tal. Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra.
- (xxviii) Major issues raised in the public hearing includes:
 - New approach road to the agriculture fields of nearby villagers
 - Water scarcity in nearby villages
 - Compensation to the farmers encroached land of state government revenue department
 - Nallah Diversion and its impact over agriculture land.
 - Development of Nimni village as Model village.
 - Compensation to the PAF against land acquired for the project by December, 2018
 - Compensatory jobs to be provided earliest to eligible land losers.
 - CSR work to be carried out in nearby villages.
 - Issues due to blasting
 - Damage to the crop due to dust generated during to transportation of coal.
 - Due to overburden, the water enters in the nearby fields and damage crops.
 - Skill development programme for local youths from project affected nearby villages.
 - Medical camps to be organized on monthly basis.
 - Dust pollution in nearby villages.
 - Installation of continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations.

The above issues were duly addressed and report has been submitted to State PCB.

- (xxix) The proposal for renewal of consent considered in the 6th Consent committee meeting of MPCB for 2018-19 held on 17/18.12.2018 at MPCB, Mumbai vide application no. MPCB

CONSENT 0000039454. Consent to Operate (CTO) for Pauni II OC of 0.60 MTPA production capacity granted renewal up to 31.01.2022. Formal letter awaited.

(xxx) Sakhari & Lendi Nallah is flowing along boundary of lease. The nallah will be diverted in consultation with the Water Resource Department of the State Government.

(xxxi) Baseline monitoring of environmental parameters has been carried out during Nov'2015 to Jan'2016.

(xxxii) Regular monitoring of ambient air quality is being carried out on fortnightly basis. The documented report is submitted to MPCB and also to MoEF&CC along with half yearly EC compliance report. In general, the results of ambient air quality monitoring data were found within prescribed limits.

(xxxiii) No court cases, violation cases are pending against the project of the PP.

(xxxiv) The project does not involve violation of the EIA Notification, 1994 and amendment issued thereunder. The coal production from the mine was started from the year 2016-17 onwards. No excess production of coal from the sanctioned capacity has been realized since the commencement of mining operations. The coal production, realized from the project, from 1993-94 onwards, is as under:

Year	EC sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MTPA)	Excess production beyond the EC sanctioned capacity
2016-17	0.60	0.510	Nil
2017-18	0.60	0.306	Nil
2018-19 (upto 31-12-18)	0.60	0.543	Nil

(xxxv) The project involves 954 nos. project affected families.

(xxxvi) Total cost of the project is Rs. 483.6948 crores. Cost of production is Rs.1018.96/- per tonne., CSR cost is Rs.2 per tonne, R&R cost is Rs 318.58 crores. Environment Management Cost is Rs. 97.09 lakhs.

(xxxvii) The proposal for renewal of consent considered in the 6th Consent committee meeting of MPCB for 2018-19 held on 17/18.12.2018 at MPCB, Mumbai vide application no. MPCB Consent 0000039454. Consent to Operate (CTO) for Pauni II OC of 0.60 MTPA production capacity granted renewal up to 31.01.2022. Formal letter awaited.

42.10.3 During deliberations, the EAC noted the following:

The proposal is for revalidation of the environmental clearance dated 2nd February, 2006 as mandated under the Ministry's Notification dated 6th April, 2018, and grant of environmental clearance to expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining project from 0.60 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd located in village Sakhari, Tehsil Rajura, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

There is no forest land involved in the project.

Terms of reference for the project in an area of 1152.66 ha (includes forest area 12.07 ha) was granted by the Ministry on 30th March, 2017. Public hearing was conducted by the SPCB on 1st December, 2018. Meanwhile, the project area was revised to exclude the said forest area and adjacent non-forest area 45.07 ha. Baseline data was collected during November, 2015 to January, 2019.

Mining Plan, including the Progressive Mine Closure Plan, for the increased coal production capacity of 3.25 MTPA within the revised mine lease area of 1095.52 ha was approved by the Board of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd in its meeting held on 24th December, 2018.

Earlier, the Environmental Clearance to Pauni-II OC coal mine for its capacity of 0.60 MTPA in an area of 316.30 ha, was accorded by the Ministry vide letter dated 2nd February, 2006 based on public hearing conducted on 6th November, 2004. The Regional Office (WCZ) of the Ministry at Nagpur has carried out site inspection in 24th September, 2018 and submitted its report on compliance of EC conditions vide letter dated 2nd January, 2019.

The proposal for re-validation of environmental clearance in accordance with the Ministry's Notification dated 6th April, 2018 was considered by the EAC in its meeting held on 31st August, 2018. As per observations of the EAC, public Notice for information of the stakeholders about present coal mining operations of capacity 0.60 MTPA in mine lease area of 316.30 ha, was issued on 4th/5th October, 2018 inviting comments within one month. As informed, no comments/suggestions were received within the prescribed time frame. Also, all other requirements insisted by the EAC for revalidations of the EC were observed to be complied with.

The project does not involve violation of the EIA Notification, 2006 and amendment issued there under. No excess production of coal from the sanctioned capacity has been realized since the commencement of mining operations.

Renewal of Consent to operate for the existing capacity of 0.60 MTPA has been obtained from the SPCB and is valid up to March, 2022.

42.10.4 The EAC, after detailed deliberations, recommended for revalidation of the existing environmental clearance dated 2nd February, 2006, and grant of environmental clearance to the expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.60 to 3.25 MTPA in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited located at village Sakhri, Tehsil Rajura, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) for a period of one year, subject to compliance of terms and conditions as applicable, and the additional conditions as under:-

- The project proponent shall collect and analyze one season data for environmental parameters and submit for consideration of the EAC before 31st December, 2019.
- The project proponent shall obtain Consent to establish from the State Pollution Control Boards for the proposed peak capacity of 3.25 MTPA prior to commencement of the increased production.
- Transportation of coal from face to Coal heap shall be carried out by truck. Further, the coal transportation from Coal heap to Coal Handling Plant shall be carried out through covered trucks.
- To control the production of dust at source, the crusher and in-pit belt conveyors shall be provided with mist type sprinklers.
- Mitigating measures shall be undertaken to control dust and other fugitive emissions all along the roads by providing sufficient water sprinklers. Adequate corrective measures shall be undertaken to control dust emissions, which would include mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling/mist spraying on haul roads and loading sites, long range misting/fogging arrangement, wind barrier wall and vertical greenery system, green belt, dust suppression arrangement at railway siding, etc.
- The company shall obtain approval of CGWA for use of groundwater for mining operations at its enhanced capacity of 3.25 MTPA.
- Continuous monitoring of occupational safety and other health hazards, and the corrective actions need to be ensured.
- Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable.
- To ensure health and welfare of nearby villages, regular medical camps shall be organized at least once in six months.
- Thick green belt of adequate width at the final boundary in the down wind direction of the

- project site shall be developed to mitigate/check the dust pollution.*
- *Efforts shall be made for utilizing alternate sources of surface water, abandoned mines or else whatsoever and thus minimizing the dependability on a single source.*
 - *A third party assessment of EC compliance shall be undertaken once in three years through agency like ICFRI /NEERI/IIT or any other expert agency identified by the Ministry.*

Agenda No.42.11

Krishnashila OCP from 6.25 MTPA to 7 MTPA of M/s Northern Coalfields Limited in an area of 851.78 ha located in Tehsil Dudhi, District Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh) - Continuation/Extension of EC

[I/A/UP/CMIN/91208/2018, F.No. J-11015/243/2011-IA.II(M)]

42.11.1 During deliberations, the EAC noted the following:-

The proposal is for continuation of environment clearance dated 12th March, 2018 granted by the Ministry to the expansion of Krishnashila Opencast Coal Mine from 6.25 MTPA to 7 MTPA by M/s Northern Coalfields Limited in an area of 851.78 ha located in Tehsil Dudhi, District Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh).

The project was granted environmental clearance by the Ministry vide letter dated 12th March, 2018 for a period of one year, subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, inter-alia including the following:-

(i) Adequate ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board, and regular monitoring shall be carried out for particulate emissions (both PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}), SO₂ & NO_x. The monitoring results for the period during summer season (April-June, 2017) shall be submitted to the State PCB and the Regional Office of this Ministry.

(ii) The EAC shall review compliance of the actions taken on observations of the Regional Office before December, 2018, and make its recommendations for continuance of the project thereafter. Also, based on the monitoring results, the Committee shall examine adequacy and efficacy of the pollution control measures and its impact on ambient air quality.

The Ministry's Regional Office at Lucknow has conducted inspection of the project site on 24th November, 2018 to monitor the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 12th March, 2018, and submitted report vide their letter dated 26th December, 2018.

42.11.2 *The EAC, after detailed deliberations and duly considering observations of the Ministry's Regional Office in their letter dated 26th December, 2018, recommended for continuance of the environmental clearance dated 12th March, 2018 for a period of one year, subject to the project area not covered under the moratorium imposed by the Ministry, and terms and conditions stipulated in the said EC remaining the same.*



No. J-11015/80/2016-IA.II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi - 3
Email: lk.bokolia@nic.in Tel: 01124695301

Dated: 1st December, 2020

To,

The General Manager (Environment),
M/s Western Coalfields Ltd,
Coal Estate, 9th Floor, Civil Lines,
Nagpur - 1 (Maharashtra)

Email: gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in; wclenv@yahoo.in

Sub: Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) - Amendment in Environment Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. LA/MH/CMIN/170637/2020 dated 31st August, 2020 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for amendment in Environment clearance dated 28th March, 2019 to the Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following specific conditions: -

(iii) PP shall implement in-pit belt conveyor system in next 3 years from the issue of this letter"

(xviii) the Percentage of CER may be at least 2 times the amount given in the OM dated 01st May, 2018 recommended by EAC and item wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to Ministry's Regional Office"

3. Amendment has been sought by project proponent citing the deployment of In-pit belt conveyor system in the mine is technically difficult proposition and the same is not included in the approved Project Report / Mining Plan. Similarly, specific condition no. (xviii) as state above, PP has proposed for modification with the condition that the project proponent shall comply with the provisions contained in this ministry's OM dated 1st May, 2018 as applicable, regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER).


4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 2nd meeting held on 28-29 September, 2020 and recommended the proposal for amendment in specific condition (iii) only. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for amendment in Environment Clearance of the **Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra)**, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of additional as under:

- PP shall implement off pit conveyor system i.e. from Coal Handling Plant to Railway siding with silo loading facility in three years (i.e. 2023).
5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the earlier Environmental Clearance dated 28th March, 2019 and 13th March, 2020 shall also apply in addition above conditions.
6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(Munna Kumar Shah)
Scientist D

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32 (Maharashtra)
3. The Additional PCCF (Central), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-1 (Maharashtra)
4. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 2
6. The District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra
7. Monitoring File/ Guard File / Notice Board


(Munna Kumar Shah)
Scientist D



No. J-11015/80/2016-IA.II (M)

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Impact Assessment Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi - 3

Dated: 13th March, 2020

To,

The General Manager (Environment),
M/s Western Coalfields Ltd,
Coal Estate, 9th Floor, Civil Lines,
Nagpur - 1 (Maharashtra)

Email: gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in; wclenv@yahoo.in

Sub: Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) - Revalidation and Environment Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/133855/2019 dated 28th December, 2019 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for extension of environmental clearance dated 28th March, 2019 to the Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), for a period of one year and subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following and other conditions: -

The project proponent shall collect and analyze one season data for environmental parameters and submit for consideration of the EAC before 31st December, 2019.

3. In line with the above condition, Project Proponent submitted the compliance of all the specific conditions including one season baseline data. Site inspection was carried out by Regional Office, Nagpur on 26th July, 2019 to monitor the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 28th March, 2019 and certified compliance report was submitted vide its letter dated 5th December, 2019.

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 24th January, 2020 and recommended for continuance of the project and validity of environmental clearance dated 28th March, 2019 for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier subject to the terms and conditions stipulated therein remaining the same and with additional conditions. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for continuance of the

Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of additional as under:-

- (i) EAC desired that the MoC may direct CIL subsidiaries to comply the EC/FC/CTO conditions strictly within certain time bound manner so that the mining operations will be environmentally sustainable/viable etc
- (ii) All the partially complied condition observed by Ministry's Regional Office in certified compliance report dated 5th December, 2019 shall be completed in 3 years.
- (iii) PP shall implement in-pit belt conveyor system in next 3 years from the issue of this letter.
- (iv) Project proponent to plant 100,000 nos. of native trees with broad leaves along the periphery of the mine to prevent the effect of air pollution in 3 years of the issue of this letter. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer
- (v) The Project Proponent shall comply with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors. State Government shall ensure that the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department in strict compliance of judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.
- (vi) Project Proponent shall obtain the necessary prior permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in case of intersecting the Ground water table. The intersecting ground water table can only be commencing after conducting detailed hydrogeological study and necessary permission from the CGWA. The Report on six monthly basis on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Pollution Control Board.
- (vii) Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and maintain records accordingly; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. The Recommendations of National Institute for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers shall be implemented; The prevention measure for burns, malaria and provision of antsnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.
- (viii) Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and

villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".

- (ix) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours.
- (x) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna, if any, spotted in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office.
- (xi) Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to the Regional Office of the Ministry
- (xii) PP shall not divert proposed nallah till it justifies the reason of diversion
- (xiii) PP shall ensure regular water supply to the nearest villages.
- (xiv) CTE/CTO for the project shall be obtained from the SPCB as required under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the SPCB shall follow the mechanism/protocol issued by the Ministry vide letter no. Q-16017/38/2018-CPA dated 24th October, 2019 while issuing the CTE/CTO for the project, for improvement of environmental quality in the area.
- (xv) The green belt of at least 5-10 m width shall be developed in more than 40% of the total project area, mainly along the periphery of mine boundary, in downward wind direction, and along road sides etc. Selection of plant species shall be as per the CPCB guidelines in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- (xvi) In addition, the project proponent shall develop greenbelt outside the plant premises such as avenue plantation, plantation in vacant areas, social forestry etc.
- (xvii) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year.

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- (xviii) The percentage the CER may be atleast 2 times the amount given in the OM dated 1st May, 2018 recommended by the EAC and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.
- (xix) Effective fugitive emission control measures should be imposed in the process, transportation, packing etc.
- (xx) Transportation of materials by rail/ conveyor belt, wherever feasible.
- (xxi) A detailed water harvesting plan may be submitted by the project proponent
- (xxii) In case, domestic waste water generation is more than 10 KLD, the industry may install STP.
- (xxiii) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year
5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the earlier Environmental Clearance dated 28th March, 2019 shall also apply in addition above conditions.
6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Manoj Kumar Gangeya
 13.3.2020
 (Manoj Kumar Gangeya)
 Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32 (Maharashtra)
3. The Additional PCCF (Central), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-1 (Maharashtra)
4. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
6. The Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 2
7. The District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra
8. Monitoring File 10. Guard File 11. Record File 12. Notice Board

Manoj Kumar Gangeya
 13.3.2020
 (Manoj Kumar Gangeya)
 Director

No. J-11015/80/2016-IA.II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
IA-II (Coal Mining) Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi - 3
Dated: 28th March, 2019

To,

The General Manager (Environment),
M/s Western Coalfields Ltd,
Coal Estate, 9th Floor, Civil Lines,
Nagpur - 1 (Maharashtra)

Email: gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in; wclenv@yahoo.in

Sub: Expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining Project from 0.6 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) - Revalidation and Environment Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MH/CMIN/90274/2018 dated 11th January, 2019 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for revalidation of the environmental clearance dated 2nd February, 2006 as mandated under the Ministry's Notification dated 6th April, 2018, and grant of environmental clearance to expansion of Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining project from 0.60 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd located in village Sakhri, Tehsil Rajura, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra) under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006

3. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 42nd meeting held on 24th January, 2019. The details of the project, as per the documents submitted by the project proponent, and also as informed during the meeting, are reported to be as under-

(i) The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo Sheet No56 M/1 and 56 M/5 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from N 19° 48' 19" to N 19° 48' 19" N and longitudes E 79° 13' 48" and E 79° 16' 13".

(ii) Coal linkage of the project is proposed for MahaGenco, KPCL, GSCCL & various consumers

(iii) Employment generated is 945 Nos. Employment provided is 182 nos. Monetary compensation given- 20 Nos. balance 743 Nos. persons will be provided employment from the project. The project involves 954 nos. project affected families.

(iv) The project is reported to bridge the gap (to the extent of the peak production capacity of the project) between demand & supply of non-coking coal for the power houses and other bulk consumers of western as well as southern part of the country.

(v) Earlier, the environment clearance to the project was obtained under EIA Notification, 1994 vide Ministry's letter 1/2005-IA.II (M) dated 2nd February, 2006 for 0.60 MTPA in mine lease area of 316.30 ha.

(vi) Total mine lease area is 1095.52 ha. Mining Plan (Including Progressive Mine Closure Plan) has been approved by the WCL Board on Vide letter no WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-307/2018/830 dated 26th December, 2018.



(vii) The land usage pattern of the project is as follows:

Pre-mining land use details (Area in Ha)

S. No.	Land Use	Within ML Area	Outside ML Area	Total
1	Agricultural Land	718.69	0	718.69
2	Forest Land	0	0	0
3	Wasteland	60.53	0	60.53
4	Grazing Land	0	0	0
5	Surface Water Bodies	0	0	0
6	Settlements	0	0	0
7	Others (Industrial)	316.30	0	316.30
	Total Project Area	1095.52	0	1095.52

Post Mining

S. No.	Land use	Land use (ha)				Total
		Plantation	Water Body	Public Use	Undisturbed	
1	External OB Dump	214.57	0	0	0	214.57
2	Top Soil Dump	36.40	0	0	0	36.40
3	Excavation / Quarry	107.0	188.35	0	0	295.35
4	Roads	0.5	0	1.5	0	2.0
5	Built-up Area (Colony/office)	3.0	0	7.0	0	10.0
6	Green Belt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
7	Undisturbed Area	0.0	0.0	186.41	0.0	186.41
8	Internal OB dumps	58.93	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.93
9	Virgin area	350.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
	Total Area	769.4	188.35	194.91	0.0	1152.66

(viii) Total land requirement for Pauni-II Expansion OC Mine is 1152.66 ha. Out of 1152.66 ha land, 21.61 ha land which is already acquired for Pauni OC has to be transferred to Pauni-II Expansion OC by boundary readjustment.

(ix) Total agricultural land of 1050.99 ha and govt land of 89.60 ha is involved in the project. About 12.7 ha of forest land is also required in overall 1152.66 ha land. The application for Stage-I FC has already been made but FC is yet to be secured.

(x) Now considering the present position of the mine and the surged demand of power grade coal from WCL mines for the power plants of Maharashtra and as per the requirements of MoEF& CC (for project involving forest land but not having Stage-I FC in hand), a Mining Plan by excluding the Forest land and adjacent non-forest land (for maintaining mine geometry) has been prepared as Phase-I for the proposed expansion from 0.60 to 3.25 MTPA.

(xi) In view of public hearing and the ToR secured for total land area of 1152.66 ha, fresh proposal for EC or amendment therein, shall be submitted to take into account the additional land after receipt of stage-I forest clearance for the forest land of 12.07 ha.

(xii) Total geological reserve reported in the mine lease area is 42.847MT with 30.63 MT mineable reserves. Out of total mineable reserve of 30.63MT, 30.63 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 72%.

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- (xiii) Two seams with thickness ranging from 2.55 m – 10.95 m are workable. Grade of coal is G-9, stripping ratio 1 in 6.18, while gradient is 1 in 6 to 1 in 7.
- (xiv) Method of mining operations would be Opencast with Shovel dumper combination method. Life of mine is 13 years.
- (xv) The project has three external OB dumps in an area of 214.57 ha with 90 m height and 184.32 Mm³ of OB. The OB from the current mining operations shall be backfilled from 6th year onwards, one internal OB in an area of 107.0 ha with 80.73 Mm³ of OB.
- (xvi) Total quarry area is 295.35 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 107 ha while final mine void will be created in an area of 188.35 ha with a depth of 200 m. Backfilled quarry area of 107 ha shall be reclaimed with plantation. Final mine void will be converted into water body.
- (xvii) Transportation of coal has been proposed by dumpers in mine pit head, from surface to siding by tippers/dumpers and at sidings by pay loaders.
- (xviii) Reclamation Plan in an area of 769.4 ha, comprising of 214.57 ha of external dump, 35.40 ha of top soil dump, 107.0 ha of internal dump, 412.43 ha for green belt development.
- (xix) No forest land has been reported to be involved in the Phase-I project.
- (xx) No National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-Sensitive Zones have been reported with 10 km boundary of the project.
- (xxi) The ground water level has been reported to be varying between 6.05 m to 8.40 m during pre-monsoon and between 1.85 m to 7.90 m during post-monsoon. Total water requirement for the project is 880 KLD.
- (xxii) Application for obtaining the approval of the Central Ground Water Authority for withdrawal of groundwater from CGWA has been applied on 19th January, 2017.
- (xxiii) Public hearing has been conducted on 1st December, 2018 for expansion of Pauni-I Opencast Coal Mining Project in an area of 1152.66 ha, in compliance with the ToR dated 30th March, 2017, at Manoranjan Kendra, Sasti colony, Near CGM office, WCL Ballarpur area, Taluka Rajura, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra).
- (xxiv) Sakhari & Lendi Nallah is flowing along boundary of lease. The nallah will be diverted in consultation with the Water Resource Department of the State Government.
- (xxv) Baseline monitoring of environmental parameters has been carried out during Nov'2015 to Jan'2016.
- (xxvi) Regular monitoring of ambient air quality is being carried out on fortnightly basis. The documented report is submitted to MPCB and also to MoEF&CC along with half yearly EC compliance report. In general, the results of ambient air quality monitoring data were found within prescribed limits.
- (xxvii) No court cases, violation cases are pending against the project of the PP.
- (xxviii) The project does not involve violation of the EIA Notification, 1994 and amendment issued there under. The coal production from the mine was started from the year 2016-17 onwards. No excess production of coal from the sanctioned capacity has been realized since the commencement of mining operations, with the details as under:

Year	EC sanctioned Capacity (MTPA)	Actual production (MTPA)	Excess production
2016-17	0.60	0.510	Nil
2017-18	0.60	0.308	Nil
2018-19 (up to 31 st December, 18)	0.60	0.543	Nil

- (xxix) Total cost of the project is Rs.483.6948 crores. Cost of production is Rs.1018.96/- per tonne. CSR cost is Rs.2 per tonne, R&R cost is Rs.318.58 crores. Environment Management Cost is Rs. 97.09 lakhs.

(xxx) The proposal for renewal of consent for Pauni II OC of 0.60 MTPA production capacity was considered in the 6th Consent committee meeting of MPCB for 2018-19 held on 17/18.12.2018 at MPCB, Mumbai vide application no. MPCB CONSENT 0000039454.

4. The sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held on 24th January, 2019 has recommended for revalidation of the existing environmental clearance as mandated under the Ministry's Notification dated 5th April, 2018 and grant of environmental clearance to the expansion project. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for revalidation of the existing environmental clearance dated 2nd February, 2006, and grant of environmental clearance to the expansion of **Pauni-II Opencast Coal Mining project from 0.60 MTPA to 3.25 MTPA of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd** in mine lease area of 1095.52 ha located in village Sakhari, Tehsil Rajura, District Chandrapur (Maharashtra), for a period of one year, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto, subject to the compliance of the terms & conditions and environmental safeguards as under:-

- (i) The project proponent shall collect and analyze one season data for environmental parameters and submit for consideration of the EAC before 31st December, 2019.
- (ii) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to establish from the State Pollution Control Boards for the proposed peak capacity of 3.25 MTPA prior to commencement of the increased production.
- (iii) Transportation of coal from face to Coal heap shall be carried out by truck. Further, coal transportation from Coal heap to Coal Handling Plant shall be through covered trucks.
- (iv) To control the production of dust at source, the crusher and in-pit belt conveyors shall be provided with mist type sprinklers.
- (v) Mitigating measures shall be undertaken to control dust and other fugitive emissions all along the roads by providing sufficient water sprinklers. Adequate corrective measures shall be undertaken to control dust emissions, which would include mechanized sweeping, water sprinkling/mist spraying on haul roads and loading sites, long range misting/fogging arrangement, wind barrier wall and vertical greenery system, green belt, dust suppression arrangement at railway siding, etc.
- (vi) The company shall obtain approval of CGWA for use of groundwater for mining operations at its enhanced capacity of 3.25 MTPA.
- (vii) Continuous monitoring of occupational safety and other health hazards, and corrective actions need to be ensured.
- (viii) Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable.
- (ix) To ensure health and welfare of nearby villages, regular medical camps shall be organized at least once in six months.
- (x) Thick green belt of adequate width at the final boundary in the down wind direction of the project site shall be developed to mitigate/check the dust pollution.
- (xi) Efforts shall be made for utilizing alternate sources of surface water, abandoned mines or else whatsoever and thus minimizing the dependability on a single source.
- (xii) A third party assessment of EC compliance shall be undertaken once in three years through agency like ICFRI/NEERI/IIT or any other expert agency identified by the Ministry.

4.1 The grant of environmental clearance is further subject to compliance of the generic conditions as under:

(a) Mining

- (i) Mining shall be carried out under strict adherence to provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and subordinate legislations made there-under as applicable.

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(ii) No change in mining method, calendar programme and scope of work shall be made without obtaining prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

(iii) Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan including Mine Closure Plan, abiding by mining laws related to coal mining and the relevant circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS).

(iv) No mining shall be carried out in forest land without obtaining Forestry Clearance as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and also adhering to The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 read with provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(b) Land reclamation and water conservation

(i) Digital Survey of entire lease hold area/core zone using Satellite Remote Sensing survey shall be carried out at least once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report in 1:50,000 scale shall be submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office (RO).

(ii) The surface drainage plan including surface water conservation plan for the area of influence affected by the said mining operations, considering the presence of river/rivulet/pond/lake etc, shall be prepared and implemented by the project proponent. The surface drainage plan and/or any diversion of natural water courses shall be as per the approved Mining Plan/EIA/EMP report and with due approval of the concerned State/Govt Authority. The construction of embankment to prevent any danger against inrush of surface water into the mine should be as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the permission of DGMS.

(iii) The final mine void depth should preferably be as per the approved Mine Closure Plan, and in case it exceeds 40 m, adequate engineering interventions shall be provided for sustenance of aquatic life therein. The remaining area shall be backfilled and covered with thick and alive top soil. Post-mining land be rendered usable for agricultural/forestry purposes and shall be handed over to the respective state government as specified in the guidelines for Preparation of Mine Closure Plan issued by the Ministry of Coal dated 27th August, 2009 and subsequent amendments.

(iv) The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including top soil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the "during mining"/"post mining" land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-a-vis the post mining land use pattern shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office on six monthly basis.

(v) The top soil shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and shall not be kept unutilized for long. The top soil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purposes. Active OB dumps shall be stabilised with native grass species to prevent erosion and surface run off. The other overburden dumps shall be vegetated with native flora species. The excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested in line with the approved Mine Closure Plan. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Regional Office on six monthly basis.

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(c) Emissions, effluents, and waste disposal

- (i) Transportation of coal, to the extent permitted by road, shall be carried out by covered trucks/conveyors. Effective control measures such as regular water/mist sprinkling/rain gun etc shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution (with higher values of $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$) such as haul road, loading/unloading and transfer points. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be controlled regularly. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.
- (ii) Greenbelt consisting of 3-tier plantation of width not less than 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine lease area in a phased manner. The green belt comprising a mix of native species shall be developed all along the major approach/ coal transportation roads.
- (iii) The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route proposed in the approved Mining Plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, should be so constructed so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.
- (iv) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. All the vehicles engaged in mining and allied activities shall operate only after obtaining 'PUC' certificate from the authorized pollution testing centres.
- (v) Coal stock pile/crusher/feeder and breaker material transfer points shall invariably be provided with dust suppression system. Belt-conveyors shall be fully covered to avoid air borne dust. Side cladding all along the conveyor gantry should be made to avoid air borne dust. Drills shall be wet operated or fitted with dust extractors.
- (vi) Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control measures viz. bag filters/water or mist sprinkling system etc to check fugitive emissions from crushing operations, conveyor system, transfer points, etc.
- (vii) Ground water, excluding mine water, shall not be used for mining operations. Rainwater harvesting shall be implemented for conservation and augmentation of ground water resources.
- (viii) Catch/garland drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, coal heaps & OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and water bodies. Further, dump material shall be properly consolidated/ compacted and accumulation of water over dumps shall be avoided by providing adequate channels for flow of silt into the drains. The drains/ ponds so constructed shall be regularly desilted particularly before onset of monsoon and maintained properly. Sump capacity should provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. The water so collected in the sump shall be utilised for dust suppression measures and green belt development. Dimension of the retaining wall constructed, if any, at the toe of the OB dumps within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data. The plantation of native species to be made between toe of the dump and adjacent field/habitation/water bodies.
- (ix) Industrial waste water generated from CHP, workshop and other waste water, shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made there under, and as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed and maintained fully functional with effluents

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discharge adhering to the norms. Sewage treatment plant of adequate capacity shall be installed for treatment of domestic waste.

(x) Adequate groundwater recharge measures shall be taken up for augmentation of ground water. The project authorities shall meet water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to dewatering of mine.

(d) Illumination, noise & vibration

(i) Adequate illumination shall be ensured in all mine locations (as per DGMS standards) and monitored weekly. The report on the same shall be submitted to this ministry & its RO on six-monthly basis.

(ii) Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dB(A) in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with personal protective equipments (PPE) like ear plugs/muffs in conformity with the prescribed norms and guidelines in this regard. Adequate awareness programme for users to be conducted. Progress in usage of such accessories to be monitored.

(iii) Controlled blasting techniques shall be practiced in order to mitigate ground vibrations and fly rocks as per the guidelines prescribed by the DGMS.

(iv) The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.

(e) Occupational health & safety

(i) The project proponent shall undertake occupational health survey for initial and periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project and maintain records accordingly as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955 and DGMS circulars. Besides regular periodic health check-up, 20% of the workers identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check-up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any.

(ii) Personnel (including outsourcing employees) working in dusty areas shall wear protective respiratory devices and shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

(iii) Skill training as per safety norms specified by DGMS shall be provided to all workmen including the outsourcing employees to ensure high safety standards in mines.

(f) Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation

(i) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered flora/fauna, if any, spotted/reported in the study area. The Action plan in this regard, if any, shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department.

(g) Public hearing, R&R and CSR

(i) Implementation of the action plan on the issues raised during the public hearing shall be ensured. The project proponent shall undertake all the tasks/measures as per the action plan

Page 7 of 11

submitted with budgetary provisions during the public hearing. Land oustees shall be compensated as per the norms laid down in the R&R policy of the company/State Government/Central Government, as applicable.

(ii) The project proponent shall ensure the expenditure towards socio-economic development in and around the mine, in every financial year as per the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy as per the provisions under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013

(iii) The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.11 (M) dated 29th October, 2014, titled 'Impact of mining activities on habitations-issues related to the mining projects wherein habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area'.

(iv) The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.

(h) Corporate environment responsibility

(i) The Company shall have a well laid down environment policy duly approved by Board of Directors. The environment policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental or forest norms/conditions. Also, the company shall have a defined system of reporting of non-compliances/violations of environmental norms to the Board of Directors and/or shareholders/stakeholders.

(ii) The project proponent shall comply with the provisions contained in this Ministry's OM dated 1st May, 2018, as applicable, regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility.

(iii) The hierarchical system or Administrative Order of the company to deal with environmental issues and for ensuring compliance with the environmental clearance conditions should be displayed on website of the Company.

(iv) A separate environmental management cell both at the project and company headquarter level, with suitable qualified personnel shall be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.

(v) Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report.

(vi) Self environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.

(i) Statutory Obligations

(i) The environmental clearance shall be subject to orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court, NGT and any other Court of Law from time to time, and as applicable to the project.

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(ii) This environmental clearance shall be subject to obtaining wildlife clearance, if applicable, from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

(iii) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish/Operate under the Air Act, 1981 and the Water Act, 1974 from the concerned State Pollution Control Board.

(iv) The project proponent shall obtain the necessary permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).

(j) Monitoring of project

(i) Adequate ambient air quality monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring of pollutants, namely PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂ and NO_x. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board. Online ambient air quality monitoring stations may also be installed in addition to the regular monitoring stations as per the requirement and/or in consultation with the SPCB. Monitoring of heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr, etc to be carried out at least once in six months.

(ii) The Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the core zone shall be carried out to ensure the Coal Industry Standards notified vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25.9.2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality and heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr and other monitoring data shall be regularly reported to the Ministry/Regional Office and to the CPCB/SPCB.

(iii) The effluent discharge (mine waste water, workshop effluent) shall be monitored in terms of the parameters notified under the Coal Industry Standards vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25.9.2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.

(iv) The monitoring data shall be uploaded on the company's website and displayed at the project site at a suitable location. The circular No. J-20012/1/2006-IA.11 (M) dated 27.05.2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.

(v) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operations. The monitoring of ground water levels shall be carried out four times a year i.e. pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. The ground water quality shall be monitored once a year, and the data thus collected shall be sent regularly to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office.

(vi) Monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies shall be carried out once in six months and record of monitoring data shall be maintained and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office.

(vii) The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental conditions to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office. For half yearly monitoring reports, the data should be monitored for the period of April to September and October to March of the financial years.

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(viii) The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.

(k) **Miscellaneous**

(i) Efforts should be made to reduce energy consumption by conservation, efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy.

(ii) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office regarding commencement of mining operations.

(iii) A copy of the environmental clearance shall be marked to concerned Panchayat. A copy of the same shall also be sent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, District Industry Sector and Collector's Office/Tehsildar Office for information in public domain within 30 days.

(iv) The EC shall be uploaded on the company's website. The compliance status of the stipulated EC conditions shall also be uploaded by the project authorities on their website and updated at least once every six months so as to bring the same in public domain.

(v) The project authorities shall advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of this clearance, informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the same is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at website of the Ministry.

(vi) The environmental statement for each financial year ending 31 March in Form-V is mandated to be submitted by the project proponent for the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently, shall also be uploaded on the Company's website along with the status of compliance of EC conditions and shall be sent to the respective Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC by e-mail. Concerns raised during public hearing.

(vii) The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

5. The proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report and also that during presentation to the EAC. All the commitments made on the issues raised during public hearing shall also be implemented in letter and spirit.

6. The proponent shall obtain all necessary clearances/approvals that may be required before the start of the project. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.

7. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 18 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

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8. The coal company/project proponent shall be liable to pay the compensation against the illegal mining, if any, and as raised by the respective State Governments at any point of time, in terms of the orders dated 2nd August, 2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.114/2014 in the matter of 'Common Cause Vs Union of India & others.

9. The concerned State Government shall ensure no mining operations to commence till the entire compensation for illegal mining, if any, is paid by the project proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology, in strict compliance of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

10. This environmental clearance shall not be operational till such time the project proponent complies with the above said judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, as applicable, and other statutory requirements.

11. This issues in supersession of the earlier environmental clearance granted by the Ministry vide letter dated 2nd February, 2006.

S.K.
28/3/2019
(S. K. Srivastava)
Scientist E

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, 15th Floor, New Admn. Bldg, Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32 (Maharashtra)
3. The Additional PCCF (Central), Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur-1 (Maharashtra)
4. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Advisor, Coal India Limited, SCOPE Minar, Core-I, 4th Floor, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi
6. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
7. The Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Kalapataru Point, 3rd & 4th Floors, Sion, Matunga Scheme Road No. 8, Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 2
8. The District Collector, Chandrapur, Government of Maharashtra
9. Monitoring File 10. Guard File 11. Record File 12. Notice Board

S.K.
28/3/2019
(S. K. Srivastava)
Scientist E



सत्यमेव जयते

**Office of The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoFF) Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.**

**The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State,
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.**

0712-2556916

Email: apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

Speed Post/Email

No. Desk-3/ Nodal Chandrapur/L.D. 12417/ 1358 /22-23
Nagpur-440 001 Dated 01/04/2022

To,
The Deputy Director General (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,
Nagpur 440 001.

**Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha. Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd. Ballarpur under Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Inawati (Pauni-III) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari,
Tal. Rajura, in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State- Regarding.**

Ref: 1.Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change letter no. FC-II/
MH-165/2021-NUP/8699 dt.30.09.2021.
2.Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur's letter no.Desk-3/1/1 and C.R-44/21-22/
688, dt.24.08.2022

The Govt. of India vide letter under reference 1 has raised 3 queries for which the User Agency has to submit the compliance report. Accordingly the User Agency has submitted the compliance report on the conditions laid down by the Govt. of India vide letter under reference 1 to Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda for onward submission to this office through Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur.

The same has been forwarded to this office by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur vide letter under reference 2. The details of conditions and remarks of the User Agency are as follows:-

S. No	Conditions	Compliance								
1.	The State Government may clarify and furnish detail of approval, if any, obtained under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of Pauni OC project of the user agency. The same may be informed along with status of compliance of approvals granted under the FC Act, as the case may be.	As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the User Agency submits, as per the approved Project Report Mining Plan, total 1152.66 ha land is involved in the Pauni - III / Pauni-II Expn. Open Cast. The land details are as follows: <table><tr><th>Particular</th><th>Forest land (ha)</th><th>Non Forest Land (ha)</th><th>Total Land (ha)</th></tr><tr><td>Land required for the project</td><td>12.07</td><td>1140.59</td><td>1152.66</td></tr></table>	Particular	Forest land (ha)	Non Forest Land (ha)	Total Land (ha)	Land required for the project	12.07	1140.59	1152.66
Particular	Forest land (ha)	Non Forest Land (ha)	Total Land (ha)							
Land required for the project	12.07	1140.59	1152.66							

		As such, only 12.07 ha Forest land is involved in the project for which an application under FC act was submitted by WCL on dt.16.02.2015. Before this there is no approval obtained under the Forest (Conservation), Act 1980 in respect of Pauni-III / Pauni-II Open Cast Expn. Copy of the relevant approved Project Report / Mining Plan is enclosed on Page 6 to 12 for ready reference.																								
ii.	The details of ancillary activities associated with mining activity in instant proposal need to be submitted. Further details of activities proposed in future may also be submitted.	<p>As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur that the User Agency submits as follows:</p> <p>The details of land used for mining as well as associated ancillary activities are as below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No.</th><th>Activity</th><th>Area (in Ha)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td><td>Quarry Area</td><td>295.35</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td>External OB Dump</td><td>308.90</td></tr> <tr> <td>3.</td><td>Infrastructure</td><td>10.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>4.</td><td>Area needed for Rationalisation</td><td>336.41</td></tr> <tr> <td>5.</td><td>Area needed for Blasting Zone</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>6.</td><td>Colony Land (Hostel only)</td><td>2.00</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total</td><td>1152.66</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>However, Out of total Quarry area 295.35 ha, the forest land 12.07 ha would be used for extraction of Coal.</p> <p>Details of land use is enclosed on Page 6 to 12 for ready reference.</p>	Sr. No.	Activity	Area (in Ha)	1.	Quarry Area	295.35	2.	External OB Dump	308.90	3.	Infrastructure	10.00	4.	Area needed for Rationalisation	336.41	5.	Area needed for Blasting Zone	200.00	6.	Colony Land (Hostel only)	2.00	Total		1152.66
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Total		1152.66																								
iii.	Name of signing authority is not mentioned in Part- IV submitted along with the proposal. Revised copy of Part- IV mentioning name of signing authority and date of submission shall be submitted.	The revised copy of Part-IV mentioning name of signing authority and date of submission is enclosed on Page 12 A for further necessary action.																								
iv.	KML file of land identified to carry out Compensatory Afforestation uploaded in Parivesh portal is corrupted. Soft copy of the same is not submitted along with the proposal. Correct KML file shall be uploaded in Parivesh portal and soft copy of the same along with shape files needs to be submitted.	As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the KML file of land identified to carry out Compensatory Afforestation is uploaded in Parivesh portal and soft copy of the same in CD is enclosed.																								
v.	CA scheme is submitted only for 7 years. As per Section 2.8 (ii) (c) of new guidelines, CA scheme should be submitted for 10 years. Therefore, revised CA scheme for 10 years shall be prepared and submitted along with soft copies of KML Shape files.	As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur mentions that the revised Compensatory Afforestation Scheme for 10 years is enclosed on Page no. 14 to 18 .																								
vi.	Maps submitted along with the proposal except CA map have not been certified by DCF, concern. Certified copies of all the relevant maps shall be submitted.	As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submits that all relevant maps certified by concern Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) are enclosed on Page no. 18 to 22 .																								
vii.	Certificate ensuring importance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is not submitted along with the proposal. Original FRA- 2006 certificate along with documentary	As per compliance report submitted by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (T) Central Chanda Division, and forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur submits that the Original FRA- 2006 certificate along with documentary																								

Sub :- Diversion of 12.07 ha of Forest Land (FL) from Coal field allotted (WCL) for Pauni -III (Pauni - III Type - C) Project at Chandrapur, District of Maharashtra State - regarding.

Ref :- EDS raised by IRO, MoEF&CC, Nagpur vide F.No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP/11158 dated 09/02/2023.


Undertaking (Compliance of EDS Point No. 1)

This is to certify that, as per the approved Mining Plan (approved by WCL Board in its 281th Board Meeting held on 19/09/2016) for expansion of the project with total land area of 1152.66 Ha, the activity-wise land use plan for 1152.66 Ha. land is as below :-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Area (in Ha.)
1.	Quarry Area	295.35
2.	External GB Dump	308.90
3.	Infrastructure	10.00
4.	Area needed for Rationalization	336.41
5.	Area needed for Blasting zone	200.00
6.	Colony Land (Hostel only)	2.00
Total		1152.66

The forest area of 12.07 Ha is included in 1152.66 Ha earmarked for Quarry Area i.e. for excavation of coal.

It is also to certify that the land use plan as per the proposal (as detailed above) is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan for expansion of the project with total land area of 1152.66 Ha.


Area General Manager
 Western Coalfields Limited
 Ballarpur Area

केवल नागपुर कोर्ट के अधिकार क्षेत्र में / Under Jurisdiction of Nagpur Court only

वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

Western Coalfields Limited

Office of the Area General Manager

Ballarpur Area, Sasti Township, Rajura,

Dist: Chandrapur (MS), PIN: 442706

Tel/PBX 07173 - 230421/230105/230260, FAX: 07173 - 230076



पंजी. का. : कोयला विहार, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र) - 440001 / Regd. Off. : Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur (MS) - 440001

संदर्भ क्र. वेकोलि/बके/क्षमहाप्र/योजना/ 293

दिनांक : 19.10.2021

To,
The Dy. Conservator of Forest,
Central Chanda, Chandrapur Circle,
Chandrapur (MS)

Sub: Diversion of 12.07ha forest land in favour of Western Coalfields Ltd., Ballarpur Area under Forest Conservation Act 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village Sakhari, Tah Rajura Dist- Chandrapur in the State Maharashtra regarding.

Ref. No. 1) F.No. FC-II-MH-165-2021-NGP/8699 dtd. 30.09.2021

2) Letter no. FLD-3616/CR-01/F-10 dated 10.06.2021

3) APCCF & Nodal Officer(FCA), Maharashtra Vide letter No. Desk-17/NC(1)/D-1715/15-16 dtd.15.12.2015

Dear Sir,

The details regarding above that matter as follows:

Sr.No.	Query	Status Compliance
1	The State Govt. may clarify and furnish details of approval if any obtained under the forest (Conservation) Act 1980 in respect of Pauni OC Project of the user agency. The same may be informed along with status of compliance of approval granted under the FC Act, as case may be.	<p>The Land has been acquired under the CBA (A&D) 1957 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pauni III) Opencast Project Mauza Sakhari Tahsil- Rajura, Dist. Chandrapur, State Maharashtra for the purpose Mining Activities to extraction of Coal.</p> <p>The land details of as follows: Tenancy Land - 1050.99 ha, Govt. Land - 89.60 ha Forest land - 12.07 ha. Total - 1152.66 ha.</p> <p>The Govt. of India has been transferred/ vesting the land to the M/s Western Coalfields Limited (Govt. Company of India) vide Gazette S.O. No. 396E by notification dated 08.02.2016. The user agency M/s Western Coalfields Ltd (Govt. Company of India) has been applied for NOC to diversion of forest land 12.07 ha on dated 14/16.02.2015 to The Dy. Conservator Forest, Central Chandrapur for getting approval from the competent authority under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Till date it is under process for getting approval from the competent authority.</p>
2	The details of ancillary activities associated with mining activities in instant proposal need to be submitted. Further details of activities proposed in future may also be submitted	<p>The Project land use details are for mining activities as well as ancillary activities for this instant proposal is as follows :</p> <p>1) Quarry Area - 295.35 ha, 2) External OB Dump - 308.90 ha, 3) Protective Embankment for Safety to prevent Encroachment etc - 35.00 ha, 4) Infrastructure - 10.00 ha, 5) Area needed for rationalization - 330.41 ha, 6) Area needed for blasting zone - 165.00 ha, 7) Colony Land (Hostel only) - 2.00 ha Total - 1152.66 ha.</p> <p>The forest land 12.07 ha must be used for extraction of Coal.</p>
3	Name of signing authority is not mentioned in Part-IV submitted along with the proposal. Revised copy of Part-IV mentioned name of signing authority and date submission shall be submitted.	

P.T.O

4	KML file of land identified to carry out Compensatory A forestation uploaded in parivesh portal is corrupted. Soft copy of the same is not submitted along with the proposal correct KML File shall be uploaded Parivesh Portal and Soft copy of the same along the shape of files need to be submitted.	The KML plan identified land is submitted through e-mail to Dy. Conservator of Forest, Chanda Circle on dated 19.10.2021
5	CA scheme is submitted only for 7 years. As per section 2.8 (a) (e) of new guidelines, CA scheme should be submitted for 10 years. Therefore revised scheme for 10 years shall be prepared and submitted along with soft copies of KML Shape file.	
6	Nap submitted along with the proposal accept CA Map have not been certified by the DCF concerned certified copies of all relevant maps shall be submitted.	
7	Certificate ensuring importance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 1980 is not submitted along with the proposal. Original FRA 2006 certificate along with documentary evidences in the form of copies of the resolutions concerned Forest Right Committee (s), Gram Sabha(s), Sub-Division level committee recording they consent for the proposal and bearing signature of the participants shall be submitted. In addition to 03 copies of record proceeding of the Forest Right Committee, Sub-Divisional Level Committees (s) may also be submitted.	A certificate of under taking regarding under forest Right Act 2006 on behalf of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd, Ballarpur Area has been submitted to the Dy. Conservator Forest, Central Chandrapur (MS) on dated 27.11.2018 stating that we undertake to submit "No Objection Certificate" under schedule Tribe & other tradition forest Dwellers (Forest Right) 2006 and amended rules 2012 as per letter & order dtd. 05.07.2013 along with compliance of condition stage 1 in principle approval of proposal of future. Mean on to get NOC under FRA 2006 Act by co-ordinating with Gram Panchayat, District Administration as early possible for diversion of 12.07 ha forest land for Pauni-II Expansion OC Mine (Sakhari-Irawati) (Pauni-III) OC Mine) in Ballarpur Area. The IGF (FC) on the issue mentioned that Ministry has categorically specified in the said Rule of 2016 to submit compliance of FRA, 2006 along with Stage-1 compliance. However, MoC, in light of aforementioned provisions, if so desired, may take up the matter with the Chief Secretary of the State Government to facilitate submission of Stage-1 proposals without FRA, 2006 compliance.
8	Details of employment potential in the term of man days of skilled, Semi Skilled and Skilled persons permanent, Direct and Indirect and Temporary (Direct indirect) basis have not been provided the same needs to be provided by State Government	The total employment had been provided in this project as follows: A) Permanent employment Direct 1) Skilled persons - 150 Nos. 2) Semi Skilled persons - 218 Nos. 3) Un-Skilled persons - 343 Nos. B) Temporary employment (indirect) 1) Skilled persons - 350 Nos. 2) Semi Skilled persons - 423 Nos. 3) Un-Skilled persons - 346 Nos.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
19/10/21
Area General Manager
Ballarpur Area

Copy to:-
The Chief Conservator of Forest, Chanda Circle
Office copy