

Proposal no FP/KA/Mine/39394/2019

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ

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



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/30/2019-FC

Encl: 2 sets

To,

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

Sir,

E-78813

Date 12-01-2022

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**Sub:** Diversion of 12.4724 hectare of forest land in Ramanamalai (RM) Block Forest (6.6978 ha) and Swamimalai (SM) Block Forest (5.7746 ha), Near Dhamapura village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramanadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM ML No.2141) in favour of M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, Ballari

**Ref:**

1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru letter No. 4-KRC040/2004-BAN dated 12-08-2021 [sought additional information / documents]
2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 07 FFM 2020 (e) dated 13-09-2021 [communicated the Government of India letter]
3. This office letter of even number dated 17-08-2021 to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division and User Agency [seeking additional information / documents]
4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division letter No. M1/MNG/SKME/Conveyor belt/2019-20 dated 07-12-2021
5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle letter No. M1:MNG:CR-19/2010-11(SKME) dated 31-12-2021

The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Bengaluru vide ref (1) has requested to furnish certain information / documents for further consideration of the above mentioned proposal. The same was communicated by Government of Karnataka to this office vide ref (2) and further communicated to the field officers seeking the required information / documents vide ref (3).

In response, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle vide ref (4) and (5) respectively have submitted the information / documents for the points raised by Government of India. Based on the said reports, the reply to the Government of India is submitted as follows.

Sl. No.	Information Sought by Government of India	Information
i	<p>The KML files of the area on DSS it is observed that already two approach roads are there to the existing mines. The FAC has observed that the State Government has not submitted the report on the alternatives explored. State Government shall explore possibility of using the existing road for maintenance of the Conveyor belt instead of proposing new road.</p>	<p>It is understood from the records that the proposed service roads are required for construction and maintenance of down hill pipe conveyor (DHPC). Using the existing roads as service roads for the downhill closed pipe conveyor will not be convenient as the roads are away from proposed conveyor alignment. In such case User Agency has to propose for new access roads between the existing roads and downhill pipe conveyor alignment at multiple points, which again may involve diversion of additional forest land.</p> <p>As with regard to exploring alternate alignment for the proposed DHPC, the User Agency has stated that they had identified three options or alternatives for constructing downhill conveyor project as shown in the map enclosed as <b>Annexure-I</b>. Of the three possible routes explored, the UA has finalized <b>Option-1</b> for following reasons;</p> <p>a) It is the best fit with least diversion of forest land required amongst the three options.</p> <p>b) The orientation also best complies with the contours of the area.</p> <p>Further, for the reasons mentioned here under, the other options were not preferred;</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> This option cuts through a mining lease namely VNK Menon (ML No. 2543), as it's not possible to build a project through another working lease.</p> <p><b>Option 3:</b> This option takes longer route (1.986 kms) and is longer than option-1 and requires diversion of forest land more than that for the proposed alignment (option-1)</p>
ii	<p>The FAC has observed that the existing Railway line is distant from the proposed terminal point of the conveyor belt, and a part of the forest area is proposed to be diverted for railway siding at the proposed terminal point. State Government may submit the justification of proposing the terminal point, well ahead of the existing railway line along with review if forest area</p>	<p>Initially the User Agency has applied for diversion of 12.4724 ha of forest land in RM Block and SM Block, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for downhill pipe conveyor system, service roads, hopper, water pipe line, transmission lines and railway sidings from Ramadurga Iron ore mine (ML No. 2141) in favour of M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Pvt Ltd, Ballari. The same has been submitted to higher authorities.</p> <p>Later on, it was decided during a meeting chaired by Managing Director, Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) and field visit involving relevant stakeholders that railway siding</p>

proposed for the railway siding could be avoided / minimized.

proposed to be used by multiple User Agencies is being planned / constructed at Dharmapur with 6 Nos of platforms and one platform could be allotted exclusively to the UA so as to avoid a separate stock yard (in the meeting held on 29.06.2020). In line with the agreed proposal the User Agency (M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Pvt Ltd) has changed the alignment of the proposed DHPC and reduced the requirement of forest land/area to **6.697 ha** from 12.4724 ha. Thus, the User Agency has considerably reduced the requirement of forest area of the proposal and avoided forest area in Swamimalai Block of Sandur Taluk as advised their in.

Geo reference map, google map, topo sheet map of the revised area for diversion are enclosed as **Annexure -II**

iii Serious note was taken by FAC that the State Government has not yet notified the CA land provided in-lieu of diversion of the forest land approved earlier for mining (60.56 ha) as RF / PF despite considerable number of years have passed by. It was noted that as per extant guidelines, the CA land has to be notified as RF / PF before Stage-II is granted. The Copy of the Notification shall be submitted.

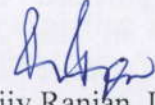
The User Agency (M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Pvt Ltd) has identified 60.80 hectares of CA Land (30.00 Ha Sy. No. 557A of Holalu Village, Hadagali Taluk, Ballari District and 30.80 Ha at Sy. No. 22 of D. Mallapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District) against their mining lease (ML No. 2141). Status of Notification of these parcels of lands is as below;

Sl. No.	CA land Location	Extent in Ha	Status of Notification
1	Sy. No.557A of Holalu Village, Hadagali Taluk, Ballari District	30.00	The said area has been mutated in favour of Forest Department and has been declared under Section-04 of KFA, 1963 (Notification No. FEE 193 FAF 2013 Dt. 20.04.2017) [copy enclosed as <b>Annexure-III (A)</b> ]. Proposal for Notification of the said land (u/s 17 of KFA, 1963) is under consideration.
2	Sy. No. 22 of D.Mallapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District	30.80	The said area has been mutated in favour of Forest Department. Proposal for declaration of the area under Section-04 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 is submitted to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Working Plan, Ballari vide letter No. A7/LAND/BD/Sec-4/CR /2020-21

			Dt.02.11.2021 [Copy enclosed as <b>Annexure-III (B)</b> ]. The process for Notification of the said parcels of lands shall be followed up meticulously.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>60.80</b>
iv	The area being hilly with steep slopes, a detaild Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan for the area shall be required.	The User Agency has agreed to prepare a suitable plan and implement necessary soil and moisture conservation works at their cost and has submitted an undertaking to this effect. [Copy enclosed as <b>Annexure-IV</b> ].	

The facts are submitted for kind information and further needful.

Yours faithfully

 o/c

(Rajiv Ranjan, IFS)

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

**Copy to the:**

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle for information and necessary action.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division for information and needful action.
3. M/s Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, No.462, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward, SMIORE Colony, Near Fire Station, Sandur, Ballari District – 583 119 for information and needful action.

  
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ದಿನಾಂಕ 13/11/2022