



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

E-mail:- nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. /9F (MG) – 11/2022
Dated, Bhubaneswar the January' 2025

To
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

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

Ref: Letter No. 8-02/2023-FC dated 11.12.2024 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi

Sir,

In inviting reference to the above mentioned subject, the point wise compliance to the Govt. of India observations dated 11.12.2024 based on the report of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

- (i) *As per condition no. 6 of the 'in-principle' approval a holistic transportation plan is required to be prepared by the State Government aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The said plan has not been submitted. Further, the State shall also ensure that the said plan and the transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR- NEERI; Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyer belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through roads should be minimized in a time-bound manner.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the preparation of a holistic transportation plan by the State Government aiming to have a minimum impact on the landscape, following the guidelines by NEERI, utilizing common conveyer belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc., and minimizing the transportation of ore through roads in a time-bound manner is under active consideration and it will take some time for its completion. For the same, new railway lines, parking plazas, slurry pipelines, and conveyer belts are being planned and are at different stages of implementation.

The Reserve estimated in the approved mining plan of Laserda–Pacheri Manganese & Iron block is only 7.37 MT (Million Tone) for Iron Ore & 8.37 MT for Manganese Ore and the proposed production capacities are 1.54 MTPA for Iron & 1.11MTPA for Manganese Ore. As it is a small reserve deposited block, the life of said block is also less.

The ore transportation from “Laserda–Pacheri Manganese & Iron block” will be followed as per the Recommendations of CSIR-NEERI and the suggested Ore transportation mode will be “SOTM 3 (for production between 1 and < 3 MTPA): minimum 70% by public Railway siding and maximum 30% by road-direct to destination or by other public Railway siding or above options”. Out of the total yearly proposed production 2.65 MT (1.54 MT for Iron + 1.11 Mt for Mn) of both Iron & Mn, 1.86 MT (70% of 2.65 MT) will be transported through the nearest Railway siding Bolani (5 km from Mines) & Barbil (12 Km from mines) and the balance 0.79 MT per year will be transported through 70 to 75 nos of trucks per day using the 2 lane PWD road (black topped) which is further connected to NH-520 at Bhadrāsahi (17 km from Mines). As there is no other mine depending upon the above PWD road, it is always free from traffic and all necessary precautionary measures for safety & environment will be taken while using the said transportation road. The Google earth map showing location of Railway Siding and Roads to be used for Ore transport from Laserda Pacheri Manganese and Iron Ore Mines, is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

Further, the user agency will follow the transportation through the common conveyor belt, slurry pipe, railway, etc. developed by state governments to minimize the road transportation. The User agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition of CSIR-NEERI guideline & follow the various transportation plan prepared by state government to minimize the transportation through road and to follow various recommendations over and above the cost of development of common infrastructures and rail/road network development of the region being done by the State Government which is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

- (ii) *With regard to conditions no.8 of Stage-I approval the Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site/ species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions. However, the State has neither submitted the copy of the plan, nor it has been clarified whether the site / species specific wildlife sub plans/prescriptions have been included in the plan or not. The state shall do the needful and submit the plan accordingly along with the detail of funds deposited.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha has approved the Integrated Regional Wildlife Management Plan for the year 2024-25 to 2033-34 for the Odisha State covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, and Keonjhar Districts vide his Office Order No.11409/8WL-CAMPA-0002/2022 dated 23.09.2024 for better Protection, Management & Conservation of wildlife which is applicable for all the mines operating within above 3 districts. The activities as mentioned in the APO of the above Plan shall be taken up on receipt of required funds from the competent authority. Further, an undertaking submitted by M/s Thriveni Earthmovers Private Limited to follow the approved prescriptions made therein for its implementation is given at **Sl. No.2 of Annexure-I**. The approved copy of the Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-III** for kind reference.

- (iii) *With regard to conditions No.9 of Stage-I approval, State Government has not submitted the copy of approved Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape. The same needs to be submitted along with the detail of funds deposited.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) has requested IIFM, Bhopal to prepare a Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the entire landscape of five mines viz. 1. NetrabandhPahar Iron Ore Block (area 112.621 ha), 2. NetrabandhaPahar (West) area 66.242 ha), 3. Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha), 4. Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines (area 42.608 ha) and 5. Guali Iron Ore Mines (area 194.683 ha) vide letter No.1717 dated 30.01.2024 and to submit an estimate towards cost of preparation. In response, IIFM, Bhopal vide their letter No. IIFM/DIR/Aca-01/2024/74 dt 10.04.2024 intimated that they had submitted a proposal for preparation of "**Bio-diversity Conservation Plan**" for the entire Landscape of above 05 mines wherein they had requested to deposit the consultancy fees Rs.57,18,924/- for taking up the study. On receiving the proposal, the Nodal Officer has intimated all the five lessees including M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Private Limited to deposit the proportionate amount of 50% of the total consultancy fees.

Accordingly, the DFO, Keonjhar raised a demand on M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Private Limited vide his office letter No.3792/6F-Mining dtd 08.05.2024 to deposit the proportionate amount of 50% of the total consultancy fee of Rs.5,28,507/- with the IIFM, Bhopal. Accordingly, M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Private Limited has deposited Rs. 5,28,507/- in favor of IIFM, Bhopal in the form of a DD bearing No.503273 dated 30.08.2024 in favor of the Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management payable at Bhopal. The copy of the correspondences, including the proof of payment mentioned above, is enclosed as **Annexure-IV** series for your kind reference.

Considering the above, M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Private Limited has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to contribute a proportionate amount towards the payment of the balance 50% of consultancy fee of IIFM, Bhopal and they will also implement the aforementioned Biodiversity Conservation Plan and adhere to the approved recommendation of IIFM, Bhopal as per the final report which is enclosed at **Sl. No.3 of Annexure-I**.

That, upon receiving the funds, a team of scientists from IIFM, Bhopal [Dr. Yogesh Dubey, Professor, and Dr. Advait Edgaonkar, Associate Professor (Ecosystem and Environment Management)], visited the site from 6th to 8th November 2024 and held discussions with five lessees and the Divisional Forest Officers of Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Divisions. The User Agency has reported that the preparation of the Biodiversity Conservation Plan is in progress and it will take some more time for completion of the plan. The UA has also submitted an undertaking to implement the recommendation of IIFM, Bhopal as per the final report and to bear the cost of preparation and implementation of the plan which is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

- (iv) *With regard to conditions no. 10 of Stage-I approval, User agency has not deposited funds in account of State CAMPA towards implementation of the Scheme for Soil and moisture conservation measures around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the User Agency has deposited a total amount of Rs. 1,99,75,367/- in the account of State CAMPA vide UTR No. ICICR22024122006853316 dated 20.12.2024 out of which Rs. 93,62,767/- is towards the implementation of the scheme for soil and moisture conservation measures around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas. The copy of the proof of payment is enclosed as **Annexure-V**.

(v) *The State Govt. has not provided the GPS ID and proof so that it can be verified that the KML file has been uploaded on the E-green watch portal. The same is required.*

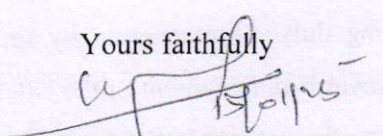
Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the KML file has been uploaded on the E-Green Watch portal. The screenshot as regards uploading of KML is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

Further, as reported by the DFO, Kenojhar Division, in compliance to condition No.2(b) of Stage-I approval order dated 21.12.2023, the Non-forest Govt. land identified for raising CA over an area of 5.00 ha in village, Uparbirikela under Banspal Tahasil has been notified as "Uparbirikala-A Protected Forest" vide Notification No.22915/FE&CC dated 26.11.2024 of Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department (copy enclosed vide **Annexure-VII**).

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations dated 11.12.2024 of the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: Compliance in one set

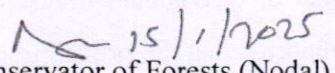
Yours faithfully


Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

/ Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-02/2023-FC dated 11.12.2024 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No.

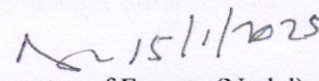
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/ Dt.

15.01.2025

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-02/2023-FC dated 11.12.2024 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set


Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 6580 dated 30.12.2024.

Na 15/1/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 6581 dated 30.12.2024 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

Na 15/1/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Authorised Signatory, Laserda Pacheri Manganese and Iron Ore Block of M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Pvt. Ltd., At/Po-Barbil, Dist-Keonjhar, Odisha, Pin-758086 for information and necessary action with reference to letter No. 8-02/2023-FC dated 11.12.2024 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

Na 15/1/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

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