



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.pccfhoff@odisha.gov.in / nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. **14465** /9F (MG) – 4/2023
Dated, Bhubaneswar the **18th** July' 2023

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

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 the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd for non-forestry use of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) for Iron Ore Mining and ancillary activities within Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block under Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division & District Sundargarh and Keonjhar – Compliance to GoI observations regarding.**

Ref:- Letter No.8-08/2023-FC dated 29.03.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Gol, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to Gol, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi letter cited above on the captioned subject, the compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Bonai, DFO, Keonjhar and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are furnished below:-

Observation (i):- The non-site specific activities like Dumping, infrastructure, mineral stack yard and ore processing etc. have been proposed on forest land, which needs justification. The State may explore the possibility to adjust such components on non-forest land.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block over 158.509 ha comprises of 156.978 ha of forest land and 1.531 ha of non-forest land. This non-forest area is available as Govt. non-forest land in the lease hold area in 2 plots i.e. Plots No.27 measuring 0.497 ha and Plot No.72 measuring 1.034 ha. The Non- Forest land measuring 1.531 ha is located at extreme North and South end of the block area and has been proposed for infrastructure like temporary office, rest shelter, workshop, weighbridge etc. covering 1.187 Ha, mine road covering 0.076 Ha and safety zone of M.L boundary covering 0.268 ha. However, the non site-specific activities like over burden dumping (7.301 Ha), Infrastructure (1.813 ha of forest land in Bonai Division and 1.187 ha non-forest land in Keonjhar Division = 3.0 ha), mineral stack yards (9.290 ha) and ore processing site (3.820 ha) covering total area of 23.411 ha. will be required for proposed mining operation.

The above non-forest area over 1.531 ha is insufficient to accommodate all the non-site specific activities as mentioned above. So, the project proponent has proposed to use the forest land for the above non site specific activities for smooth mining operation. As Dumping is an essential component of proposed mining operation, it is proposed that 7.301 Ha of non-mineralized forest land to be used within proposed block. As this proposed dumping site will be able to accommodate the waste for 9 years only, after the commencement of mining operation, after exhaustion of iron ore in some part of the mining pit these waste material will be used for reclamation through backfilling of exhausted part of quarry at that time, with simultaneous rehabilitation with native plant species & grass. Other temporary activities like storing of mineral, mine road, infrastructures have been proposed in the forest land within block, which will be utilized for mining in subsequent years.

Observation (ii) :- The area falls in Habitat Zone-2 as per the Remote sensing application for characterization of elephant habitat and corridor in Odisha and part of Bihar. The recommendations in the study for the area or the zone shall be submitted. Further, the HEC data of last 5 years in the both the divisions shall be provided. The details of other mines and mine voids or abandoned mines in the divisions especially in the vicinity of the proposed mine shall also be provided.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha has submitted the compliance on the said observation to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Deptt. Govt. of Odisha vide his Letter No.5739 dt.10.5.2023 alongwith a copy to the DFO, Bonai Forest division. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha has enclosed the recommendations of the study done by the Odisha Remote Sensing Application Centre (ORSAC), Bhubaneswar and reported during September,1999 which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A series**. Further, the DFO, Bonai has submitted the HEC (Human Elephant Conflict) data for last 5 years in both Bonai & Keonjhar Division received from PCCF(WL) which is enclosed as **Annexure-B**. As regards the details of other mines and mine voids or abandoned mines in the divisions, especially in the vicinity of the proposed mine, the corresponding report of both the Divisions (Bonai & Keonjhar) received from the PCCF(WL) is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-C1 & C2**.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the applied area does not form part of any National Park, Wild life sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc. However Karo-Karampada elephant corridor is 20.95 Km away from the project area.

Further, a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation plan has been prepared in respect of the project pertaining to Keonjhar & Bonai Forest Division and approved by PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No.4751 dated 15.04.2023. The Conservation Plan has addressed all the threats with the remedial measures to minimize the adversities in the Zone of impact. The total cost of the conservation plan is approved for Rs.875.40 Lakhs (for Keonjhar Forest Division i.e. Rs.159.60 Lakhs and Rs.715.80 Lakhs for Bonai Division). The entire amount will be deposited by the User Agency in CAMPA. The SSWLCP is enclosed as **Annexure-D**.

Further, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that, there is no working/Non-Working/Void/abandoned mine in 10 K.M in buffer zone area of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Mines in Keonjhar Forest Division.

Observation (iii):- Elephant Movement is reported in the area proposed for diversion. Therefore, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Odisha needs to be provided by the State Government.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar has submitted the compliance with the said observation to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Deptt. Govt. of Odisha vide his Letter No.5739 dt.10.5.2023 alongwith copy to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division (copy enclosed as **Annexure-E**). It has been reported by the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Odisha that as elephant movement is observed, the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared with provision for mitigation measures for protection of elephants and the said plan has since been approved vide his office Letter No.4751 dt.15.4.2023 with financial outlay of ₹875.40 Lakhs. The SSWLCP is otherwise also in compliance to the ToR under Environment Clearance dated 18.2.2022 of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (IA Division) as well as recommendation of the State Govt. for this present diversion proposal.

The site specific interventions under the said Plan include measures for protection of forest and wildlife, prevention of forest fire, Habitat Management, Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict. Public Awareness, Community Participation, Eco-Development activities, Immunization of domestic live-stock and surveillance of health of wildlife in Zone of Impact i.e. around 10 Kms radial distance of the project site will be carried out by the DFOs as per the approved Plan. Besides, the project proponent has also been mandated under the said Plan to carry out fire prevention measures, public awareness and mitigation of Human-Elephant interface in the project area. The mitigative measures as per SSWLCP addressed the impact of the project on wildlife, including elephants in and around the project area. However, copy of the approved SSWLCP as above received from the PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Odisha is enclosed as **Annexure-D**.

Observation (iv):-As per DSS the area falls in high conservation zone in the both the decision rules, and in such condition, the comments of the State and justification may be provided.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the DFO, Bonai Division has intimated that the Government of Odisha, pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time, issued notice inviting tender dated 07.07.2021 to commence the auction process for grant of mining lease for Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block over an area of 158.509 ha for Iron Ore located in Koira Mining Circle, District Sundargarh and Keonjhar Mining Circle, District Keonjhar, Odisha. The e-auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the said mineral block on 24.09.2021 and Rungta Mines Ltd. was declared as the 'Preferred Bidder' under Rule 9 (9)(iii) or Rule 10 (1A) of Auction

Rules, having quoted highest Final Price Offer vide letter No. MXIII(b) 46/2021/7738/DM Dated 05.10.2021 issued by Director of Mines Government of Odisha.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the Tender Document, the Government of Odisha issued Letter of Intent (LOI) bearing No. IV(B)SM-49/2021/2021/8716/SM, Bhubaneswar dated 28.10.2021 for grant of Mining Lease for Jureka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block for Iron Ore located in 20 km south of Koira town in Kedeshala village of Koira Tahsil, Sundargarh district over 158.509 ha area to Rungta Mines Ltd. for a period of 50 (Fifty) years. Out of 158.509 Ha. of DGPS surveyed lease area, 147.803 Ha. area is in Sundargarh District and 10.706 ha. is in Keonjhar District. The total forest land included in the Block is 156.978 ha. out of which 147.803 ha. is of PRF in Sundargarh District and 9.175 ha. is of Revenue Forest in Keonjhar District. Remaining 1.531 Ha. is of Non- Forest land in Keonjhar District.

Accordingly, the User Agency has applied forest diversion proposal over 156.978 ha. of forest land vide Proposal No.PF/OR/MIN/150048/2021 (State Sl. No.OR-098/2021 dated 22.12.2021). The said diversion proposal has been processed and submitted to the higher authority for approval.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar and Bonai Division in order to mitigate the adverse impact of mining in this area, the measures mentioned in the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan was approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) as well as the Regional Wildlife Management Plan for Keonjhar & Sundargarh district will be scrupulously implemented.

Observation (v):- Observation based on high resolution satellite imagery indicates the felling of trees in the proposed forest area April,2020 onwards. The same requires verification and clarification.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Range Officer, Barsuan was directed by DFO, Bonai Forest division to verify the field and submit the compliance of said observation. In pursuance of the same, the Range Officer, Barsuan has intimated vide his Memo No.372 dt.12.5.2023 that no tree felling has been noticed inside the forest area proposed for diversion and the copy is enclosed as **Annexure-F**.

The RCCF reported that the DFO, Keonjhar Division confirmed, there is no illicit felling of trees in the forest area proposed for diversion from April, 2020 onwards.

Observation (vi):- The KML file of the proposed area indicating the land use plan / component wise breakup/mineralized and non-mineralized zonation shall be submitted.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted the KML file of the proposed area indicating the land use plan /component wise breakup/ mineralized and non-mineralized zonation in a CD form. The CD is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-2**.

Observation (vii):-The LoI has been issued for 50 years whereas the mining plan has been approved for 5 years only. The mining plan submitted is just a conceptual mining plan wherein the Progressive mine closure plan mentions activities for five years only and most of the columns are either nil or N.A. The justification for not preparing a mining plan for the entire life of the mine shall be submitted. The mine closure plan indicating the land surrender schedule along with the progressive mine closure is also required to be submitted.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as the Lol has been issued for 50 years, the proposal for diversion of forest land has been submitted for 50 years, which is in accordance with the notification of Govt. of India vide No.11-51/2015-FC dated 01.04.2015 which states that “period of validity of approvals accorded under Section-2 of the FC Act shall be extended and shall be deemed to have been extended upto a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease i.e. 50 years”.

According to section 5 (2) (b) of MMDR Act, 1957, “No mining lease shall be granted by the State Government unless it is satisfied that there is a mining plan duly approved by the Central Government, or by the State Government, in respect of such category of mines as may be specified by the Central Government, for the development of mineral deposits in the area concerned.”

Also, the Rule 13 of MCR, 2016 states that, “No mining operation shall be undertaken except in accordance with a mining plan and the mining plan shall incorporate, a tentative scheme of mining and annual programme and plan for excavation from year to year for five years”.

Further, as per rule 17 (1), of MCR, 2016, “The mine plan once approved shall be subject to review and updation at an interval of every five years, starting from date of execution of the duly executed lease deed”.

Moreover, mining is a dynamic process and changes may happen keeping in view changes in the business environment, for facilitating increase in production capacity or in the interest of safe & scientific mining, conservation of minerals, for the protection of environment, technological transformation or any other reasons.

The copy of relevant part of the Mineral Concession Rule, 2016 submitted by the User Agency is enclosed as **Annexure-G**.

“As per Rule 23 of MCDR, 2017, the holder of a mining lease shall submit to the competent authority (Indian Bureau of Mines) a progressive mine closure plan as a component of the mining plan, at the time of submission, modification and review of the mining plan”.

In progressive mine closer plan, the activities related to reclamation by backfilling of mine waste and simultaneous rehabilitation by native plant species is shown as nil for the 1st five (5) years. There will be no production during 2 years i.e. from 27.10.2024 of financial year 2024-25 upto 26.10.2026 of financial year 2026-27. Thus the production may start from 27.10.2026 of financial year 2026-27 from 3rd year onward (Chapter-4 of Page No.1/11). As Iron ore will not be exhausted in the mine pit during 5 years plan period, no backfilling and rehabilitation activities have been proposed in the PMCP for the 5 years plan period.

So, to meet the requirement of above said statutes, the mining plan (under Rule 16 of MCR, 2016) with progressive mine closure plan (under Rule 23 of MCDR, 2017) of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron ore block was approved for 5 years only by Indian Bureau of mines on 24.11.2021. Since, the mining plan of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar iron ore block has been prepared and approved by I.B.M. only for 5 years, the mining plan can't be prepared for entire life of the mine at once.

In course of proposed mining during next 50 years, the iron ore from quarries will be exhausted gradually. The exhausted quarry part will be reclaimed through backfilling of overburden / waste, which will be generated during that period and will be rehabilitated with native plant species as envisaged in the proposed Progressive mine closure plan for that period.

Further, as per Rule 24(1) of MCDR, 2017, "The holder of a mining lease shall submit a final mine closure plan to the competent authority for approval, two years prior to the proposed closure of the mine".

Also, as per Rule 26 and 27 of MCDR 2017, the lease holder has the obligation and financial assurance and it is ensured that the protective measures including reclamation and rehabilitation works have been carried out in accordance with the approved mine closure plan (PMCP and FMCP). Since the mining lease of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar iron ore block will be granted for 50 years, the lessee will not be able to surrender the rehabilitated areas during the subsistence of lease period. As per Rule 21(1) of MCR-2016. "The lessee may make an application for surrender of a part of the area under mining lease only in case the lessee has been unable to obtain forest clearance for such area and in such cases the minimum area of the mining lease shall stand accordingly".

However, in the instant proposal, the User Agency applied for obtaining forest clearance for the total forest area included within the auctioned block as mentioned in the LoI issued by the State Govt.

Thus, at the end of the lease period of 50 years, the total area of the lease will be handed over to the State Govt. after compliance of all necessary activities as per the approved Final Mine Closure Plan as per Rule 24 (1) of MCDR- 2017. The copy is enclosed as **Annexure-H**.

Observation (viii):-The copy of the mining plan is not clear, therefore a Legible copy of approved mining plan along with the mine transportation plan, mine progress plan and mine closure plan shall be provided.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that regarding the transportation plan, the proposal as given in approved mining plan is as follows:-

Both Ore & O/B waste will be transported within the lease by dumpers of capacity upto 40 MT. Ore will be dispatched to nearby railway siding by 10 MT to 35 MT dumpers. Sometimes Ore will be transported buyers destination by truck also (Chapter-4 Page No.2/11).

During proposed period of mining operation, the mining method will be fully mechanised opencast with development of benches of height maximum upto 10m and width minimum 12m. The conventional opencast mining method with utilisation of excavator of capacity upto 4.5 m³, dumper of capacity upto 50MT and the mining operation will be done in one query. During mining operation, the width of the mine haul road will be maintained upto 15m to 20m. (Ref: Chapter-4, page No-2/11 & 4/11 of approved mining plan). Mine progress plan or approved mine development plan is enclosed as Plate No.5, 5A & 5B. Proposed year wise mining operation in the mine will be done according to the approved plan.

As the mining plan has been approved for 5 years, the excavation & other activities have been described for 5 years only.

As per Rule 22 of MCDR, 2017, "every mine shall have mine closer plans which shall be of two types:-

1. A Progressive Mine Closer Plan (PMCP), and
2. A Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP).

The Rule 23 of MCDR, 2017 states that "the holder of a mining lease shall submit to the competent Authority, a progressive mine closure plan as a component of the mining plan, at the time of submission, modification and review of the mining plan.

So, in compliance to the above, the lessee has submitted a PMCP along with the mining plan which has been approved by IBM, Bhubaneswar on dated 24.11.2021. The relevant part of PMCP is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

As regards the Final Mine Closure Plan, it is not required at this stage since Rule 24 of MCDR, 2017 states that "the holder of a mining lease shall submit a Final Mine Closure Plan to the competent authority for approval two years prior to the proposed closure of the mine".

Also, a legible copy of approved mining plan along with the transportation plan and mine progress plan is enclosed as **Annexure-J**.

Observation (ix):-KML file of 183.722 ha identified for planting the balance seedlings and the details of the area identified for CA in lieu of safety zone may be uploaded online.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Bonai Division has submitted the KML file of 183.722 ha identified for planting the balance seedlings which is **enclosed as CD form**.

Further, total 5.478 ha of forest land has been earmarked as Safety Zone for the both Bonai & Keonjhar Forest Divisions (4.22 ha Bonai Division and 1.254 ha Keonjhar Division). An area of 8.217 ha (5.478 X 1.5 times) is required for afforestation over 1.5 times of the Safety Zone area. Accordingly, an area of 8.500 ha. of degraded forest land for raising of afforestation in lieu of 1.5 times area of Safety Zone has been identified in Nagaria Proposed Reserve Forest in Kuliposh Range of Bonai Division. The details of soft copy of shape file, kml file, DSS report are enclosed herewith in CD form. Besides, the Toposheet Map, GPS Map and DSS Map of the degraded forest land for 1.5 times Safety Zone area has been uploaded in the online. The safety zone area shown in Topo sheet No.F45N1 and GPS map alongwith DSS report of safety zone are enclosed as **Annexure-K & L**.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, out of 158.509 ha area of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines limited, 156.978 ha is of forest land which includes 5.478 ha of safety zone. 156.978 ha CA land has been allotted in Village Deri, Banspal Tahasil, Keonjhar district in lieu of diversion which will accommodate 33,000 nos. of seedlings.

As the said allotted Non-Forest Govt. land was not adequately suitable for planting the required quantity of trees, a degraded patch of forest land over 183.722 ha has been identified in Jadipada RF, Patna Range of Keonjhar Division to accommodate balance seedlings of 130465 nos. .

A composite KML containing 156.978 Ha CA land allotted in village Deri, Banspal Tahasil and 183.722 Ha degraded forest land identified in Jadipada RF, Patna Range of Keonjhar Division have been enclosed in CD format as well as uploaded online.

Observation (x):-Forwarding letter of the State Government shall be uploaded online.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the forwarding letter of the State Government has been uploaded online.

Observation (xi):-The forest area proposed for diversion is in Eco-class-I with a density of 0.6. The State Government therefore revisit and clarify the details of the sampling done regarding assessing the total number of trees.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Bonai has intimated that the total Block of area of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. is 158.509 ha, out of which 156.978 ha is of forest land and rest 1.531 ha is of non-forest land. An area of 147.803 ha of forest land comes under Bonai Forest Division.

Tree enumeration has been conducted in 30 nos. of sample plots of 1.0 ha. each within 147.803 ha. of forest land (including 4.224 ha. of Safety Zone area) in Bonai Forest Division. Trees which are above 30 cm girth have got enumerated in these sample plots and the total count from these sample plots comes to 6619 nos.

By extrapolation of the above said data total no. of trees (above 30 cm girth), over forest land proposed to be diverted (147.803 ha. X 220.63 nos. per ha.) has been calculated to 32610 nos. (which includes 932 nos. of trees within Safety Zone area). Accordingly, the average density of the vegetation has reported to be 0.6 by the DFO, Bonai Division.

As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the total land of this project coming under Keonjhar Forest Division is 9.175 ha. Detailed tree enumeration in the aforesaid forest land has been conducted and 3652 nos. of sound trees, 80 nos. of non-sound trees and 1717 nos. of pole below 30cm girth are found standing in the forest land.

Observation (xii):-The details as to how the requirement of water, electricity and road will be met in the instant case shall be submitted as both rail and road heads seem far from the proposed area.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that in order to meet the water requirements for drinking purpose (97 KLD), and surface water (0.15 cusec) for different purposes - water sprinkling on haulage road for dust suppression, horticultural and other plantations, Dry screening & crushing plant for dust suppression & Miscellaneous, the project proponent has obtained permission for allocation of surface water from DOWR, Govt. of Odisha, vide Letter No.736/WR, dated 09.01.2023 and permission to extract groundwater from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), vide Letter No.CGWA/NOC/INF/ORIG/2023/18140 dated 11.04.2023. Relevant documents are enclosed as **Annexure-M & N** respectively.

The Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block is located in a remote area and the nearest site having 11 KV power line is at Jaldih village, which is about 4.434 Km away. So, it has been proposed by the Project proponent to carry power line from this junction to the project site by construction of a new 11KV transmission line. TPWODL, the Competent Authority has given the permission for 11 KV transmission line (Enclosed as **Annexure-O**). Since the land involves forest land, the forest diversion proposal was submitted online on 08.06.2022 (Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/156567/2022) for grant of Forest Clearance over 3.104 ha. The FDP is under process.

For mineral transportation from Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron ore block, the user agency has proposed a dedicated road from the mine to the existing Belkudar road (Total distance = 12.291 Km.) which will connect to NH-520. As it involves forest land, a forest diversion proposal has been submitted online (proposal No.FP/OR/ROAD/154639/2022) on dated 20.04.2022 for diversion of 13.077 ha of forest land which is under process. A plan showing the proposed transportation road from Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block to different nearby destinations / Railway stations is enclosed as **Annexure-P**.

Observation (xiii):-The state shall re-examine whether the area proposed for overburden dump is sufficient or not?

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as per the approved mining plan of Jumka-Pathiriposhi Pahar iron ore block, the proposed area for overburden dump within this block is 7.301 ha. which has a capacity to accommodate total 2886435 MT of waste material considering a height of 60m (5 nos. of terraces of 12m. height each). During proposed 3 years of mining operation from 2026-27 to 2028-29, total 962145 MT of overburden material will be generated and shifted to the dump yard. The remaining capacity of the overburden dump site will be 1924290 MT. So, the proposed dump site can be used for another 6 years i.e. upto 2034-35 considering maximum production of 3.35MTPA. It is anticipated that by end of 2035, an area of 23.867 Ha will be fully mined out and iron ore will be exhausted in that part of the working pit. During 2035-2040, this part will be reclaimed through backfilling and rehabilitated through native plant species and grass. The process of backfilling & plantation will be continued simultaneously with mining upto 2074-2075.

The detailed phase wise reclamation plan has been enclosed in the Diversion proposal as **Annexure-Q**.

Observation (xiv):-A copy of the Regional Wildlife Plan and the basis of calculation of the money proposed to be demanded from the user agency in this regard shall be submitted.

Compliance:- In compliance to the observation, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar has submitted the compliance of the said observation to the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Deptt. Govt. of Odisha vide his Letter No.5739 dt.10.5.2023 (copy enclosed as **Annexure-R**) with copy of the approved Comprehensive Regional Wildlife Management Plan for Keonjhar and Bonai Division which is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-S**.

The plan was approved by the Govt. of Odisha vide Letter No.22295/F&E dt.30.12.2005 (Annexure-T) with provision for deposition of ₹15,000/- per ha. and ₹11,000/- per ha. of mining lease area, as the case may be, for implementation of mitigative measures. Subsequently, due to enhancement of minimum wage rate and escalation of material cost, the cost norm has been revised to ₹82,000/- per ha. to be realized over the entire mining lease area vide Letter No.26159/F&E dt.05.12.2018 (Annexure-U). The said norm is still continuing. During the intervening period, the Wildlife Trust of India was entrusted by the State Govt. with preparation of Odisha State Comprehensive Wildlife Management Guidance (OSCOW-MAG), and now based on the said Guidance submitted by WTI on 25.01.2021, various management interventions are being carried out every year, on priority, in those areas from where the approved cost towards RWLMP @ ₹ 82,000/ ha. has been realized. Copy of Letter No.5739 dt.10.5.2023 of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha is enclosed as Annexure-V.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations dated 29.03.2023 of the GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14466 /Dt. 18.07.2023

Copy along with one set of compliance forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), GoI, MoEF & CC, Integrated Regional Office, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-08/2023-FC dated 29.03.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14467 /Dt. 18.07.2023


Copy along with one set of compliance forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to with reference to Letter No.8 - 08/2023-FC dated 29.03.2023 of the Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi and Memo No. 7531/FE&CC dated 13.04.2023 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department.

Encl: Compliance in one set


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14468 /Dt. 18.07.2023

Copy forwarded to the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Prkruti Bhawan, Plot No. 1459, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007 for favour of kind information and necessary action.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14469 /Dt. 18.07.2023

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 2180 dated 11.07.2023.

[Signature]
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14470 /Dt. 18.07.2023

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division / DFO, Keonjhar Forest division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 2181 dated 11.07.2023 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

[Signature]
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 14471 /Dt. 18.07.2023

Copy forwarded to the Director, Rungta Mines Ltd., Barbil, Keonjhar, Odisha-758035 for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act