

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

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No. 22534 /9F (MG) - 11/2022
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 18th November' 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 Deputy 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 Govt. of India observations regarding

Ref: F.No.8-02/2023-FC dated 20.09.2023 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), New Delhi has requested to furnish compliance to 4 (four) nos. of observations. The point wise compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:

Observation (i) :- Regarding Violation, it has been noticed by Regional Office that there are 48 existing small illegal mining pits covering 2.5 ha land at least more than 10 years old. During site visit, mining pits were covered with vegetation. DDGF(C) should get details from the division about the agency to which this illegal mining activity is attributed.

Compliance:- the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as per the Part- II report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division, 3.666 ha (Forest- 3.312 ha & Non-forest land- 0.354 ha) land was disturbed by old pits over 2.491 ha & 1.175 ha for road prior to grant of composite license.

USE ONLY
20/11/2023

- A. (i) All the pits area were of non-forest revenue land which were found to be of Sabik Forest later on (non-forest land treated as forest as on 25.10.1980) as per letter No.R&DM-GE(GL)-S-63/13-4822/CS dated 12.02.2015 of Chief Secretary, Odisha and guideline F.No.8-78/1996-FC(pt) dated 10.03.2015 of MoEF & CC, GoI. The letter of the Chief Secretary is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
- (ii) There are 48 nos. existing small illegal mining pits covering 2.491 ha (round to 2.5 ha) have an average area of 520 m² (0.052 ha) per pit in Revenue Forest land.
- (iii) It is ascertained from field enquiry that it was attributed to local villagers as the mining lease is adjoining to human habitation and it was highly porous and prone for encroachment & theft.
- (iv) It has been reported that the pits were dug for almost last 20-25 years ago.
- (v) So, the theft of surface mineral in small patches was done when the land was Non-Forest. There is no continuing violation on the said land by any private agencies including present lessee.
- B. The said violation has not been done by any other private agencies, as it is a fresh composite mining lease granted during 24.01.2019 and violation had happened 20-25 years ago.

Further, it is ascertained from the letter No. 631 dated 08.02.2022 of Joint Director Mines, Joda addressed to the Directorate of Mines, Odisha, Bhubaneswar that those excavated pits are filled with thick vegetation growth, as it is evident from the surface map attached during auction of Lasarda-Pacheri Manganese and Iron Block for composite license that many excavated quarry's were previously existed inside the composite license area before the grant of composite license to M/s Thriveni Earth Movers Pvt. Ltd. The copy of the letter of Joint Director of Mines, Joda is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

Observation (ii):- The Karo River is crossing between two blocks of the Mining Lease. The mining project will affect the catchment of this Karo river. So, there is need for soil and moisture conservation measures in the rest catchment of this river and the forest lands in and around the proposed site.

Compliance:- The RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that though it is a fact that the Karo River is crossing between two blocks but a dedicated over bridge is proposed to be constructed through which road transport will be done. Further, in Laserda part the Karo River is minimum 50 mtrs away from the lease boundary and in Pacheri part, the Karo River is minimum 200 mtrs away from the lease boundary. Measures for soil and moisture conservation like retaining wall, garland drain along the dump and settling pond will be taken up within the lease area by User Agency. Further, as per Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan, there is a provision to construct 1500 mtrs retaining wall along the River bed.

Observation (iii):- Protection and monitoring of wildlife, wildlife habitat management, support to local forest dependent communities through proper eco-development measures etc. are some of the areas which need specific attention. Since the area is characterized by the movement of elephants, measures proposed for their protection and mitigation of HEC issues are required to be examined.

Compliance:- The RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that for protection and monitoring of wildlife, wildlife habitat management, support to local forest dependent communities through proper eco-development measures etc., a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan with the financial outlay of Rs. 390.402 lakh has been prepared & approved by the PCCF (WL & CWLW), Odisha. The copy of the approval letter along with prescription to be adopted duly approved is enclosed as **Annexure-III**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to give all support if there is any further requirement for proper eco-development measures. The undertaking in this regard furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest division is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-IV** for protection of wildlife & management of their habitats etc. Specific measures have been incorporated in the above plan to address & minimise the Human-Elephant Conflict along with proper eco-development measures in the impact area.

Observation (iv):- The Committee also observed that there is a need to examine the evacuation plan for minerals and how to meet the requirement of Water, Transport and Electricity.

Compliance:- The RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has intimated in his letter No. TEMPL/DFO/2021-22/31dt.31.10.2023 regarding their requirement & planning to meet the requirement of Water, Transport and Electricity. The letter of the Project Proponent is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-V** for reference.

Water

Detail of Water Requirement for the project and their sources:-

Sl. No.	Use	Quantity/ Amount	Source	Permission
1	Domestic	95KLD	Borewell	CGWA
2	Water Sprinkling (Dust Suppression)	740 KLD	Dewater from Mine pit	-
3	Green Belt Plantation	10 KLD	Dewater from Mine pit	-
4	Work shop & Wheel washing	40 KLD	Dewater from Mine pit	-

Transport

The lease boundary Pillar No. 15 & 16 are adjoining to 9 mtrs of PWD road from Bolani to Kiriburu. The material will be transported through the same road which leads to Bolani & Barbil siding and also touch NH 520. In this regard, detailed traffic study has already been completed. As per requirement, there will be maximum movement of 12-15 trucks per hour plying on this road, so dust & noise pollution will be minimum. However, the User Agency shall take adequate measures to mitigate the effects of pollution by adopting appropriate measures. Further, it is to mention that, in the said area there is no other mining leases except SAIL. SAIL is doing transportation of ore through conveyor directly in Bolani siding. So, the User Agency will transport the minerals through the said road.

Electricity

11 KV line is passing through the lease area near to boundary pillar no 15 & 16 along the PWD road. There is a very nominal electricity requirement for the project i.e. for only crushing & Screening Plant and domestic purpose. As intimated by the User Agency, they will use electricity from 11Kv line passing through the lease. Necessary permission from Electricity Distribution Company in this regard will be taken by the user agency.

Compliance to the recommendation made under Agenda Item No. 11 discussed in the AC meeting held on 17.07.2023 which will apply mutatis-mutandis to the extant proposal -:

Observation (i):- *Considering the present situation of mining in the area and rise in human elephant conflict, the compensation mechanism for the victims by the user agencies needs to be developed.*

Compliance: The State Govt. of Odisha has revised the amount of compensation payment for different types of depredation vide Notification No.9128/FE&CC dated 03.05.2023 which is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**. Further, to facilitate quick & hassle free payment, online app i.e. "Anukampa" is in operation and direct payment to victims has been made. Further, the State Govt. vide Notification No.21763 dated 16.10.2023, the legal heir of deceased person was replaced by "Next of Kin" to facilitate easy, quick and instant payment in Wildlife depredation cases. Further, State Govt. has sufficient funds for this also. The copy of the Notification is enclosed as **Annexure-VII**. Hence, at this stage further, mechanism for compensation for victims by UA may not be required.

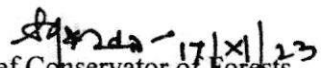
Observation (ii):- *The CSIR-NEERI has given its recommendation on carrying capacity vis-à-vis pollution in these areas and the Suggested Ore Transportation Mode (SOTM) in 2014. After lapse of about 9 years, many changes in the landscape and fresh mining in the region, the State Govt. shall examine and submit a detailed report with proper justification, whether there is a need to revalidate the said study or a need to carry a fresh study in this regard.*

Compliance: As per recommendation of CSIR, NEERI on suggested sustainable Annual production in Odisha State on 2020-21 is 201 MT. Total Environmental Clearance capacity of 40 Mines (Joda-Koira Sector) is 155.519 MT whereas actual production was 48.087 MT (30.9%) which is much below than permitted dispatch. The Environmental Clearance capacity of 22 Iron Mines in (Joda-Barbil Sector) is 106.631 MT whereas production is 34.420 MT (32.3%) which is also much below than permitted dispatch. Thus, when suggested production will be achieved as per the report of NEERI on transportation ore as per recommendation, there might be a need to carry on fresh study.

In view of the above, the compliance to the observations of 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

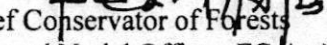
Yours faithfully


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

Memo No. 22535 /Dt. 18-11-2023

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference F.No.8-02/2023-FC dated 20.09.2023 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.


Encl: Compliance in one set


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

Memo No. 22536 /Dt. 18-11-2023

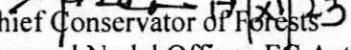
Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to F.No.8-02/2023-FC dated 20.09.2023 of Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi and Memo No. 20241/FE&CC dated 26.09.2023 of OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department.

Encl: Compliance in one set


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

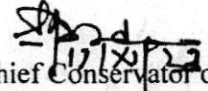
Memo No. 22537 /Dt. 18-11-2023

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 3717 dated 10.11.2023.


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


Memo No. 22538 /Dt. 18-11-2023

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 3718 dated 10.11.2023 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.


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

Memo No. 22539 /Dt. 18-11-2023

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.


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