



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
BALLARI DIVISION, BALLARI

No. M1/MNG/SKME/Conveyor belt/2019-20

Dated: 29.11.2021

To,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

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 Dharmapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing Closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM) ML No.2141) in favour of M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Private Limited, Ballari (**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39394/2019 [FORM-A]**) – Reg.

- Ref: 1) Letter No. 4-KRC040/2004-BAN Dt.12.08.2021 of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional, Bengaluru.
2) Letter No.KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/30/2019-FC Dt. 13/17.08.2021 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore.
3) Letter No. M1/MNG/CR-19/2010-11(SKME) Dt. 02.09.2021 of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari.
4) This office even letter number Dt.31.08.2021.
5) Letter No.ACF/TA/B/M/s.SKME/PCB/2021-22 Dt. 23.11.2021 of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ballari Sub-Division, Ballari.

With reference to the above subject, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru has directed to furnish certain information regarding 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 Dharmapura Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for establishing Closed Pipe Conveyor System from Ramadurga Iron Ore Mine (RIOM) (ML No. 2141) in favour of M/s. Sri. Kumaraswamy Mineral exports Private Limited vide letter under Ref (1).

Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari have directed the undersigned to furnish the above mentioned information / documents duly obtained from the User Agency vide letters under Ref (2) & (3). In this regard, office of the undersigned had directed the User Agency as well as field officer vide letter under Ref (4). The said information has been received from concerned vide letter under Ref (5).

Upon perusal of the reports so submitted and information available, I am herewith submitting following information alongwith documents as sought by Government of India.

Sl. No.	Particulars of Information Sought	Remarks or Information
i	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	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 they

<p>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>Roads are away from proposed Conveyor alignment. In such case User Agency have 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 Annexure-I. Of the three possible routes explored, the UA has finalized Option-1 for following reasons;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is the best fit with least diversion of forest land required amongst the three options. b) The orientation also best complies with the contours of the Area. <p>Further, for the reasons mentioned here under, the other options were not preferred;</p> <p>Option 2: 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>Option 3: 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>
<p>ii</p> <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 proposed for the railway siding could be avoided / minimized.</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) infavour of M/s. Sri Kumaraswamy Mineral Exports Pvt Ltd, Ballari. The same has been submitted to higher authority.</p> <p>Later on it was decided during a meeting chaired by Manageing Director, Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) and field visit involving relavant stakeholder that Railway Siding 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 (vide 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 here in.</p> <p>Geo reference map, Google Map, Toposheet Map of the revised area for diversion are enclosed as Annexure -II</p>

iii	<p>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.</p>	<p>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). Stutas of Notification of these parcels of lands is as below;</p>																
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iv	The area being hilly with steep slopes, a detailed Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan	The User Agency has agreed to prepare a suitable plan and implement necessary Soil and Moisture Conservation works at their cost. In this regard the User Agency has																

for the area shall be required.	submitted undertaking [Copy of the Undertaking enclosed as Annexure-IV]
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This is submitted for your kind information and needful action.

Yours Faithfully,

Sd/-

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari

- 1) Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation), Bangalore for kind information.
- 2) Copy to Srikumaraswamy Mineral Export Private Limited, No.462, 4th Ward, SMIORE Colony, Near Fire Station, Sandur – 583 119 for information.


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari