



कार्यालय : वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।

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पत्रांक- 931

दिनांक-21/12/2023

सेवा में,

क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
संथाल परगना, दुमका।

विषय :- Proposal for the non-forest use of 455.1108 ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Block project in favour of M/S Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL) District Dumka, Jharkhand (Online no.-P/JH/MIN/59823/2020) - regarding.

प्रसंग :- प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक, बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, रांची का ज्ञापांक-1215 दिनांक-12.12.2023 तथा आपका ज्ञापांक-965 दिनांक-14.12.2023

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रसांगिक पत्र के संबंध में सादर सूचित करना है कि विषयक परियोजना Pachwara South Coal Block (455.1108 ha) में अपयोजन हेतु समर्पित प्रस्ताव में भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के पत्र संख्या-8-37/2022-FC दिनांक-09.11.2023 द्वारा 07 बिन्दुओं पर पृच्छा की गई है। इन पृच्छित बिन्दुओं का निराकरण प्रतिवेदन वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, दुमका वन प्रमंडल द्वारा अपने पत्रांक 3795 दिनांक 19.12.2023 (छाया प्रति संलग्न) से इस कार्यालय को समर्पित किया गया है। प्राप्त निराकरण प्रतिवेदन कंडिकावार निम्नवत् है :-

Sl.	Query	Compliance Status
1	The components of the area proposed are not commensurate with the approved mining plan. The State shall ensure that the proposal is in conformity with the approved mining plan and submit the revised mining plan/proposal accordingly.	The User Agency has submitted that Mining Plan including Mine Closure Plan was prepared in the year 2020 where Land schedule utilised was certified by the revenue department. Later on during the scrutiny of the Forest Diversion Proposal, involvement of Forest Land was found more and accordingly the FC proposal was modified. This issue has been addressed through Minor Revision of the Mining Plan as per the provision of the Ministry of Coal's Guideline (Pt. No. 1.3 B)(Annexure - IA)for Preparation of Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan. The revised Part of Mining Plan is furnished as Annexure-IB.
2	The forest area proposed for diversion is situated within the Elephant Migration route. The State government was asked to submit the detail of the existing and proposed elephant corridors in the landscape which has not been provided. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.	DFO Dumka has submitted that there is no notified Elephant Corridor in Dumka Forest Division at present. An Elephant Corridor has been proposed in Dumka division based on observation and anecdotal evidences. Annexure - II. The Forest area proposed for diversion is situated within the Elephant Migration route along the contiguous landscape of Damin-i-Koh from Kathikund & Gopikander Forests (biggest forest block, the Old Reserve Block) to the Amrapara Forest (of Pakur Forest Division) &Sunderpahari Forest (of Godda Forest Division) and at the confluence of Bonslai River. The proposed Diversion shall be causing hindrance to the free movement of elephants from one forest track to another. The advent of Open Cast Mining would not only further disturb the ecological stability and landscape continuity but also lead to the dissection of contiguous patches. Thus, there should be adequate measures to safeguard the traditional migration route of wild elephants.

Elephant-human conflict in Dumka Forest Divisions tabulated below:

Cases in Dumka Forest Division					
Sl No	Year	Conflict	Elephant Death	Human Death	Crop, house & property damage
1	2018-19	6	0	2	0
2	2019-20	7	0	3	54
3	2020-21	0	0	0	15
4	2021-22	6	0	5	0
5	2022-23	0	0	0	5

Elephant-human conflict invillages proposed for diversion (Chirudih, Kundapari & Mahuldabar)					
Sl No	Year	Conflict	Elephant Death	Human Death	Crop, house & property damage
1	2018-19	0	0	0	0
2	2019-20	0	0	0	0
3	2020-21	0	0	0	0
4	2021-22	1	0	1	0
5	2022-23	0	0	0	0

In order to minimize man-animal conflicts in general and man-elephant conflict in particular, along with furthering the cause of conservation of elephant and its associated habitat, while maintaining the structural and functional integrity of the ecosystem, it is very much necessary to protect the precious habitat from fragmentation, degradation and destruction.

An implementation of Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management is a time taking process hence it would be advisable to implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan along with the Catchment Area Treatment plan concurrently with the mining operations.

It is also important to continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these mitigation measures over time to ensure that they remain adequate and effective. The necessary changes in the plan with time would be proposed either in the existing Site-Specific wildlife management plan or they will be added in the Comprehensive wildlife management plan later on.

The plan submitted by the User agency is acceptable. As the plan are tentative in nature hence the duration and costs of the plans would vary at the time of the finalization of plans. The user agency has submitted an undertaking in this regard.

3 Out of the total proposed forest land an area of 10.313 ha forest land is earmarked for infrastructure which is a non-site-specific activity. Therefore, the State Govt. shall explore the possibility to shift the 10.313 ha infrastructure development to non-forest land and revise the requirement of forest land accordingly.

The User Agency has submitted that the whole of the project area of Pachwara South Coal Mine is coal bearing. The mine has been designed in such a way that it doesn't involve any additional land outside the allotted Geological Block boundary for Dumping and Infrastructure laying. The infrastructure area shown in the approved mining plan is actually above the backfilled (backfilled after extraction of coal) area whose nature of land is forest. However, addressing to the observation, the same infrastructure area comprising 10.313 ha is now relocated in the backfilled area where the nature of land is non forest and included in the Revised Mining Plan (Minor Revision) and necessary changes are made in the proposal.

Revised location of the Infrastructure is attached as **Annexure - III**

4 The details of the special purpose vehicle created for the purpose of conveyor belt and requirement of additional forest land for the transportation of the coal shall be submitted along with a KML file showing the proposed route and involvement of forest land.

The User Agency has submitted that –

- A SPV was created for construction of railway siding to transport the coal from Pachwara coal blocks consisting of WBPDCCL, PSPCL & NUPPL to the respective end use Plants.
- An overhead conveyor system was planned for coal transportation upto the railway siding from Pachwara South Coal Block.
- DPR was approved by the Eastern Railway and submitted to Railway Board on 28/11/2022 vide letter no TW535/520 for

		<p>approval with a time schedules for construction of railway siding of 36 months starting from 1st April, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ But, vide letter no TW/535/520, dated-05.04.2023 Indian Railway has communicated that Nagarnabi/Pakur-Godda new rail line project will be constructed by Indian Railways with its own budget. (Letter attached as Annexure-IVA) ➤ A meeting between Eastern Railways and Stake holders (WBPDC, PSPCL, NUPPL) held on 22.05.2023. In the meeting PCOM, Eastern Railway has asked the stake holders for their assurance in agreement to transport their coal through Nagarnabi/Pakur-Godda New Line alignment (MoM dated 22.05.2023 attached as Annexure-IVB) which has been confirmed by the stakeholders along with traffic projection. M/s WBPDC, M/s PSPCL and M/s NUPPL has also signed the one agreement for the construction of private siding taking off from proposed Ambadiha station in Nagarnabi/Pakur – Godda new rail line alignment. (Signed agreement as Annexure - IVC). The stakeholders also shared the draft DPR with ER for the Nagarnabi-Pachwara portion of the proposed alignment. ➤ The DPR of the proposed Nagarnabi/Pakur-Godda New Line is currently under consideration of Project Evaluation Committee of Indian Railways. On approval of the final alignment and confirmation by Eastern Railways the three stakeholders(WBPDC, PSPCL, NUPPL) will finalize the alignment & location of the proposed joint railway siding(SPV) with loading bulb under GCT policy. ➤ Accordingly the conveyor route for transportation of coal from Pachwara South Coal Block(PSCB) to railway siding(SPV) will be finalized. Therefore, the requirement of additional land including forest land will come only after the finalization of new proposed location for railway siding by Railways Board. ➤ On approval of the rail route by Railway Board, details of the forest land will come into figure. Until then, M/s NUPPL will transport the coal by road up to Kurwa siding and from there by railways wagon. ➤ In this regard, construction of a bridge over the Bonslai River is planned from the extreme North Eastern part of the PSCB block. It will join the existing metaled road falling in northern side of the river which will be used for coal transportation till the construction of permanent railway siding. Once the siding is constructed this bridge will be used for conveyor route. Bridge layout plan is attached herewith as Annexure-IVD. ➤ No forest land is involved in the construction of overhead bridge.
5	<p>The Compensatory Afforestation areas shall be revisited and the State shall ensure that the same are free from encroachments and all encumbrances. Smaller patches with an area of less than 5 ha will not be appropriate for management and therefore the same needs revision. Therefore, in such cases revised CA patches along with revised CA Scheme and other details shall be submitted.</p>	<p>DFO Dumka has submitted that small patch with an area of less than 5 ha. has been revised. Revised Compensatory Afforestation patch along with revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been submitted. Area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation are free from encroachments and encumbrances.</p>

6	The correct KML file indicating the different components of the project including those proposed to be taken on non-forest land shall be submitted.	KML file is attached as Annexure –VI.
7	With regard to current status of progress of the settlement proceedings after notification under section 4 of the IFA, the State Government has informed that the section 4 notification is of the year 1944 and status of settlement proceedings is not available with the State Government. In this regard, the State shall submit a copy of the notification as asked by the Ministry earlier.	The copy of the notification is annexed as Annexure –VII.

वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, दुमका वन प्रमंडल से प्राप्त निराकरण प्रतिवेदन की 06 (छः) प्रतियाँ इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर अग्रतर आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित की जा रही है।

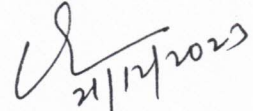
अनु०-यथोक्त।

आपका विश्वासी
ह०/-
वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।

ज्ञापांक : १११

दिनांक : २१/१२/२०२३

प्रतिलिपि - प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक, बंजरभूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड रांची को उनके ज्ञापांक-1215 दिनांक-12.12.2023 के प्रसंग में प्राप्त अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति के साथ सादर सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित।


वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।