

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, RAMGARH
FOREST DIVISION RAMGARH

Letter No- 1654 Date:- 24/8/22

To,

Conservator of Forest,
Territorial Circle, Bokaro

Subject:- Compliance to the query raised in respect to the proposal for diversion of forest land of 633.19 Ha falls in Ramgarh District of Kotre Basantpur Pachmo OCP

Reference:- PCCF-cum-ED, Waste land development Board, Jharkhand Ranchi letter no – 598 dated 06-07-2022

Sir,

In reference to the subject matter, the compliance of queries raised in respect to the proposal for diversion land of 633.19 Ha of Kotre Basantpur Pachmo OCP is being forward in seven copies for necessary action-

S.N	Query	Compliance of UA	Comments of DFO
i.	Proposal has been submitted into two parts for two separate districts, while as per guidelines given under the chapter 7 of the Handbook proposal for a mining lease should be submitted in its entirety. Rationale for submitting isolated proposals for a single project needs to be informed by the State	Total Forest Land required for Kotre Basantpur Pachmo OCP is 1,006.17 Ha - Notified Forest: 714.22 Ha - GMJJ: 291.95 Ha The district-wise breakup is as below: - Ramgarh: 633.19 Ha o Notified Forest: 497.86 Ha o GMJJ: 135.33 Ha - Bokaro: 372.98 Ha o Notified Forest: 216.36 Ha o GMJJ: 156.62 Ha Separate applications have been made for the two districts because, as per the Mining Plan, the Mining Operations would commence from the Ramgarh district and continue till 10 years Therefore, the application was first	User Agency has submitted that they have made two separate applications for Ramgarh and Bokaro districts. Initially application for Ramgarh district was submitted by UA on 22.01.2019 because as per the mining plan, mining operations would commence from Ramgarh district only and it will continue for the initial 10 years. Subsequently, UA has submitted application for Bokaro district on 18.03.2019, since some infrastructure allied to mining operations such as workshop, magazine, etc. and the approach road is planned to be constructed in initial period of mining operation in Bokaro district.

	<p>made for Ramgarh district on 22.01.2019.</p> <p>Subsequently, the application for Bokaro district was made on 18.03.2019, since some infrastructure which is allied to Mining Operations such as Workshop, magazine, etc. and the approach road was planned to be constructed in initial period of Mining Operation in Bokaro district.</p> <p>However, we request the Ministry to merge both proposals and make a single proposal encompassing area of 1,006.17 Ha.</p>	<p>UA has requested to merge two proposals pertaining to Ramgarh and Bokaro district encompassing total area of 1006.17 Ha.</p>
<p>Analysis of the CA area using DSS analysis revealed the following:</p>		
<p>CA has been proposed in 157 patches, 75 patches have area smaller than 5 ha (as small as 0.21 ha). Further, in 22 villages either cultivation, settlement, plantation, etc are visible (list enclosed)</p>	<p>The land proposed for CA land is a degraded forest which is notified and demarcated protected forest. The demarcated Protected Forest in Jharkhand are village wise and mostly in discontinuous patches of various size and therefore they are being managed as such. The selected land patches are suitable for CA as per the guidelines. There is some encroachment by local villagers in some patches and they will be removed before taking up compensatory afforestation and will be covered with plantation. No patch of CA land will be left without plantation under CA.</p>	<p>DFO, Giridih East vide their letter No 2536 dated 21.07.2022 has submitted that: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the land proposed for CA plantation is degraded forest which is notified and demarcated protected forest. ▪ The demarcated protected forest in Jharkhand is village wise and mostly in discontinuous patches of various size and therefore they are being managed as such. ▪ The selected land patches are suitable for CA plantation and it will be cleared of encroachment before carrying out plantation under CA. <p>Letter is attached as Annexure-I</p>
<p>Further, out of total area proposed for CA, 3 ha is classified as Very Dense Forest and 26 ha as Moderately Dense Forest as per DSS while no such areas are visible on the Google Imagery.</p>	<p>Forest land selected for CA is demarcated protected existing in patches of varying size and some patches even though mostly degraded have good forest growth in some portions which might appear as dense forest but the average density of selected forest patches in each village</p>	<p>DFO, Giridih East vide their letter No 2536 dated 21.07.2022 has submitted that: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest land selected for CA is demarcated protected forest existing in patches of varying size and some patches even though mostly degraded have good forest



		<p>is less than 0.4. As the plantation is carried out on degraded forest village wise in Jharkhand with the help of trench fencing, entire patch is taken as a unit and trench fencing is done on outer boundary only, and therefore entire patch is taken as gross area for the purpose of plantation but actual plantation is done on available vacant area. If degraded or vacant land is to be separated from good forest cover in the same patch in a village, trench fencing is required be done across the patch of forest for protecting the plantation, which will make rest of forest susceptible for encroachment and therefore it is avoided. As per the norms at least 1000 plants have to be planted per ha over land selected, whereas the CA land selected will easily accommodate 1666 plants per ha, much higher than the stipulated limit. However, it is informed that 37.20 ha of additional degraded forest land has been identified and K.M.L. file with suitability certificate for the same is being attached herewith.</p>	<p>growth in some portions which might appear as dense forest but the average density of selected forest patches in each village is less than 0.4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As the plantation will be carried out on degraded forest village wise in with the help of trench fencing, entire patch is taken as a unit and trench fencing is done on outer boundary only, and therefore entire patch is taken as gross area for the purpose of plantation but actual plantation is done on available vacant area. ▪ If degraded or vacant land is to be separated from good forest cover in the same patch in a village, trench fencing is required be done across the patch of forest for protecting the plantation, which will make rest of forest susceptible for encroachment and therefore it is avoided. ▪ As per the norms at least 1000 plants have to be planted per ha over land selected, whereas the CA land selected will easily accommodate 1666 plants per ha, much higher than the stipulated limit. However, it is informed that 37.20 ha of additional degraded forest land has been identified & K.M.L. file with suitability certificate for the same is being attached herewith as Annexure-1
c.	The State Government may therefore confirm the suitability of such area for raising afforestation and their contiguity with existing RF/PF.	The land area selected is already a notified PF under the management of Forest Department and therefore the question of contiguity to the PR/RF does not arise. It is clarified again that	DFO Giridih East has submitted that the land area selected for CA is already a notified PF under the management of Forest Department and therefore the question of contiguity to the

		the land selection is suitable for afforestation.	PR/RF does not arise. DFO Giridih East has finally submitted that the land selected for CA is suitable for afforestation.
d.	Ministry vide its letter dated 17.10.2019 has conveyed its 'in-principle approval" accept the mined out and reclaimed non-forest lands available with the CIL subsidiaries. The Ministry of Coal vide their letter dated 20.01.2022 informed the availability of 300.75 ha of non-forest land, biologically reclaimed, available with the M/s CCL. The State Government may therefore assess the suitability of such non-forest land to include the same in the CA proposal.	<p>The 300.75 ha of biologically reclaimed land available with the M/s CCL has been proposed to be transferred to forest department details of which are as below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33 ha has been proposed for transfer to Bokaro Forest Division in respect of compliance of Stage II Forestry Clearance of Amlo OCP (copy as enclosed Annexure IA); and - 267.75 ha has been proposed for transfer to Bokaro Forest Division in respect of compliance of Stage II Forestry Clearance of Konar OCP, as evident from the compliance of Stage II vide 8-55/2009-FC in respect of Konar OCP at point no 13 (copy enclosed as Annexure IB). 	User Agency has submitted that the 300.75 ha of biologically reclaimed land available with M/s CCL is proposed to be transferred to forest department. The details of which is as mentioned below: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 33 ha has been proposed for transfer to Bokaro Forest Division in respect of compliance of Stage II Forestry Clearance of Amlo OCP. Copy is enclosed as Annexure-I A. ▪ 267.75 Ha has been proposed for transfer to Bokaro Forest Division in respect of compliance of Stage II Forestry Clearance of Konar OCP (copy enclosed as Annexure IB).
iii.	Detail of degraded forest identified in lieu of 1.5 times the area of safety zone of the mining leases for raising afforestation has not been submitted along with the proposal. Same needs to be submitted along with complete detail of supporting attributes such as afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, KML files etc.	<p>As the 10.58 Ha of Safety Zone has been ear-marked within the 1006.17 Ha of forest land proposed for diversion, CA Land of 2012.34 Ha i.e 2 times to the land being diverted, has been proposed which covers CA Land 2 times to the safety zone area of 10.58 Ha. The details of total CA Land proposed is shown in Annexure IC.</p> <p>However, an additional degraded forest area 1.5 times to the area of the safety zone of 10.58 ha i.e. 15.87 ha area has been identified in Ramgarh Forest division. The cadastral plan and KML file of the proposed area is enclosed herewith as Annexure ID & IE. It is requested to provide the suitability certificate and afforestation scheme of the same.</p>	User Agency has submitted that 1.5 times the area of the safety zone of 10.58 ha i.e. 15.87 ha area has been identified in Ramgarh Forest Division. The afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, kml file, DGPS map etc. of 15.87 ha of area is enclosed as Annexure - IC, ID and IE .

iv.	As the area has schedule-I and schedule-II species comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Jharkhand on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife in general and elephant in particular need to be furnished by the State.	<p>The observation of PCCF (Wild Life) has been received on the likely impact of project on the movement of wildlife in general. Copy of the observation of PCCF (Wild life) on 16.03.2022 enclosed as Annexure-A.</p> <p>The Wild life management plan is under preparation. In case of delay in finalization of Wild Life Management Plan, the project proponent undertakes to submit lumpsum amount @ 2% of the total Project Cost towards cost of implementation of Wildlife Management Plan in CAMPA account along with Stage I compliance, as per the MOEF & CC directive FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07/06/2022.</p>	<p>The observation of PCCF (Wild Life) has been received on the likely impact of project on the movement of wildlife in general. Copy of the observation of PCCF (Wild life) is enclosed as Annexure-A. The user agency has submitted that the Wild life management plan is under preparation and in case of delay in finalization of Wild Life Management Plan, the project proponent undertakes to submit lumpsum amount @ 2% of the total Project Cost towards cost of implementation of Wildlife Management Plan in CAMPA account along with Stage I compliance, as per the MOEF & CC directive FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07/06/2022.</p>
V.	From the purpose wise breakup of forest land, the following may be ascertained		
a.	<p>An area of 26.96 ha of forest land, comprising of 14.95 ha in Ramgarh Forest Division and 12.01 ha in Bokaro Forest Division, has been proposed for infrastructure while only 0.88 ha only has been proposed in non-forest land. The State Government may therefore assess the legitimacy of site-specificity of various infrastructural components and possibility to shift non-site-specific components to the non-forest land.</p>	<p>The Total Project Area of the Kotre Basantpur Pachmo Open cast Project is 1,162.87 ha, out of which 1,006.17 ha is Forest Land and the remaining 156.70 Ha is non-forest land.</p> <p>The non-forest land is scattered throughout the Project Area. To ensure the safety and ease of operations, the essential infrastructures such as Belt Conveyor, Coal Handling Plant, Sub-Station, etc. are proposed on the leasehold area, adjoining to the area proposed to be used for coal mining purpose.</p> <p>North side of the Project Area is Forest Land. The area towards East & West is coal bearing areas associated with upcoming Basantpur OCP in the West and Lalgah OCP in the East. In the</p>	<p>The total project area of the Kotre Basantpur Pachmo Open cast project is 1,162.87 ha, out of which 1,006.17 ha is forest land and 156.70 Ha is non-forest land.</p> <p>The user agency has submitted the plan map to show that the non-forest land is scattered throughout the project area and to ensure the safety and ease of operations, the essential infrastructures such as Belt Conveyor, Coal Handling Plant, Sub-Station, etc. are proposed on the leasehold area, adjoining to the area proposed to be used for coal mining purpose. Cluster of non-forest land having adequate space to accommodate the infrastructure outside the active mining area is not available.</p>

		<p>South side Kedla washery and Dania to Kedla railway line are proposed.</p> <p>This has forced to accommodate infrastructure within the leasehold area. Some of the infrastructures are temporary in nature and may need to be shifted during Mining operations.</p> <p>Further, cluster of non-forest land having adequate space to accommodate the infrastructure outside the active mining area is not available. Hence, in order to execute mining operation, safely as well as efficiently, allied infrastructure such as workshops, office buildings, etc. have been proposed in the adjoining mining area.</p> <p>Copy of Plan is enclosed as Annexure II.</p>	<p>Hence, in order to execute mining operation, safely as well as efficiently, allied infrastructure such as workshops, office buildings, etc. have been proposed in the adjoining mining area. The Copy of Plan is enclosed as Annexure II.</p>
b.	<p>A total forest land of 134.47 ha of forest land, comprising of 68.86 ha in Ramgarh Forest Division and 65.61 ha in Bokaro Forest Division, has been proposed for Green belt which is in addition to 10.58 ha of forest land earmarked for safety zone. Rationalise for including green belt area in the project which could otherwise be excluded from the project and be managed by the Forest Department. Considered view of the State Government in this regard needs to be furnished.</p>	<p>A Safety Zone of 7.5 m all around the leasehold area of the mine is proposed to be maintained as per the MOEF&CC guideline dated 04.07.2014. In addition, Green Belt is proposed to be developed adjoining Safety Zone within the leasehold area of the project as an additional measure to contain air pollution and to maintain ecological health of buffer zone. Further earmarking of green belt area has been necessitated by standard Terms of Reference 1(A) - 8, issued by the MOEF. The map showing the safety zone and green belt of the project area is shown in the Annexure II-A1.</p> <p>The area proposed for green belt is required for movement of Mining machinery during quarry operations and the felling of trees is required to facilitate the movement of equipment. Afforestation will be carried out in a phased manner in green belt area after</p>	<p>User Agency has been submitted that a Safety Zone of 7.5 m comprising total area of 10.58 ha all around the leasehold area of the mine is proposed. In addition, Green Belt is proposed to be developed adjoining Safety Zone within the leasehold area of the project as an additional measure to contain air pollution and to maintain ecological health of buffer zone. The map showing the safety zone and green belt of the project area is shown in the Annexure II-A1. The area proposed for green belt is required for movement of Mining machinery during quarry operations and the felling of trees is required to facilitate the movement of equipment's. Afforestation will be carried out in a phased manner in green belt</p>



		completion of mining operations adjacent to these areas. Hence diversion of this forest land is also essential.	area after completion of mining operations adjacent to these areas.
c.	No area has been earmarked for the storage of top soil.	It has been estimated that around 2.90 Mm ³ topsoil will be generated throughout the life of mine. It has been proposed to store the topsoil in a designated site away from mining operations within the land proposed for diversion and use it for bio reclamation of degraded mine area. The same has been shown on the map enclosed. (Annexure-II A-2) Top Soil Management Plan is enclosed as Annexure III.	User Agency has been submitted map for area earmarked for storage of top soil as Annexure - II A-2. The Top soil Management Plan is enclosed as Annexure-III
vi.	Separate cost benefit ratio has been estimated for 633.19 ha and 372.98 ha of forest land indicating the cost benefit ratio of 19.31 and 1:26.73, respectively for a single project. Consolidated CB ratio for the entire forest land of 1006.17 involved in the project needs to be submitted by the State.	Cost benefit ratio for the entire Project including 1,006.17 ha of forest land and enclosed as Annexure- IV.	User Agency has submitted cost benefit ratio for the entire project and is enclosed as Annexure-IV
vii.	Nearest Railway Station Dania has been reported to be located at a distance of 4 km from the proposed area for diversion. Detail of evacuation of Plan from the mine head to nearest railway sidings may be informed by the State.	The Coal extracted from the instant Project will be crushed (within the Project Area) and transported to nearby existing Kedla Washery and proposed Tapin Wastery by Belt Conveyor. The Washed Coal will be loaded into the railway wagons via Rapid Loading System and will be transported by Railways Line under construction from Dania Station to Kedla Washery, and the same have been shown in the Surface Plan. The relevant surface plan is attached as Annexure-V.	User Agency has submitted that the Coal extracted from the project will be crushed and transported to Kedla Washery and proposed Tapin Wastery by Belt Conveyor. The washed coal will be loaded into the railway wagons via Rapid Loading System and will be transported by Railways Line under construction from Dania Station to Kedla Washery, and the same have been shown in the Surface Plan. The relevant surface plan is attached as Annexure-V.



viii.	<p>Diversion of nalla has been proposed in the proposal. However, proposed course for diversion, conspicuously depicted on a map (KML file) has not been submitted, the same needs to be submitted. Further, comments of the Department of Water Resources on the efficacy of proposed diversion of nallah by the user agency needs to be informed by the State.</p>	<p>The proposed course of diversion plan as well as KML file of seasonal stream is enclosed as Annexure VI.</p> <p>We would like to further mention that NOC for the proposed nala diversions has been obtained from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) (Annexure-VI-A) as the project falls under the Command area of DVC.</p> <p>A detailed project report for the proposed nalla diversions is being prepared by IIT Roorkee. Once the DPR has been prepared the same will be submitted to State Water Resource Department for its approval. The efficacy of the proposed Nala diversion will be incorporated in the DPR. The copy of work-order awarded to IIT Roorkee is enclosed as Annexure VIB</p>	<p>The User Agency has been submitted that the proposed course of diversion plan as well as KML file of seasonal stream is enclosed as Annexure VI.</p> <p>User agency has further submitted that the NOC for the proposed nala diversions has been obtained from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) (Annexure-VI-A) as the project falls under the Command area of DVC. A detailed project report for the proposed nalla diversions is being prepared by IIT Roorkee. Once the DPR has been prepared the same will be submitted to State Water Resource Department for its approval. The efficacy of the proposed Nala diversion will be incorporated in the DPR. The copy of work-order awarded to IIT Roorkee is enclosed as Annexure VIB</p>
ix.	<p>Forest area has been identified for OB. Non-forest area can also be used for OB. In this context, justification may be given for particularly including 44 ha (as ascertained from KML file) of very dense forest as forest site-specific requirement for dumping OB.</p>	<p>The gradient of the seams proposed to be extracted varies from 18 to 25 degrees. The Block is having difficult geological conditions associated with 15 numbers of fault (copy of geological plan enclosed as Annexure VII A1 and section is enclosed as Annexure VII-A2).</p> <p>In order to ensure safety of mining operations, certain quantity of OB during initial life of the mine is proposed to be dumped externally which will be flushed with internal OB dump later on.</p> <p>There is no tenancy/non-forest land available adjacent to the project in any direction. There is Basantpur project on the west side, Lalgah coal block on</p>	<p>User Agency has submitted that there is no tenancy/non-forest land available adjacent to the project in any direction. Thus, the proposed 313.50 Ha of forest land for external dumping has become mandatory. The dense forest of 44 Ha is in isolated patches and could not be avoided. Attached as Annexure-VII -A1 and A2</p>

	the east side, complete forest land on north side and washery & railway line on south side. Thus, the proposed 313.50 Ha of forest land for external dumping has become mandatory. The dense forest of 44 Ha is in isolated patches and could not be avoided due to the above reasons.	
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Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely


Divisional Forest Officer,
Ramgarh

Memo No:- 1654 Date:- 24/8/22

Copy forwarded to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bokaro for kind information and necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Ramgarh

24/8/22