



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE,
AT/P.O. PANPOSH, ROURKELA-769 004.

Memo No. 550 /3F-859 /2023 Date: 16-02-2023

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To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act),
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha.

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 83.602 ha. of forest land including 2.529 ha. of Safety Zone for Iron Ore mining in Chandiposhi Block of Koira Tehsil under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District.

Ref:

1. Letter No.8-01/2023-FC dt.2.2.2023 of the MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.
2. Memo No.2400/FE&CC dt.8.2.2023 of the FE&CC Deptt. Govt. of Odisha.
3. Your Memo No.2477 dt.8.2.2023.
4. Memo No.1347 Dtd.15.02.2023 of the DFO, Bonai Division

With reference to the aforecited Memos on the captioned subject, the DFO, Bonai Division vide his Memo No.1343 Dtd. 15.02.2023 addressed to the undersigned and copy thereof endorsed to you in the next Memo of even date has submitted the point-wise compliance with the observations made by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India vide their Letter No.8-01/2023-FC dt.2.2.2023 in respect of the aforementioned proposal which may kindly be perused.

The point wise compliance submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division is as follows:-

(i) The component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety zone has not been submitted.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency was requested vide his office Letter No.1293 dt.14.02.2023 to submit the component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety zone. In response to his office Letter No., the User Agency has submitted the component wise KML file of the proposed forest area including the safety in CD form, which is **attached as Annexure-1**.

(ii) The proposal for diversion of forest land has been submitted for a period of 50 years whereas the mining plan submitted is for five years only.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency was requested vide his office Letter No.1293 dt.14.02.2023 to submit necessary compliance of the said observation. In response to his office Letter No., the User Agency has submitted the compliance with the said observation vide his Letter No.577 dt.15.02.2023

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stating that 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 dt.01.04.2015 which states that "period of the 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-terminous with the period of mining lease, i.e, 50 years".

Whereas, the mining plan for Chandiposhi Iron Ore block was approved for 5 years by India Bureau of Mines. This is in accordance with Rule 13 of MCR,2016, which 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 change in the business environment, for facilitating increase in production capacity or in the interest of safe and scientific mining, conservation of minerals, for the protection of Environment, technological transformation or any other reasons. The copy of relevant part of the Rule of Minerals Concession Rule 2016 is **attached as Annexure-2** for kind perusal.

(iii) The progressive mine closure plan is also limited to a period of five years, and does not include the detailed plan for progressive mine closure and reclamation at the end of the mining period.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency was requested vide his office Letter No.1293 dt.14.02.2023 to submit necessary compliance with the said observation. In response to his office Letter No., the User Agency has submitted the compliance above said observation vide his Letter No.577 dt.15.02.2023 stating that as per Rule 23 of MCDR,2017, the holder of 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. As stated above, since the mining plan is approved for 5 years, the progressive mine closure plan (PMCP) being a component of the mining plan is also approved for 5 years only. As such, the PMCP contained in the approved mining plan submitted along with the diversion proposal is for 5 (five) years only. The copy of relevant part of MCDR,2017 is **attached as Annexure-3** for kind perusal.

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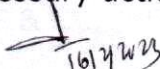
(iv) **As per the information uploaded in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal the number of tress has been mentioned as 4776 whereas the number has been mentioned as 19013 in the site inspection report of DCF/CF. Further, the details of trees having girth between 0-30 cms has not been uploaded in PART-II, which is required to be done.**

The DFO, Bonai has reported that in order to calculate the total project affected trees in forest land, sample enumeration over 21 plots have been carried out (Sample plot-wise enumeration list has attached vide **Annexure-4**). From sample plot analysis, the average trees per hectare comes to 227.42 nos. (=4776 nos. / 21 ha.). Hence, the total project affected trees over 83.602 ha. of forest land by extrapolation of the above said data comes to 19,013 nos.

Further, the details of trees having girth between 0-30 cms has been uploaded in Part-II as reported by the DFO, Bonai Division.

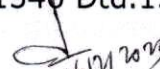
This is for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl :- As above.


16/2/2023
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Rourkela Circle

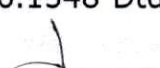
Memo No. 551 / Date: 16.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.1346 Dtd.15.02.2023.


16/2/2023
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Rourkela Circle

Memo No. 552 / Date: 16.02.2023

Copy forwarded to the M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. At/PO-Barbil, Dist-Keonjhar for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.1348 Dtd.15.02.2023 of DFO, Bonai Division.


16/2/2023
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Rourkela Circle