



कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक—सह—कार्यकारी निदेशक,
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

वन भवन, डोरण्डा, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन-834002, Email : pccf-ednodal@gov.in

पत्रांक :- 247

दिनांक :- 25/3/2026

सेवा में,

सचिव,
वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग,
झारखण्ड सरकार, राँची।

विषय :- लातेहार जिला अंतर्गत बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे० वनभूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) के संबंध में।

प्रसंग :-

1. भारत सरकार, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली का पत्रांक 8-18/2024-FC दिनांक 08.02.2026
2. वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर का पत्रांक 156 दिनांक 10.03.2026 एवं 189 दिनांक 23.03.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक संदर्भ में सूचित करना है कि भारत सरकार, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के के प्रासंगिक पत्र-1 द्वारा बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे० के हेतु वनभूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) में 4 बिन्दुओं पर पृच्छा की गई थी, जिसका अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर के पत्रांक 156 दिनांक 10.03.2026 (छायाप्रति संलग्न) द्वारा इस कार्यालय को प्राप्त हुआ था। उक्त अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन में कतिपय बिन्दुओं पर प्रतिवेदन अपूर्ण रहने के कारण इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 198 दिनांक 12.03.2026 द्वारा पृच्छा की गयी, जिसका निराकरण प्रतिवेदन वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर के पत्रांक 189 दिनांक 20.03.2026 (छायाप्रति संलग्न) द्वारा इस कार्यालय को प्राप्त हुआ है।

वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर एवं पत्र के साथ संलग्न वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल के पत्रांक 936 दिनांक 23.03.2026 के प्रतिवेदानुसार पृच्छा का बिन्दुवार अनुपालन निम्नवत् प्रतिवेदित है :-

SL. No.	EDS raised by GOI on 08.02.2026	Compliance submitted by User Agency	Comments of DFO, Latehar
1	The user agency has proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land, out of which 307.20 ha is earmarked for overburden dumping. Since overburden dumping is a non-site-specific activity, the State Government is required to re-cast and rationalize the area proposed for overburden dumping. The user agency in consultation with	<p>1. Essentiality and urgent requirement of the earmarked area for second phase of Mining and Interim temporary OB dump within Coal Block area commensurate with the internal dumping schedule.</p> <p>It is respectfully submitted that the proposed Overburden (OB) dumping is a temporary measure that will be followed by the backfilling of the mine void as part of the second phase of mining. This action is necessary to ensure a continuous supply of coal to meet plant requirements. It is important to note that this activity will not lead to any permanent diversion, loss, or sterilization of coal reserves.</p> <p>The proposal is strictly in conformity with the provisions of the Approved Mining Plan and constitutes an essential and technically unavoidable operational activity.</p> <p>The coal seams underlying the proposed temporary dump area are geologically proved and contain approximately 170 Million Tonnes of mineable coal reserves, as established through exploration carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI). The area is site-specific, and the underlying coal seams are clearly earmarked for extraction in subsequent phases of mining to meet the coal requirement of the already operational end-use</p>	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the DFO on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026. Further an undertaking has been submitted by User Agency in compliance of observation made by MoEF&CC about the rationale behind the large extent the forest land set aside for use as temporary OB dump. The user agency in its reply has submitted an undertaking stating there is no non-forest land available for dumping of overburden nearby the lease area and the area set aside for temporary OB dump shall be brought under mining in future.</p> <p>The 307.20 ha of forest</p>

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	the State Govt. shall explore the non-forest land nearby for such activity.	<p>power plant.</p> <p>The temporary OB dump, along with its phased re-handling and backfilling schedule, forms an integral and approved component of the sanctioned Mining Plan. Upon creation of sufficient internal voids during progressive mining, the OB shall be systematically rehandled and backfilled, followed by extraction of the underlying coal seams. Accordingly, it is unequivocally established that no permanent sterilisation of coal resources is involved, and the proposal represents a technically unavoidable, time-bound, and fully reversible mining requirement.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the use of a limited portion of coal-bearing forest land for temporary OB dumping is unavoidable during the initial phase of mining, as the quarry is under active excavation and no internal void is presently available for backfilling. In the absence of temporary external dumping, safe, continuous, and scientifically planned mining operations cannot be sustained, which would lead to operational disruption and non-achievement of approved production targets.</p> <p>The forest land proposed for temporary OB dumping has been restricted to the absolute minimum extent, strictly adhering to the principle of forest land minimisation. Robust engineering and environmental safeguards, including benched dumping, garland drains, slope stabilisation, and progressive reclamation, shall be implemented to ensure environmental protection and complete reversibility of land use.</p> <p>In view of the above, the proposed temporary use of coal-bearing forest land for OB dumping is unavoidable, reversible, time-bound, and critical for the continuation of mining operations. The proposal ensures optimal utilisation of a nationally important coal resource, while safeguarding forest interests through controlled use and assured reclamation.</p> <p>It is also of critical importance to highlight that the Banhardih Coal Mining Project was allocated on 25.06.2018 to meet the coal requirement of 3 × 800 MW units of PVUNL, forming a vital component of regional power security. The Stage-I Forest Clearance application, submitted on 18.09.2021, has been scrutinised, vetted, and recommended by all concerned authorities, including the State Forest Department. However, despite the passage of nearly four years, the Stage-I Forest Clearance has not yet been accorded.</p> <p>During the most recent review meeting of the Ministry of Coal held on 25.11.2025, a termination notice for the coal block has already been issued, citing inefficiency parameters that are directly attributable to the non-grant of Forest Clearance, rather than any deficiency on the part of the project proponent. Continuation of this delay poses an imminent risk of cancellation of the coal block, despite full compliance with statutory and technical requirements.</p> <p>Further, the Environmental Clearance has been accorded by MoEF&CC on 03.04.2025, valid up to 03.04.2026. In the absence of Stage-I Forest Clearance, the project will be unable to operationalise the EC, rendering the clearance liable to lapse. Such an outcome would result in irreversible regulatory and financial consequences, including loss of statutory approvals, derailment of mining operations, and adverse impact on power generation infrastructure of strategic and national importance.</p> <p>In this context, early consideration and approval of the proposal is critical to avoid cascading regulatory invalidation, ensure continuity of mining operations, and safeguard the intended utilisation of the allocated coal block in national interest.</p> <p>2. <u>Non-Availability of alternate Suitable Non-Forest Land for Overburden Dumping</u></p>	area earmarked for temporary OB dump may be revised to 162.8 ha. Revised land use map and undertaking submitted by user agency is enclosed as Annexure-I & II. This area may be allowed to be utilized in stages as per the necessity and tree felling in this area also to be done only, when necessary, after certifying by the Divisional Forest Officer.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project area is geographically constrained and site-specific, being surrounded on all sides by existing coal mining projects, coal blocks under development, and notified forest land, which severely limits the availability of alternative non-forest land for overburden (OB) management and to recast and rationalise the area proposed for overburden dumping. • The immediate land-use configuration around the coal block is as under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North: Aragundi and Rajbar coal blocks (under development) ○ South: Sikni coal block (operational) and Jagaldaga coal block, Goa coal block & Latehar coal block (under development) ○ West: Tubed coal block (operational) & Tubed west (under development) ○ East: Dense forest area, hilly terrain, and densely populated habitations ○ West: Tubed coal block (operational) • A location map indicating surrounding coal blocks and land-use features has been enclosed for ready reference. Additionally, several coal blocks in the wider region are at various stages of development, further constraining availability of suitable land. • In accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and applicable FC/EC guidelines, an exhaustive assessment of alternatives was undertaken to identify suitable non-forest land for external OB dumping. • The assessment conclusively establishes that no contiguous non-forest land of the requisite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areal extent, ○ Load-bearing capacity, ○ Suitable gradient and slope stability, and ○ Hydrological compatibility <p>Hence the proposed temporary OB dumping management is available within a technically feasible, economically viable, and environmentally acceptable lead distance, without causing additional ecological stress to nearby protected areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, and natural drainage systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of distant non-forest land would require long-lead haulage through ecologically sensitive and hydrologically active terrain, resulting in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased vehicular movement, ○ Higher fuel consumption and emissions, ○ Elevated safety risks, and ○ Additional environmental footprint, <p>which would be counter-productive to the principles of sustainable mining and environmental protection envisaged under the FC and EC frameworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of the above constraints, the proposed temporary overburden dumping arrangement is site-specific, unavoidable, and technically justified, with no viable non-forest alternative available. • The proposal strictly adheres to the principles of avoidance, minimisation, and mitigation, ensuring that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest land use is restricted to the absolute minimum extent, ○ Use is temporary and time-bound, and ○ Complete reclamation and restoration is assured as per the approved mining and reclamation plan. 	

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		<p>3. Clarification on DSS Analysis and Inviolate Status In reference to the observations of the Forest Advisory Committee at Sl. No. XV (iii) and (iv), and in line with the observations of the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, it is submitted that as per the Decision Support System (DSS) analysis, the proposed lease area of 1467.42 ha is classified as under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderately Dense Forest (MDF): 08 ha ○ Open Forest (OF): 91 ha ○ Non-Forest: 1348 ha ○ Water Bodies: 20 ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accordingly, the entire proposed lease area of 1467.42 ha, comprising the above forest cover classes, falls under the “Not Inviolate” category as per DSS analysis. • The proposal therefore does not involve diversion of inviolate forest areas, and is consistent with the DSS-based screening framework adopted by MoEF & CC. <p>It is also evident to mention here that the proposal has been already recommended by State Forest Dept and Regional MoEF & CC.</p>	
2	<p>Initially, mining is proposed to commence over an area of 727.24 ha, comprising 94.25 ha of forest land and 632.99 ha of non-forest land, for a mining period of 30 years, as per the approved mining plan. In this context, clarification is required as to why the instant proposal cannot be re-cast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha only.</p>	<p>As per the Approved Mining Plan, coal extraction is envisaged in a scientifically sequenced, phase-wise manner, aligned with approved pit geometry, slope stability norms, and optimal resource recovery principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase-I operations provide for extraction of approximately 250 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal, followed by Phase-II operations envisaging extraction of an additional ~100 MT of coal. • The total mineable lease area is 1467.42 ha, of which 515.32 ha of forest land (comprising Notified Forest and GMJJ/deemed forest land) forms an integral and inseparable part of the approved mine geometry. • The forest land proposed for diversion contains approximately 110 MT of geologically proved mineable coal reserves, as established through approved geological exploration and incorporated in the Mining Plan. • During Phase-I mining, out of the envisaged 250 MT coal production, approximately 60 MT of coal reserves are located beneath the proposed forest land. • During Phase-II mining, which envisages extraction of an additional ~100 MT, approximately 80 MT of coal reserves are also located beneath the same forest-bearing area, planned for extraction in the later stage. • In view of the approved mining methodology, pit design, and extraction sequencing, Phase-II operations cannot be operationalised without diversion of the forest land, and the coal seams underlying the forest area cannot be accessed independently or in isolation. • The approved mining scheme does not permit selective or fragmented extraction, as exclusion of coal-bearing forest patches would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disrupt the approved pit geometry and slope stability, ○ Compromise scientific mining principles, ○ Lead to unsafe working conditions, and ○ Result in sub-optimal and uneconomic recovery of coal. • In the absence of approval for diversion of the proposed 515.32 ha forest land, approximately 160 MT of geologically proved mineable coal reserves (comprising ~60 MT in Phase-I and ~100 MT in Phase-II) would be permanently locked and rendered inaccessible. 	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the DFO on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026. Further an undertaking has been submitted by User Agency in compliance of observation made by MoEF&CC about why the instant proposal cannot be recast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha. User Agency in its reply has submitted the detail of required area for mining-OB dump and other allied activities. An extent of 307.20 ha of forest land is proposed for diversion to be brought under temporary OB dump and claimed by the user agency to be mineralized zone that will be taken up for mining in phase 2. However, observation of in light raised by the MoEF, this proposed forest area for 'temporary OB dump' may be revised to 162.80 Ha (53% of originally proposed). The forest area is required for carrying out the mining, OB dump plus allied activities. Further, as stated in compliance no 1, the canopy opening for temporary OB dump should be permitted as per need in a staged manner</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such non-extraction would amount to irreversible sterilisation of a nationally important mineral resource, despite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Its inclusion in the Approved Mining Plan, ○ Availability of Environmental Clearance, and ○ Allocation of the coal block for a strategic power generation project. • Exclusion or elimination of any coal-bearing forest patch within the total mineable lease area of 1467.42 ha is not technically or operationally feasible, as it would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Render the sanctioned mining scheme unviable, ○ Compromise optimum resource recovery, and ○ Defeat the very purpose of scientific mine planning and phased extraction. • Accordingly, complete and integrated extraction of coal from the entire lease area is essential to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Optimal utilisation of coal resources, ○ Prevention of permanent resource sterilisation, and ○ Adherence to approved mining norms and safety standards. • In view of the above, diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land is unavoidable and essential for implementation of the Approved Mining Plan in a phased, safe, and scientific manner. • The proposal is fully aligned with the objectives and intent of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimises forest land requirement to the barest essential extent, ○ Prevents permanent loss of a critical national resource, and Balances conservation objectives with strategic energy security and public interest. 	<p>after the verification by the Divisional Forest Officer.</p>
3	<p>The State Govt. shall submit details of 94.82 ha of forest land for Undisturbed/Mining Rights for underground (UG) mining. A component wise map, KML file, subsidence prediction report in this regard may also be submitted.</p>	<p>The area shown under the category “Undisturbed / Mining Rights for Underground (UG) Mining” has been delineated strictly in accordance with the Approved Mining Plan, following the component-wise land-use classification prescribed by the Ministry of Coal.</p> <p>The said categorisation is for land-use accounting and mining rights protection only and shall not be construed as a proposal for underground mining operations under the present project.</p> <p>A total area of 219.68 ha, comprising 94.82 ha of forest land and 124.86 ha of non-forest land, has been identified under this component after due consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved pit geometry • Statutory safety barriers • Batters and slope stability norms • Haul roads and mine infrastructure • Mandatory safety and qualifying limits <p>The identified area does not constitute a single contiguous forest patch, but represents a cumulative and distributed land requirement essential to maintain the approved mine layout, safety buffers, and regulatory clearances.</p> <p>The land under this category is not proposed for surface disturbance, tree felling, or active mining operations, and is retained only to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard mining rights over coal-bearing strata, and • Ensure compliance with approved mine planning and safety norms. <p>Any relinquishment, reduction, or exclusion of land under this component would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require revision of the Approved Mining Plan, 	<p>Reply submitted by the DFO on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026, is mentioned as under- In component wise breakup land use plan User Agency has proposed for mining, underground mining over forest and non-forest area. But, the User Agency in their compliance stated that no underground mining is envisaged as per the approved mining plan</p> <p>which is a contradictory. Further, it is complied that the land has been kept undisturbed solely to maintain the shape of pit geometry, prevent slope failure and ensure overall mining safety. As per Para-7.4 (iv) (f) of the consolidated guidelines of MoEF&CC Gol 29.12.2023, mining operation and other</p>

SL. No.	EDS raised by GOI on 08.02.2026	Compliance submitted by User Agency	Comments of DFO, Latehar
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessitate fresh statutory approvals from the competent authority, and • Cause procedural delays and disruption of the approved mining sequence. <p>Such modification would compromise the technical integrity and regulatory validity of the sanctioned mining scheme, without yielding any additional forest conservation benefit. Accordingly, the land earmarked under “Undisturbed / Mining Rights for UG Mining” is site-specific, technically justified, and unavoidable, and forms an integral part of the Approved Mining Plan.</p> <p>Retention of this area is essential for ensuring the safe, scientific, and regulation-compliant conduct of mining operations, fully aligned with the objectives of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, while avoiding unnecessary re-planning or repeated diversion proposals.</p>	activities shall be carried out as per the land use allowed in the approval under the adhiniyam.
4	The State Govt. has revised the CA sites after the site inspection has been carried out by the Regional office, Ranchi of the Ministry. Therefore, the RO, Ranchi shall carry out the site inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and will submit its recommendation.	The User Agency shall coordinate with the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, in consultation with the State Forest Department, for field inspection / site visit of the revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land for further recommendation.	Reply submitted by the DFO on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026, is mentioned as under - Regional Office have carried out site inspection on 24-02-2026. During the site inspection it is found that in Mauza-Tasatbar afforestation work has already been done over an area of 10 hectare through another scheme. Therefore, revised KML file, Cadastral Survey map, DGPS Map, Toposheet map for 48.45 hectare of Mauza Tasatbar is being attached with revised cost estimate for CA.

अतः वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर से प्राप्त अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन की तीन-तीन प्रतियाँ इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर भेजते हुये अनुरोध है कि विषयगत प्रस्ताव पर आवश्यक कार्रवाई करने की कृपा की जाय।

अनु०:- यथोक्त।

आपका विश्वासी,

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

25/3/26
25-3



कार्यालय: वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर।

Office of Conservator of Forests, Territorial Circle, Medininagar.

ईमेल / Email: cfmedininagar@gmail.com

दूरभाष / Phone: 06562.224953, 8987790232

पत्रांक...189.../ दिनांक...23/03/2026.../

सेवा में,

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक,
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

लातेहार जिला अंतर्गत बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे0 वनभूमि
अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) के संबंध में।

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का फाईल नं0
08-18/2024-FC दिनांक 08.02.2026 एवं भवदीय का पत्रांक 198 दिनांक
12.03.2026 तथा वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल का पत्रांक
922 दिनांक 17.03.2026, पत्रांक 936 दिनांक 23.03.2026, इस कार्यालय का
पत्रांक 186 दिनांक 20.03.2026, क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक, पलामू का पत्रांक
410 दिनांक 19.03.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के आलोक में सूचित करना है कि वन प्रमण्डल
पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल (छाया प्रति संलग्न) द्वारा बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु वन भूमि
अपयोजन प्रस्ताव में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का पत्र
संख्या-फाईल नं0 08-18/2024-FC दिनांक 08.02.2026 द्वारा चार बिन्दुओं पर किये गये
पृच्छा का निराकरण प्रतिवेदन मंतव्य के साथ ऑनलाईन एवं हार्डकॉपी सात प्रतियों में उपलब्ध
कराया गया था, जिसे इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 156 दिनांक 10.03.2026 द्वारा भवदीय के
कार्यालय में समर्पित किया गया है।

उक्त समर्पित निराकरण प्रतिवेदन के संदर्भ में भवदीय के पत्रांक 198 दिनांक
12.03.2026 के द्वारा पुनः भारत सरकार द्वारा की गयी पृच्छा के अनुरूप प्रतिवेदन की मांग की
गयी है। उक्त आलोक में वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल ने अपने प्रासंगिक
पत्र (छाया प्रति संलग्न) द्वारा अपने मंतव्य के साथ अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन ऑनलाईन एवं हार्ड
कॉपी सात प्रतियों में उपलब्ध कराया है।

निराकरण प्रतिवेदन अग्रसारित करने के पूर्व इस कार्यालय का पत्रांक 176
दिनांक 19.03.2026 द्वारा संचिका अनुमोदन प्राप्त करने हेतु क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक, पलामू,
मेदिनीनगर को भेजी गयी थी, परन्तु क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक, पलामू, मेदिनीनगर ने अपने
पत्रांक 410 दिनांक 19.03.2026 द्वारा सूचित किया गया है कि वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी,
लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल के पत्रांक 922 दिनांक 17.03.2026 द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गये अनुपालन
प्रतिवेदन संतोषजनक नहीं है। भारत सरकार द्वारा की गयी पृच्छाओं से संबंधित स्पष्ट
अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन समर्पित करने का निर्देश दिया गया है।

उक्त निर्देश के आलोक में वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार ने अपने पत्रांक
936 दिनांक 23.03.2026 द्वारा अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन ऑनलाईन एवं हार्ड कॉपी सात प्रतियों में
उपलब्ध कराया है।

अतः वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल से प्राप्त अनुपालन
प्रतिवेदन की पाँच प्रतियाँ इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर भवदीय को भेजी जा रही है।

अनुलग्नक : यथोक्त।

आपका विश्वासी,

वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर।
B. S. S.



—: कार्यालय :—

वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल।

Email –dfo-latehar@gov.in

Mobile No. – 8987790240

Pin Code - 829206

पत्रांक.....१३६...../लातेहार, दिनांक...२३.०३.२०२४

सेवा में,

वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर।

विषय :-

लातेहार जिला अंतर्गत बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे० वनभूमि
अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) के संबंध में।

प्रसंग :-

आपका पत्रांक 168 दिनांक 20.03.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के संबंध में सूचित करना है कि भारत सरकार,
वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के द्वारा बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल
515.32 हे० हेतु वन भूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) में किये गये 04 बिन्दुओं
पर पृच्छा का निराकरण प्रतिवेदन Parivesh Portal-1 पर अपलोड करते हुए अधोहस्ताक्षरी का
मंतव्य अनुलग्नक सहित इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर भेजी जा रही है।

अतः सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित।

अनुलग्नक : यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन,

वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी,
लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल।

२३-३-२६





पतरातु विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड
PATRATU VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
(A subsidiary of NTPC in Joint Venture with JBVNL)
पतरातु / PATRATU

UNDERTAKING

PVUNL hereby undertakes that no underground mining is envisaged under the approved Mining Plan. Total area proposed for Forest Diversion is 515.32 ha. It comprises of followings:

1. Undisturbed area for maintaining overall mine safety, as well as for ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements for mining operations is 94.82 ha.
2. Forest land in excavation area is 94.25 ha.
3. Forest land in OB dump area is 307.2 ha.
4. Forest land in other ancillary areas in 19.05 ha.

Subodh John Purti
19/03/2026
(Subodh John Purti)

Sr. Manager

Banhardih Coal Mine, PVUNL

Signatory Authority from Banhardih Coal Mine

SUBODH JOHN PURTI
Sr. Manager (Civil/Coal Mine)
PATRATU VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
(A Subsidiary of NTPC Ltd. in Joint Venture with JBVNL)
Patratu, Dist.-Ramgarh-829119



पतरातु विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड
PATRATU VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
(A subsidiary of NTPC in Joint Venture with JBVNL)
पतरातु / PATRATU

UNDERTAKING

The Banhardih Coal Block is surrounded by other existing operational coal block, coal block under development, and notified forest land, which severely restricts the availability of suitable non-forest land for alternative OB dumping.

The immediate land-use configuration around the coal block is as follows:

- **North:** Aragundi and Rajbar coal blocks (under development)
- **South:** Sikni coal block (operational); Jagaldaga, Goa, and Latehar coal blocks (under development)
- **West:** Tubed coal block (operational) and Tubed West coal block (under development)
- **East:** Dense forest area and hilly terrain.

PVUNL hereby undertakes that no suitable non-forest land is available in the vicinity of the project area for OB dumping.

Subodh John Purti
19/03/2026

(Subodh John Purti)

Sr. Manager

Banhardih Coal Mine, PVUNL

Signatory Authority from Banhardih Coal Mine

SUBODH JOHN PURTI
Sr. Manager (Civil/Coal Mine)
PATRATU VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
(A Subsidiary of NTPC Ltd. in Joint Venture with JBVNL)
Patratu, Dist.-Ramgarh-829119

Submission of compliance w.r.t DFO Latehar vide letter no.613 dated 17.02.2026 and MoEF&CC letter no.8-18/2024-FC dated 08.02.2026.

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
01	<p>The user agency has proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land, out of which 307.20 ha is earmarked for overburden dumping. Since overburden dumping is a non-site-specific activity, the State Government is required to re-cast and rationalize the area proposed for overburden dumping. The user agency in consultation with the State Govt. shall explore the non-forest land nearby for such activity.</p>	<p>Essentiality and urgent requirement of the 515.32 Ha area for exclusive Mining in phases and interim OB dump within Coal Block area.</p> <p>It is submitted that the proposed diversion of 515.32 ha is exclusively for mining purposes. Due to land constraints, mining operations are planned to be undertaken in phases. Phase-I covering 208.12 ha of forest land and Phase II covering 307.20 ha of forest land. The proposed area is site-specific and technically unavoidable in view of the approved mine layout and sequencing.</p> <p>A total of approximately 1,173 million cubic metres of OB is proposed to be managed systematically within the mining area. Upon creation of adequate internal voids through progressive mining, the OB will be rehandled and backfilled in a phased manner, followed by extraction of the underlying coal seams to sustain the coal requirement of the power plant During Phase I of mining, about 322.76 million cubic metres of OB will be placed as an interim measure. This material will subsequently be rehandled for backfilling of the voids created in the initial phase of mining. The remaining approximately 832.30 million cubic metres of OB is proposed to be accommodated through continuous in-pit dumping.</p> <p>The overburden (OB) dumping scheme has been designed to minimise ecological impact by accommodating the OB within the coal block and the designated mineable area, thereby preventing disturbance to the natural ecosystem outside the mining lease area and significantly minimising potential environmental impacts such as dust generation, increased fuel consumption, and vehicular emissions in the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Considering the coal requirement of more than 12 MTPA for the power plant already in operation, the interim OB dumping area is planned to be excavated around 10th Year from the commencement of mining operations, on an urgent basis. This is essential to ensure uninterrupted</p>	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the undersigned on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026. Further an undertaking has been submitted by User Agency in compliance of observation made by MoEF&CC about the rationale behind the large extent the forest land set aside for use as temporary OB dump. The user agency in its reply has submitted an undertaking stating there is no non-forest land available for dumping of overburden nearby the lease area and the area set aside for temporary OB dump shall be brought under mining in future.</p> <p>The 307.20 ha of forest area earmarked for temporary OB dump may be revised to 162.8 ha. Revised land use map and undertaking submitted by user agency is enclosed as Annexure-I & II. This area may be allowed to be utilized in stages as per the necessity and tree felling in this area also</p>

<u>Sl</u>	<u>Compliance Sought</u>	<u>Submission by User Agency</u>	<u>DFO Comment</u>
		<p>coal supply to the plant in conformity with the Approved Mining Plan to sustain the Plant requirement.</p> <p>All operations shall be undertaken with due adherence to environmental safeguards, including benched dumping, construction of garland drains, slope stabilisation, and progressive reclamation.</p> <p>The proposed diversion of forest land of 515.32 Ha is integral to the approved mining methodology is an essential and technically unavoidable operational activity without any permanent sterilisation of coal resources.</p> <p><u>Non-Availability of alternate suitable Non-Forest Land for Overburden Dumping</u></p> <p>It is submitted that the coal block is geographically constrained and inherently site-specific. The area is surrounded by existing operational mines, coal blocks under development, and notified forest land, which severely restricts the availability of suitable non-forest land for alternative OB dumping or for rationalisation of the proposed dumping area.</p> <p>The immediate land-use configuration around the coal block is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North: Aragundi and Rajbar coal blocks (under development) • South: Sikni coal block (operational); Jagaldaga, Goa, and Latehar coal blocks (under development) • West: Tubed coal block (operational) and Tubed West coal block (under development) • East: Dense forest area, hilly terrain, and densely populated habitations <p>A location map (Annexure-A) showing the surrounding coal blocks and land-use features has been enclosed for ready reference. In addition, several other coal blocks in the broader region are at various stages of development, further constraining the availability of suitable land. An exhaustive assessment of alternatives was undertaken to identify</p>	<p>to be done only, when necessary, after certifying by the Divisional Forest Officer.</p>


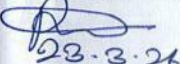
SI	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<p>contiguous non-forest land for external OB dumping; however, the assessment conclusively establishes that no such land is available without causing additional ecological stress to nearby protected areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, and natural drainage systems.</p> <p>With reference to the observations of the Forest Advisory Committee regarding DSS Analysis and Inviolable Status (SI. No. XV (iii) and (iv)), and in line with the observations of the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, it is submitted that as per the Decision Support System (DSS) analysis, the proposed mineable area of 1467.42 ha is classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately Dense Forest (MDF): 08 ha • Open Forest (OF): 91 ha • Non-Forest Land: 1348 ha • Water Bodies: 20 ha <p>Accordingly, the entire proposed mineable area of 1467.42 ha falls under the “Not Inviolable” category as per DSS analysis.</p> <p>It is also of critical importance to highlight that the Banhardih Coal Mining Project was allocated on 25.06.2018 to meet the coal requirement of 3 × 800 MW units of PVUNL, thereby forming a vital component of regional and national power security.</p> <p>The Stage-I Forest Clearance application, submitted on 18.09.2021, has been duly scrutinised, vetted, and recommended by all concerned authorities, including the State Forest Department & region office MEOF &CC. However, despite the lapse of nearly four years, the Stage-I Forest Clearance is still awaited.</p> <p>During the most recent review meeting of the Ministry of Coal held on 25.11.2025, a termination notice for the coal block has been issued, citing inefficiency parameters directly attributable to the non-grant of Forest Clearance rather than any deficiency on the part of the project proponent. Continued delay poses an imminent risk of cancellation of the coal block,</p>	

<u>Sl</u>	<u>Compliance Sought</u>	<u>Submission by User Agency</u>	<u>DFO Comment</u>
		<p>despite full compliance with all statutory and technical requirements.</p> <p>Further, Environmental Clearance was accorded by MoEF&CC on 03.04.2025, valid up to 03.04.2026. In the absence of Stage-I Forest Clearance, the project will be unable to operationalise the Environmental Clearance, rendering it liable to lapse. Such an eventuality would result in serious and irreversible regulatory and financial consequences, including loss of statutory approvals, disruption of mining operations, and adverse impact on power generation infrastructure of strategic and national importance.</p> <p>In view of the above, early consideration and approval of the proposal is critically required to prevent cascading regulatory invalidation, ensure continuity of mining operations, and safeguard the intended utilisation of the allocated coal block in the larger national interest.</p>	
02	<p>Initially, mining is proposed to commence over an area of 727.24 ha, comprising 94.25 ha of forest land and 632.99 ha of non-forest land, for a mining period of 30 years, as per the approved mining plan. In this context, clarification is required as to why the instant proposal cannot be</p>	<p>As per the Approved Mining Plan, coal extraction has been designed in a scientifically sequenced, phase-wise manner, in conformity with the approved pit geometry, slope stability criteria, and principles of optimal resource recovery. The proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land is exclusively for mining purposes. Owing to land constraints, mining operations are planned to be undertaken in phases. Phase I covering 208.12 ha of forest land and Phase II covering 307.20 ha of forest land. The total mineable area of the project is 1467.42 ha, out of which 515.32 ha of forest land (comprising Notified Forest and GMJJ/deemed forest land) constitutes an integral and inseparable component of the approved mine geometry.</p> <p>Phase I operations envisage extraction of approximately 250 million tonnes (MT) of coal, whereas Phase II operations provide for extraction of an additional ~100 MT of coal. During Phase I, out of the planned 250 MT production, around 60 MT of coal reserves lie beneath the proposed forest land. Similarly, during Phase II, approximately 80 MT of coal reserves</p>	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the undersigned on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026. Further an undertaking has been submitted by User Agency in compliance of observation made by MoEF&CC about why the instant proposal cannot be recast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha. User Agency in its reply has submitted the detail of required area for mining-OB dump and other allied activities. An extent of 307.20 ha of forest land is proposed for diversion to be brought under</p>

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
	<p>re-cast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha only.</p>	<p>underlying the same forest-bearing area are proposed to be extracted in order to sustain the coal requirement of the plant in operation.</p> <p>In line with the approved mining methodology, pit design, and extraction sequence, the substantial overburden (OB) handling requirements necessitate early commencement of mining to ensure a sustainable supply to the plant. Sustained operations cannot be maintained without diversion of the entire proposed forest land of 515.32 Ha, as the coal seams beneath the forest area are integral to the approved mine plan and cannot be mined independently or in isolation.</p> <p>Further, the approved mining scheme does not permit selective or fragmented extraction, as exclusion of coal-bearing forest patches would disrupt the approved pit geometry and slope stability, Compromise scientific mining principles, Lead to unsafe working conditions, and result in sub-optimal and uneconomic recovery of coal. In the absence of approval for diversion of the proposed 515.32 ha forest land, approximately 160 MT of geologically proved mineable coal reserves (comprising ~60 MT in Phase-I and ~80 MT in Phase-II) would be permanently locked and rendered inaccessible.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the Approved Mining Plan serves as the fundamental document for project execution. Various statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance, NOC for nallah and canal diversion, and NOC for groundwater abstraction, have already been obtained based on the existing Approved Mining Plan.</p> <p>Any revision to the Approved Mining Plan would necessitate fresh applications for all such statutory clearances, which have been secured over the past four years.</p> <p>So, it is requested for exclusion or elimination of any coal-bearing forest patch within the total mineable area of 1467.42 ha is not technically or</p>	<p>temporary OB dump and claimed by the user agency to be mineralized zone that will be taken up for mining in phase 2. However, in light of observation raised by the MoEF, this proposed forest area for 'temporary OB dump' may be revised to 162.80 Ha (53% of originally proposed). The forest area is required for carrying out the mining, OB dump plus allied activities. Further, as stated in compliance no 1, the canopy opening for temporary OB dump should be permitted as per need in a staged manner after the verification by the Divisional Forest Officer.</p>

<u>Sl</u>	<u>Compliance Sought</u>	<u>Submission by User Agency</u>	<u>DFO Comment</u>
		<p>operationally feasible.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the present proposal for diversion of 515.32 Ha of Forest land has been reviewed and positively recommended by chain of officers and authorities including State Govt and Region office MOEF &CC.</p>	
03	<p>The State Govt. shall submit details of 94.82 ha of forest land for Undisturbed/Mining Rights for underground (UG) mining. A component wise map, KML file, subsidence prediction report in this regard may also be submitted.</p>	<p>It is submitted that no underground mining is envisaged as per the approved Mining Plan. The area has been kept undisturbed solely to maintain safe pit geometry, prevent slope failure, and ensure overall mining safety in accordance with stable techno-geometrical parameters. The area categorized as "Undisturbed / Mining Rights for Underground (UG) Mining" has been delineated strictly in line with the component-wise land-use classification format prescribed in the Approved Mining Plan by the Ministry of Coal.</p> <p>Further, the above categorisation is for land-use accounting and mining rights protection only and shall not be construed as a proposal for underground mining operations under the present project.</p> <p>The area of 219.68 ha, comprising 94.82 ha of forest land and 124.86 ha of non-forest land, has been identified under this component after due consideration of Approved pit geometry, Statutory safety barriers, Batters and slope stability norms, Haul roads and mine infrastructure, Mandatory safety and qualifying limits.</p> <p>It is imperative to mention here that the identified area does not constitute a single contiguous forest patch but represents a cumulative and distributed land requirement essential to maintain the approved mine layout, safety buffers, and regulatory clearances.</p> <p>Any relinquishment, reduction, or exclusion of land under this component would require revision of the Approved Mining Plan, necessitate fresh statutory approvals from the competent authority, and cause procedural delays and disruption of the approved mining sequence.</p> <p>Such modification would compromise the technical integrity and regulatory validity of the sanctioned mining scheme, without yielding any</p>	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the undersigned on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026.</p>

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<p>additional forest conservation benefit.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is proposed for retention of this area is essential for ensuring the safe, scientific, and regulation-compliant conduct of mining operations.</p>	
04	<p>The State Govt. has revised the CA sites after the site inspection has been carried out by the Regional office, Ranchi of the Ministry. Therefore, the RO, Ranchi shall carry out the site inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and will submit its recommendation.</p>	<p>The User Agency shall coordinate with the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, in consultation with the State Forest Department, for field inspection / site visit of the revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land for further recommendation.</p>	<p>Earlier reply was submitted by the undersigned on 28-02-2026 and 17-03-2026.</p>


 Divisional Forest Officer
 Latehar Forest Division.

 23-3-26



कार्यालय: वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर।

Office of Conservator of Forests, Territorial Circle, Medininagar.

ईमेल / Email: cfmedininagar@gmail.com

दूरभाष / Phone: 06562.224953, 8987790232

693

पत्रांक 156 / दिनांक 10.03.2026

सेवा में,

प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक,
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

विषय :-

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land for Banhardi Coal Mining Project in favour of M/s. Patratu Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in Latehar District in Jharkhand (Online Proposal No.FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021)-regarding.

प्रसंग :-

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का फाईल नं० 08-18/2024-FC दिनांक 08.02.2026 एवं भवदीय का ज्ञापांक 126 दिनांक 16.02.2026 तथा वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल का पत्रांक 735 दिनांक 28.02.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के आलोक में वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल ने अपने प्रासंगिक पत्र (छाया प्रति संलग्न) द्वारा बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु वन भूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का पत्र संख्या फाईल नं० 08 18/2024 FC दिनांक 08.02.2026 द्वारा चार बिन्दुओं पर किये गये पृच्छा का निराकरण प्रतिवेदन मंतव्य के साथ ऑनलाईन एवं हार्डकॉपी सात प्रतियों में उपलब्ध कराया है।

निराकरण प्रतिवेदन अग्रसारित करने के पूर्व संचिका के माध्यम से क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक, पलामू, मेदिनीनगर से अनुमोदन प्राप्त है।

अतः वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमण्डल द्वारा प्राप्त निराकरण प्रतिवेदन की पॉच प्रतियाँ इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर भवदीय को भेजी जा रही है।

अनुलग्नक : यथोक्त।

आपका विश्वासी,

वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, मेदिनीनगर।
Bunig
10/31/26

672

Submission of compliance w.r.t DFO Latehar vide letter no.613 dated 17.02.2026 and MoEF&CC letter no.8-18/2024-FC dated 08.02.2026.

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
01	<p>The user agency has proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land, out of which 307.20 ha is earmarked for overburden dumping. Since overburden dumping is a non-site-specific activity, the State Government is required to re-cast and rationalize the area proposed for overburden dumping. The user agency in consultation with the State Govt. shall explore the non-forest land nearby for such activity.</p>	<p>Essentiality and urgent requirement of the 515.32 Ha area for exclusive Mining in phases and interim OB dump within Coal Block area.</p> <p>It is submitted that the proposed diversion of 515.32 ha is exclusively for mining purposes. Due to land constraints, mining operations are planned to be undertaken in phases. Phase-I covering 208.12 ha of forest land and Phase II covering 307.20 ha of forest land. The proposed area is site-specific and technically unavoidable in view of the approved mine layout and sequencing.</p> <p>A total of approximately 1,173 million cubic metres of OB is proposed to be managed systematically within the mining area. Upon creation of adequate internal voids through progressive mining, the OB will be rehandled and backfilled in a phased manner, followed by extraction of the underlying coal seams to sustain the coal requirement of the power plant During Phase I of mining, about 322.76 million cubic metres of OB will be placed as an interim measure. This material will subsequently be rehandled for backfilling of the voids created in the initial phase of mining. The remaining approximately 832.30 million cubic metres of OB is proposed to be accommodated through continuous in-pit dumping.</p> <p>The overburden (OB) dumping scheme has been designed to minimise ecological impact by accommodating the OB within the coal block and the designated mineable area, thereby preventing disturbance to the natural ecosystem outside the mining lease area and significantly minimising potential environmental impacts such as dust generation, increased fuel consumption, and vehicular emissions in the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Considering the coal requirement of more than 12 MTPA for the</p>	<p>The total mining lease area is 1467.42 ha. Out of which, 515.32 ha is forest land and 952.10 ha is non-forest land. The prospecting operation to work out the detailed coal reserve within the mining lease has not been taken up so far. Without taking up detail prospecting, it is very difficult to estimate the actual coal reserve in the mining lease. It is reported by User Agency that maximum coal deposit is concentrated in the Central and Eastern part of the lease. Hence, without taking up complete prospecting work, it is difficult to workout the excavation area to exploit complete minerals.</p> <p>Further, as per the land use proposed in the mining plan, the mining will take up in two phases. Large chunk of non-forest land over 952.10 ha is available within the mining lease. Out of</p>

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<p>power plant already in operation, the interim OB dumping area is planned to be excavated around 10th Year from the commencement of mining operations, on an urgent basis. This is essential to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to the plant in conformity with the Approved Mining Plan to sustain the Plant requirement.</p> <p>All operations shall be undertaken with due adherence to environmental safeguards, including benched dumping, construction of garland drains, slope stabilisation, and progressive reclamation.</p> <p>The proposed diversion of forest land of 515.32 Ha is integral to the approved mining methodology is an essential and technically unavoidable operational activity without any permanent sterilisation of coal resources.</p> <p><u>Non-Availability of alternate suitable Non-Forest Land for Overburden Dumping</u></p> <p>It is submitted that the coal block is geographically constrained and inherently site-specific. The area is surrounded by existing operational mines, coal blocks under development, and notified forest land, which severely restricts the availability of suitable non-forest land for alternative OB dumping or for rationalisation of the proposed dumping area.</p> <p>The immediate land-use configuration around the coal block is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North: Aragundi and Rajbar coal blocks (under development) • South: Sikni coal block (operational); Jagaldaga, Goa, and Latehar coal blocks (under development) • West: Tubed coal block (operational) and Tubed West coal block (under development) 	<p>which, it is prescribed that 164.91 ha of non-forest land shall remain undisturbed. It would be worthy to utilize the non-forest land for OB dump instead of utilizing forest land for the purpose.</p> <p>In this context, it would have been better if User Agency goes for detail prospecting before starting mining operation as per approved mining plan. If mining operation shall be allowed in the detailed survey area, then it would be appropriate to utilize the non-forest land as OB dump.</p>

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Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East: Dense forest area, hilly terrain, and densely populated habitations <p>A location map (Annexure-A) showing the surrounding coal blocks and land-use features has been enclosed for ready reference. In addition, several other coal blocks in the broader region are at various stages of development, further constraining the availability of suitable land. An exhaustive assessment of alternatives was undertaken to identify contiguous non-forest land for external OB dumping; however, the assessment conclusively establishes that no such land is available without causing additional ecological stress to nearby protected areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, and natural drainage systems.</p> <p>With reference to the observations of the Forest Advisory Committee regarding DSS Analysis and Inviolate Status (Sl. No. XV (iii) and (iv)), and in line with the observations of the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, it is submitted that as per the Decision Support System (DSS) analysis, the proposed mineable area of 1467.42 ha is classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderately Dense Forest (MDF): 08 ha• Open Forest (OF): 91 ha• Non-Forest Land: 1348 ha• Water Bodies: 20 ha <p>Accordingly, the entire proposed mineable area of 1467.42 ha falls under the "Not Inviolate" category as per DSS analysis.</p> <p>It is also of critical importance to highlight that the Banhardih Coal Mining Project was allocated on 25.06.2018 to meet the coal requirement of 3 × 800 MW units of PVUNL, thereby forming a vital component of regional and national power security.</p> <p>The Stage-I Forest Clearance application, submitted on 18.09.2021, has been duly scrutinised, vetted, and recommended by all</p>	

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<p>concerned authorities, including the State Forest Department & region office MEOF &CC. However, despite the lapse of nearly four years, the Stage-I Forest Clearance is still awaited.</p> <p>During the most recent review meeting of the Ministry of Coal held on 25.11.2025, a termination notice for the coal block has been issued, citing inefficiency parameters directly attributable to the non-grant of Forest Clearance rather than any deficiency on the part of the project proponent. Continued delay poses an imminent risk of cancellation of the coal block, despite full compliance with all statutory and technical requirements.</p> <p>Further, Environmental Clearance was accorded by MoEF&CC on 03.04.2025, valid up to 03.04.2026. In the absence of Stage-I Forest Clearance, the project will be unable to operationalise the Environmental Clearance, rendering it liable to lapse. Such an eventuality would result in serious and irreversible regulatory and financial consequences, including loss of statutory approvals, disruption of mining operations, and adverse impact on power generation infrastructure of strategic and national importance.</p> <p>In view of the above, early consideration and approval of the proposal is critically required to prevent cascading regulatory invalidation, ensure continuity of mining operations, and safeguard the intended utilisation of the allocated coal block in the larger national interest.</p>	
02	Initially, mining is proposed to commence over an area of 727.24 ha, comprising 94.25 ha	As per the Approved Mining Plan, coal extraction has been designed in a scientifically sequenced, phase-wise manner, in conformity with the approved pit geometry, slope stability criteria, and principles of optimal resource recovery. The proposed diversion of 515.32 ha of forest land is exclusively for mining purposes. Owing to land	It is stated by the User Agency that selective or fragmented extraction of coal bearing forest patches would disrupt the approved pit geometry and slope

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Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
	<p>of forest land and 632.99 ha of non-forest land, for a mining period of 30 years, as per the approved mining plan. In this context, clarification is required as to why the instant proposal cannot be re-cast by limiting the forest land proposed for diversion to 94.25 ha only.</p>	<p>constraints, mining operations are planned to be undertaken in phases. Phase I covering 208.12 ha of forest land and Phase II covering 307.20 ha of forest land.</p> <p>The total mineable area of the project is 1467.42 ha, out of which 515.32 ha of forest land (comprising Notified Forest and GMJJ/deemed forest land) constitutes an integral and inseparable component of the approved mine geometry.</p> <p>Phase I operations envisage extraction of approximately 250 million tonnes (MT) of coal, whereas Phase II operations provide for extraction of an additional ~100 MT of coal. During Phase I, out of the planned 250 MT production, around 60 MT of coal reserves lie beneath the proposed forest land. Similarly, during Phase II, approximately 80 MT of coal reserves underlying the same forest-bearing area are proposed to be extracted in order to sustain the coal requirement of the plant in operation.</p> <p>In line with the approved mining methodology, pit design, and extraction sequence, the substantial overburden (OB) handling requirements necessitate early commencement of mining to ensure a sustainable supply to the plant. Sustained operations cannot be maintained without diversion of the entire proposed forest land of 515.32 Ha, as the coal seams beneath the forest area are integral to the approved mine plan and cannot be mined independently or in isolation.</p> <p>Further, the approved mining scheme does not permit selective or fragmented extraction, as exclusion of coal-bearing forest patches would disrupt the approved pit geometry and slope stability, Compromise scientific mining principles, Lead to unsafe working conditions, and result in sub-optimal and uneconomic recovery of</p>	<p>stability which is not correct. Because, previously it is stated that the mining operation shall be taken up in two phases. If the pit geometry will be disturbed, how the mining work would be taken in two phases. It would not be proper to accept the non-surveyed forest area as mineral deposit area. Hence, the mining should be confined to 94.25 ha in the 1st phase as applied earlier.</p>

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
		<p>coal. In the absence of approval for diversion of the proposed 515.32 ha forest land, approximately 160 MT of geologically proved mineable coal reserves (comprising ~60 MT in Phase-I and ~80 MT in Phase-II) would be permanently locked and rendered inaccessible.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the Approved Mining Plan serves as the fundamental document for project execution. Various statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance, NOC for nallah and canal diversion, and NOC for groundwater abstraction, have already been obtained based on the existing Approved Mining Plan. Any revision to the Approved Mining Plan would necessitate fresh applications for all such statutory clearances, which have been secured over the past four years.</p> <p>So, it is requested for exclusion or elimination of any coal-bearing forest patch within the total mineable area of 1467.42 ha is not technically or operationally feasible.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the present proposal for diversion of 515.32 Ha of Forest land has been reviewed and positively recommended by chain of officers and authorities including State Govt and Region office MOEF &CC.</p>	
03	<p>The State Govt. shall submit details of 94.82 ha of forest land for Undisturbed/Mining Rights for underground (UG) mining. A component wise</p>	<p>It is submitted that no underground mining is envisaged as per the approved Mining Plan. The area has been kept undisturbed solely to maintain safe pit geometry, prevent slope failure, and ensure overall mining safety in accordance with stable techno-geometrical parameters.</p> <p>The area categorized as "Undisturbed / Mining Rights for Underground (UG) Mining" has been delineated strictly in line with the component-wise land-use classification format prescribed in the</p>	<p>In component wise breakup land use plan User Agency has proposed for mining, underground mining over forest and non-forest area. But, the User Agency in their compliance stated that no underground mining is envisaged as per the approved mining plan</p>

Sl	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
	<p>map, KML file, subsidence prediction report in this regard may also be submitted.</p>	<p>Approved Mining Plan by the Ministry of Coal.</p> <p>Further, the above categorisation is for land-use accounting and mining rights protection only and shall not be construed as a proposal for underground mining operations under the present project.</p> <p>The area of 219.68 ha, comprising 94.82 ha of forest land and 124.86 ha of non-forest land, has been identified under this component after due consideration of Approved pit geometry, Statutory safety barriers, Batters and slope stability norms, Haul roads and mine infrastructure, Mandatory safety and qualifying limits.</p> <p>It is imperative to mention here that the identified area does not constitute a single contiguous forest patch but represents a cumulative and distributed land requirement essential to maintain the approved mine layout, safety buffers, and regulatory clearances.</p> <p>Any relinquishment, reduction, or exclusion of land under this component would require revision of the Approved Mining Plan, necessitate fresh statutory approvals from the competent authority, and cause procedural delays and disruption of the approved mining sequence.</p> <p>Such modification would compromise the technical integrity and regulatory validity of the sanctioned mining scheme, without yielding any additional forest conservation benefit.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is proposed for retention of this area is essential for ensuring the safe, scientific, and regulation-compliant conduct of mining operations.</p>	<p>which is a contradictory. Further, it is complied that the land has been kept undisturbed solely to maintain the shape of pit geometry, prevent slope failure and ensure overall mining safety. As per Para-7.4 (iv) (f) of the consolidated guidelines of MoEF&CC, Gol dated 29.12.2023, mining operation and other activities shall be carried out as per the land use allowed in the approval under the adhiniyam.</p>

SI	Compliance Sought	Submission by User Agency	DFO Comment
04	The State Govt. has revised the CA sites after the site inspection has been carried out by the Regional office, Ranchi of the Ministry. Therefore, the RO, Ranchi shall carry out the site inspection of the newly proposed CA sites and will submit its recommendation.	The User Agency shall coordinate with the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, in consultation with the State Forest Department, for field inspection / site visit of the revised Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land for further recommendation.	Regional Office have carried out site inspection on 24-02-2026. During the site inspection it is found that in Mauza-Tasatbar afforestation work has already been done over an area of 10 hectare through another scheme. Therefore, revised KML file, Cadastral Survey map, DGPS Map, Toposheet map for 48.45 hectare of Mauza Tasatbar is being attached with revised cost estimate for CA.


 Divisional Forest Officer
 Latehar Forest Division.

28.2.26

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कार्यालय : प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक,
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

वन भवन, डोरण्डा, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन-834002, Email : pccf-ednodal@gov.in

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पत्रांक :- 198

दिनांक :- 12/3/26

सेवा में,

वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल,
मेदिनीनगर।

विषय :- लातेहार जिला अंतर्गत बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे0 वनभूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) के संबंध में।

प्रसंग :- 1. भारत सरकार, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के पत्रांक 8-18/2024-FC दिनांक 08.02.2026
2. आपका पत्रांक 156 दिनांक 10.03.2026

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक संदर्भ में सूचित करना है कि भारत सरकार, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के प्रासंगिक पत्र-1 द्वारा बनहरदी कोल ब्लॉक हेतु कुल 515.32 हे0 के हेतु वनभूमि अपयोजन प्रस्ताव (FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021) में 4 बिन्दुओं पर की गयी है। उक्त की गयी पृच्छाओं के अनुरूप आपके पत्रांक 156 दिनांक 10.03.2026 द्वारा निराकरण समर्पित नहीं है।

अतः अनुरोध है कि भारत सरकार के प्रसंगाधीन पत्र द्वारा की गयी पृच्छाओं के अनुरूप अनुपालन प्रतिवेदन शीघ्र इस कार्यालय को उपलब्ध कराने की कृपा की जाय।

आपका विश्वासी,

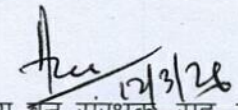
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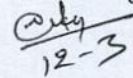
प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।

ज्ञापांक :- 198

दिनांक :- 12/3/26

प्रतिलिपि:- क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक, पलामू/वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, लातेहार वन प्रमंडल, लातेहार को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु प्रेषित।


प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक,
बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, राँची।


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