

कार्यालय :वन संरक्षक, प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।

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पत्रांक- 421

दिनांक- 25/5/2023

सेवा में,

क्षेत्रीय मुख्य वन संरक्षक,
संथाल परगना, दुमका।

विषय :-

Proposal for the non-forest use of 455.1108 ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Block project in favour of M/S Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited for Pachwara South Opencast Mining Project, District Dumka, (Jharkhand) - regarding.

प्रसंग :-

Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi के पत्र संख्या-8-37/2022-FC दिनांक-14.01.2023 तथा प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक, बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड, झारखण्ड, रांची का ज्ञापांक-81 दिनांक-25.01.2023

महाशय,

उपर्युक्त विषयक प्रासंगिक पत्र के संबंध में सूचित करना है कि Proposal for the non-forest use of 455.1108 ha of forest land for Pachwara South Coal Block project in favour of M/S Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited for Pachwara South Opencast Mining Project में Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) New Delhi के पत्र संख्या-8-37/2022-FC दिनांक-14.01.2023 द्वारा कुल आठ पृष्ठों की गयी थी, जिसका निराकरण प्रतिवेदन वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, दुमका के पत्रांक-1781 दिनांक-20.05.2023 से समर्पित किया गया है, जो बिन्दुवार निम्नवत् है :-

Sl No.	Observation	Compliance Report	Annexure	Page no.
1	2	3	4	5
i.	Part-I submitted online indicates the forest areas involved in the proposal as 398.3243 ha as well as 455.1108 ha. This discrepancy may be rectified and correct area may be indicated in the Part-II by the DFC concerned. Further current status of progress of the settlement proceedings after notification under section -4 of the IFA may also be informed by the State.	The discrepancy in the area has been rectified. Area of forest land proposed for diversion is 455.1108 Ha. It is now same in Part-I and Part-II both. The section 4 notification is of the year 1944. Information regarding the progress of the status of settlement proceedings is not available with the division.	-	-
ii.	Examination of the area proposed for diversion and for raising CA, using DSS tools, revealed the following:			
a.	Analysis of the area proposed for diversion, using DSS tools, revealed a road in the area proposed for diversion. The State Government may inform if diversion of said road has been proposed to ensure connectivity or otherwise.	The existing road connecting the three villages namely Mahuldabar, Kundapahari and Chirudih are under active consideration for resettlement and within the leasehold area of Pachwara South Coal Block (PSCB). These villages will be resettled in due course of the mining operations of Pachwara South Coal block. Project proponent has proposed a diversion road from the western part of mine boundary, moving along the northern boundary and will connect the eastern most part of the block in Chirudih village. Thus, the diversion of this road will not affect the local habitats due to mining operations in Pachwara South Coal block. A conceptual plan is furnished in the approved mining plan is enclosed.	Annexure-I	7

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Sl No.	Observation	Compliance Report	Annexure	Page no.
1	2	3	4	5
b.	Further analysis of Google Satellite Imageries of CA sites reveals signs of cultivation, plantation, roads, structures, water bodies, etc. at certain sites. The State Government may submit its comments on the observation made in the DSS report (copy enclosed) and the suitability of sites may, accordingly, be revisited.	<p>Comments on the observations made in the DSS report by Dumka Forest Division/ Deoghar Forest Division & Sahibganj Forest Division is enclosed.</p> <p>Suitability of some sites have been revisited. KML files, estimates, maps along with the suitability certificates for the additional 71.458 Ha. are attached.</p>	Annexure-II	8-13
c.	Detail of degraded forest land identified for raising afforestation in lieu of forest area of 8.5003 ha located in the safety zone area needs to be provided along with supporting attributes such as scheme of afforestation, KML/Shape files, suitability certificate, etc.	<p>Total quantum of forest land within the Pachwara South Coal Block including safety zone comes to about 455.1108 ha. Total safety zone as per approved mining plan is 10.84 ha which involves 8.5003 ha of forest land. Diversion proposal is being prepared considering total forest land involved in the project, i.e 455.1108 ha.</p> <p>CA schemes are prepared for 910.2216 ha of land in accordance with the provisions for providing Double the Degraded Forest Land.</p> <p>No consideration or relaxation has been sorted in the diversion proposal for the undisturbed safety zone (forest area). in the KML</p>	Annexure-IV	47 & CD
d.	KML file depicting the various project components with proper indexing may be submitted by the State.	Furnished as in the KML.	Annexure-IV	CD
ii.	As Schedule-I species have been reported in the area and CF also mentioned the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, 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 needs to be furnished by the State. Further, comments may also be furnished on the adequacy of mitigation measures like Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan or Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management proposed for the area.	<p>The Forest area proposed for diversion is situated within the Elephant Migration route along the contiguous landscape of Damin-i-Koh from Kathikund & Gopikandar Forests (biggest forest block, the Old Reserve Block) to the Amrapara Forest (of Pakur Forest Division) & Sundarpahari Forests (of Godda Forest Division) and at the confluence of Bansloi River. The proposed diversion shall be causing hindrance to the free movement of elephants from one forest tract to another. The advent of Open Cast Mining would not only further disturb the ecological stability and landscape continuity but also lead to the dissection of contiguous patches. Thus, there should be adequate measures to safeguard the traditional migration route of wild elephants.</p> <p>In order to minimize man-animal conflict in general and man-elephant conflict in particular, along with furthering the cause of conservation of elephant and its associated habitat, while maintaining the structural and functional integrity of the eco-system, it is very much necessary to protect the precious habitat from fragmentation, degradation, and destruction.</p> <p>As implementation of Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management is a time taking process hence it would be advisable to implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Management Plan along with the Catchment Area Treatment plan concurrently with the mining operations.</p>	-	-

12

SI No.	Observation	Compliance Report	Annexure	Page no.
1	2	3	4	5
		<p>It is also important to continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these mitigation measures over time to ensure that they remain adequate and effective. The necessary changes in the plan with time would be proposed either in the existing site-specific wildlife management plan or they will be added in the Comprehensive wildlife management plan later on.</p> <p>The plans submitted by the User agency are acceptable. As the plans are tentative in nature hence the duration and costs of the plans would vary at the time of the finalization of plans. The user agency has submitted an undertaking in this regard.</p>	Annexure-V	48
iii.	The authorities in the State Forest Department have recommended preparation of various Plans and their implementation either before or concurrently with the mining operations. Detail of such plans, in tabular form indicating clearly against them, their tentative cost, time required for preparation and duration of implementation, etc. need to be furnished by the State.	The required document is attached.	Annexure-VI	49
iv.	Quantitative details of deaths of human and elephants in Dumka, Pakur and Godda in last five years may be furnished by the State along with details of existing and proposed elephant corridors in the landscape.	The required document is attached.	Annexure-VII	50
v.	Mining plan has not been uploaded on the online proposal. The same need to be uploaded online.	Mining plan is uploaded in online proposal & Document is attached.	Annexure-VIII	51
vi.	The examination of land use proposed in the proposal and in the Mining Plan revealed the following:			
a.	Area required for dumping/backfilling is almost 5 times the area required for mining, which seems to be very high and needs to shifted to nearby non-forest land.	<p>The total project area of Pachwara South Coal block is 714.8553 ha. The whole area is coal bearing and no area is found to be no coal bearing as per the approved Geological Report and Mining Plan of the project. As per the approved mining plan the total area to be excavated 643.76 ha leaving the safety zone is 10.84 ha (Chapter-6). As per the approved mining plan there is no provision of the additional dumping area beyond the project boundary. The mining plan envisages initial overburden duping in the east central part of the project area which will be re-handled in the excavated mines void. The duping areas of the initial years are also coal bearing where coal production is scheduled from the 15th year of the project.</p> <p>Moreover, the forest land cover accounts more than 60% of the block and is scattered in patches throughout the area. Dumping in forest cover cannot be avoided on this account.</p>	—	—

Sl No.	Observation	Compliance Report	Annexure	Page no.
1	2	3	4	5
b.	Similarly, possibility may also be explored to shift the area of 10.313 ha earmarked for infrastructure requirement to non-forest lands.	<p>The infrastructure area for the initial 15 years of the mine sequence are provisioned in the central part of the block which is envisaged to be shifted in the eastern part of de-coaled area after 15th year of mining operations.</p> <p>Forest land in Pachwara South Coal block is unevenly scattered throughout the block. Non forest area in one stretch is not available at PSCB for temporary Construction of infrastructure. Moreover infrastructures are integral part of mining operation without which mining cannot be sustained. Some portion of forest land may get included. But it will be kept under consideration to avoid forest land as much as possible.</p>	—	—
c.	The land use proposed in the Mining Plan are at variance with the land use proposed in the proposal. Similarly, variations have also been observed within the components proposed in the proposal and in the Mining Plan. Justification on the same needs to be provided by the State and discrepancies in the land use components needs to be rectified.	<p>Mining plan was formulated based on the certified land records as collected from the Revenue department as per the gazette notification towards section 7(1) of gazette notification. The application of forest diversion proposal was scrutinized both from the Forest Department and the Revenue Department. The land-use forwarded in the forest diversion proposal are in accordance with the land data recorded in the Forest Department.</p> <p>A rectified land scheduled has been reconciled and furnished in Enclosed.</p>	Annexure-IX	52-55
d.	It will be ensured that land use proposed in the extant proposal are in conformity with the land use approved in the Mining Plan.	It has been ensured. Point no 7 (c) may be referred.	—	—
e.	Transportation of coal has been proposed through conveyor belt. Detail of forest land if any, involved in the alignment of conveyor belt may be informed by the State, and in case forest land is involved the same may be included in the extant proposal to enable the Ministry to take an holistic view of the proposal and activities ancillary to project.	<p>Transportation of coal through conveyor belt will start in the 7th years of coal production phase. It is proposed to construct an overhead conveyor up to railway siding in Pachwara village, after crossing the Pachwara Central Coal Block. The conveyor will cover the areas of 2 coal blocks. Pachwara South, Pachwara central. Land schedules of Pachwara South Coal Block is already approved and submitted in Form 1, showing the forest land details. But the forest land of Pachwara Central is not under the jurisdiction of M/s NUPPL. Hence, details of the forest land falling in this block cannot be included in the extant proposal.</p> <p>Further, for transportation of coal from the 3 coal blocks- Pachwara Central, Pachwara North and Pachwara South a Special Purpose vehicle (SPV) is formed. It will be jointly run by 3 coal block and State Government will act as the fourth member of this joint venture. Therefore, a separate land schedule as a whole will be prepared including the construction of the overhead conveyor belt as well.</p> <p>Conveyor layout and Railway siding plan is attached.</p>	Annexure-X	56

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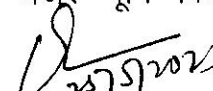
SI No.	Observation	Compliance Report	Annexure	Page no.
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vii.	The proposal involves displacement of people. Total 314 families have been reported to be affected from the project. R&R Plan for the rehabilitation/relocation of project affected persons/families, apparently submitted online is an assurance to conduct Social Impact Assessment and not the R&R Plan required for the consideration of the processing authorities. A copy of approved R&R Plan proposed to be implemented by the user agency in the project area needs to be submitted by the State. The user agency may be instructed by the State to upload correct documents on PARIVESH portal.	Approved R&R plan is attached . The same will be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.	Annexure-XI	57-63
viii.	The extant proposal has been proposed to be worked by a joint venture company namely NUPPL, the ratio of equity sharing in the JV may be intimated by the State to decide the applicability of the compensatory afforestation in the extant case.	NUPPL is joint venture firm of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) holds 51% of shares and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhyut Utpadam Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL), Kanpur holds 49% of shares. NUPPL is listed as CPSU as per Annexure -I of Annual Report of Department of Public Enterprises(DPE).	Annexure-XII	64-66

वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, दुमका वन प्रमंडल से प्राप्त निराकरण प्रतिवेदन सभी अनुलग्नकों सहित 06 (छः) प्रतियों में अगत्तर आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु संलग्न समर्पित की जा रही है।
अनु०:-यथोक्त।

विश्वासभाजन,
ह०/-
वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।

ज्ञापांक-.....421..... दिनांक-.....25/5/2020.....

प्रतिलिपि:-प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक-सह-कार्यकारी निदेशक, बंजर भूमि विकास बोर्ड,
झारखण्ड, रांची को सादर सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्रवाई हेतु समर्पित।


वन संरक्षक,
प्रादेशिक अंचल, दुमका।