

1/516831/2023

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
Office of
Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18 ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ
ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003
Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003
Telephone: 080 2334 6472
Email: apccffc@gmail.com

E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/48/2019-FC
Encl:

E-84336
Date: 23-11-2023

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
M. S. Building, Bengaluru

Sir,
Sub: Diversion of 0.8148 (revised from 1.4406 hectare) of forest land in
Ubbalagundi Extension Reserved Forest, Ubbalagundi village,
Sandur Taluk, Ballari District for Approach Road to Ubbalagundi Iron
Mine ML No.008 (located partly in adjoining Donimalai Block Forest and
partly in Ubbalagundi Extension RF) in favour of M/s JSW Steel Limited,
Tornagallu

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39765/2019 [FORM-A]

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 03-09-2022 to Government of Karnataka [Stage-I proposal], letter dated 26-12-2022 [addressed to CCF, Ballari to direct DCF, Ballari to re-examine the proposal for the approach road], 22-08-2023 [addressed to GoK reg submission of the EDS reply to the query raised by GoI] and 22-09-2023 [communication of the EDS query raised by GoK to CCF, Ballari]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 70 FMM 2023 (e) dated 13-10-2022 [addressed to GOI, seeking Stage-I proposal], 16-12-2022 [communication of GOI EDS query] and 12-09-2023
 3. Government of India letter No. F.No.4-KRB1386/2022-BAN dated 09-12-2022 [EDS Query]
 4. M/s JSW Steel Limited letter No. JSW/Mines/UIOM Approach Road (rev.)/2022-23/1 dated 13-02-2023 [reply to the EDS query raised by GoI : revised proposal from 1.4406 ha to 0.8148 ha] and 22-11-2023
 5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division letter No. M1/MNG/JSW/ML No. 008(995)/Approach Road/2019-20 dated 05-07-2023 [EDS reply]
 6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle letter No. M1/MNG: TRF/ML No. 995/JSW/CR-9/2018-19 dated 25-07-2023 [EDS reply]

With regard to above, the proposal was submitted by this office vide Ref (1) seeking Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Government of Karnataka and by the State Government vide Ref (2) letter dated 13-10-2022 to the Central Government. The Government of India vide Ref (3) has stated that "the area

1/516831/2023

proposed for diversion was inspected on 16.11.2022. During the site inspection it came to notice that there is already a road to the instant mine which is primarily passing through the non-forest land and was being used by earlier lessee. The existence of non-forest alternatives was not even mentioned in the proposal. The FC Act and Guidelines envisage that the existing non-forest land should be the priority for use, and forest land should be considered only in case of non-availability of forest land. Therefore, it is requested to re-examine the proposal for approach road in forest land and the user agency/ State authorities may be directed to use the existing road in the non-forest area, as the same road were used by the earlier lessee also.

It was learnt that similar proposals for approach road in forest area are in the pipeline, inspite of existence of roads through non-forest lands. Hence, the matter may be suitably decided by the State Government instead of leaving the issue of approach road decision to the user agency and proposal for use of forest land when suitable non-forest alternatives exist, against the tenets of forest conservation laws."

In this regard, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 22-08-2023 has submitted the replies to the query sought by the Government of India. In response to this, the Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 12-09-2023 has directed to check thoroughly as per rule as sought by the Government of India and to submit the same with clear opinion/information. Hence, the same has been communicated by this office vide letter dated 22-09-2023 to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle.

Meanwhile, M/s JSW Steel Limited vide their representation dated 22-11-2023 to this office has stated that "As instructed by Government of India, 0.6258 Ha. area is removed from segment-II after re-alignment, hence, the total forest area proposed for diversion is reduced in the revised proposal. The same stretch was used by the erstwhile lessee and entire area is already broken-up. The shortest route is in the virgin area. Hence, not considered in the proposal and requested this office to recommend the proposal for further processing."

In view of the above, **it is requested to move the revised proposal, which has already been submitted by this office vide letter dated 22-09-2023 to the Government of India for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for a period Co-terminus with the mining lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1957 (as Amended).**

Yours faithfully
Signed by

Brijesh Kumar Dikshit

(Date: 26.11.2023, 13:45:58)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

Copy to the:

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
3. M/s JSW Steel Limited, P.O. Vijayanagar-583 275 Ballari District for information and with a request to obtain and submit the FRA Certificate in FORM-I (for Linear Projects) as mentioned above at the earliest.



32290



1. Handwritten Notes:
 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019
 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019
 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019
 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019
 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019 1/1/2019

No. JSW/CIOM/Approach Road (rev.)/2023-24/2

To.

1 Dec 22, 11, 2023

The Principle Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Conservation (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA)
18th Cross, Malleshwaram
Bengaluru - 560003

Sub.: Diversion of 0.8148 Ha. (revised from 1.4406 Ha.) of forestland for Approach Road to and from Ubbalagundi Iron Ore Mine ML No. 008 (old ML No. 995) in Ubbalagundi Reserved Forests, Ballari Range, Ballari - reg.

Ref.:

1. Online Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/39765/2019.
2. EDS raised by the Govt. of India vide L.No. K-KRC1358/2022-BAN/1053 dt. 07/09.12.2022.
3. EDS raised by the Govt. of Karnataka vide L.No. FEE 70 FPM 2023 (E) dt. 14/09.2023.

Dear Sir,

We would like to bring your kind notice that we have applied for Forest Clearance for the diversion of forest land for approach road to and from Ubbalagundi Iron Ore Mine ML No. 008 (old ML No. 995) in Ubbalagundi Reserved Forests, Ballari Range, Ballari (ref.1). The proposal was accepted by your office and forwarded further for the grant of in-principle approval. While processing the same, the Govt. of India has instructed to re-examine the proposal in forest area, and use the existing approach road which was used by the erstwhile lessee (ref.2).

Accordingly, we have revised the proposal online and submitted the hardcopies to Range Forest Officer for scrutiny and field inspection. Subsequently, the proposal was forwarded from Range Forest Officer (RFO) to Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) through Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) for further processing. The forest area in revised stretch is reduced from 1.4406 Ha. to 0.8148 Ha. and the same stretch was used by erstwhile lessee for transportation of men, machinery and material. A brief detail of earlier and revised alignment is as follows:

alignment is as follows:

ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿ ಬುದ್ಧಿಯು ಕಳೆದ
ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಕಳೆದ
ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಕಳೆದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಕಳೆದ
ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಕಳೆದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಕಳೆದ

22 NOV 2023 Page 1 of 3



Part of O. P. Jindal Group

Regd. Office : JSW Centre
Bandra Kurla Complex,
Branch (East), Mumbai - 400 051
Phone : +91 22 4286 1000
Fax : +91 22 4286 3000



Sr. No.	Land Type	Area in earlier proposal (Ha.)	Area in revised proposal (Ha.)
1	Forest Area	1.4406	0.8148
2	Non-Forest Area	0.9124	1.1027
	Total Area	2.353	1.9175

The segment-wise details of **old proposal** are given below:

Segment ID	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (Ha.)	Status of Land
A. Details of forestland involved in proposal				
Segment-I	604.66	12	0.7256	Forest
Segment-II	595.84	12	0.7150	Forest
Total (A)	1200.5	-	1.4406	
B. Details of non-forestland involved in proposal				
Segment-III	760.34	12	0.9124	Non-Forest
Total (B)	760.34	-	0.9124	
Grand Total (A+B)	1960.84		2.353	

The segment-wise details of **revised proposal** are given below:

Segment ID	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (Ha.)	Status of Land
A. Details of forestland involved in proposal				
Segment-I	604.66	12	0.7256	Forest
Segment-II	74.333	12	0.0892	Forest
Total (A)	678.993		0.8148	
B. Details of non-forestland involved in proposal				
Segment-III	918.917	12	1.1027	Non-Forest
Total (B)	918.917	-	1.1027	
Grand Total (A+B)	1597.91		1.9175	



As instructed by Govt. of India, 0.6258 Ha. area is removed from segment-II after re-alignment, hence, the total forest area proposed for diversion is reduced in the revised proposal. The same stretch was used by the erstwhile lessee and entire area is already broken-up. The shortest route is in the virgin area, hence not considered in the proposal. Therefore, we request your office to kindly recommend the proposal for further processing.

Thanking You.

Yours Faithfully,

For M/s JSW Steel Ltd.

Authorized Signatory

Encl.: Hardcopy of the revised proposal