



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF  
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR  
BHUBANESWAR-751023

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No. 23184 /9F (MG) – 79/2021

Dated, Bhubaneswar the 28<sup>th</sup> November' 2023

From

**Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)  
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

**The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)**  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

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 Odisha Coal & Power Ltd (OCPL) for non-forestry use of 342.87 ha of forest land for development of Dip Side Manoharpur Coal Mining Project in Sundargarh District of Sundargarh Forest Division, Odisha – Compliance to GoI observations regarding.**

Ref:- Letter No. 8-63/2011-FC)Vol-I) dated 27.11.2023 of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, the user agency i.e Director and CEO, M/s Odisha Coal and Power Limited vide his letter No. OCPL/624 dated 27.11.2023 has furnished the following compliance to the observations of Govt. of India :-


- (i) The Regional Director, CMPDI, RL-VII, Bhubaneswar has furnished a detailed justification for proposing non-site specific activities duly authenticated by CMPDIL on forest land is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
- (ii) The CEO and Director, M/s OCPL has furnished a detailed note on review of 51.64 ha forest land required for external over burden dumping at Manoharpur & Dip Side of Manoharpur Coal Mine Project (Expansion of Manoharpur Coal Mine-8.0 to 16.0 Million Te per annum) of OCPL Ltd., Bhubaneswar which is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. The same has been examined at this end and is found to be satisfactory.



In view of the above, the compliance to the observations dated 27.11.2023 of the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**


Yours faithfully

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 23185 /Dt. 28-11-2023

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-63/2011-FC)Vol-I) dated 27.11.2023 of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

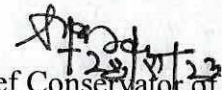
**Encl: Compliance in one set**

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 23186 /Dt. 28-11-2023

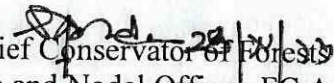
Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-63/2011-FC)Vol-I) dated 27.11.2023 of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

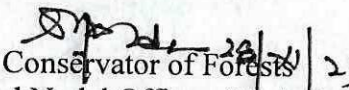
Memo No. 23187 /Dt. 28-11-2023

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action.

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

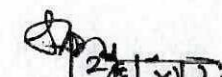
Memo No. 23188 /Dt. 28-11-2023

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action.

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 23189 /Dt. 28-11-2023

Copy forwarded to the Director and CEO, OCPL, Zone-A, Ground Floor, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 8-63/2011-FC)Vol-I) dated 27.11.2023 of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)





**Odisha Coal and Power Limited**  
(A Government of Odisha Company)  
CIN U10100OR2015SGC018623  
Website: www.ocpl.org.in

Letter No: OCPL/624

Date: 27.11.2023

**To**

**The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Nodal,  
Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur,  
Bhubaneswar.**

Sub: Minutes of Meeting (MoM) of "Advisory Committee" (AC) meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 on Agenda No.10 - Forest Diversion Proposal of 342.870 ha of Forest land for development of Dip-Side Manoharpur Coal Mining Project in Sundargarh District of Odisha Coal & Power Ltd (OCPL), Bhubaneswar (Online Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/37631/2018).

Reg- Essential Details Sought (EDS) letter dated 27.11.2023 of Dy. Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, New Delhi on the decision of the Advisory Committee for detailed review by State on the 51.64 ha Forest land proposed to be used for dumping.

Dear Sir,

This refers to the 342.87 Ha "Forest Diversion Proposal for development of Dip-side Manoharpur Coal Mining Project in Sundargarh District of Odisha Coal & Power Ltd (OCPL), Bhubaneswar" (Online Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/37631/2018) and the "Minutes of Meeting" (MoM) of Advisory Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Advisory Committee has required for a detailed review by State on the 51.64 ha of Forest land proposed to be used for dumping. Reference- EDS dtd. 27.11.2023 of Dy. Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

In this connection we would apprise that the matter has earlier been reviewed by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Bhubaneswar which is the Nodal Agency of Govt. of India for Mine Planning. CMPDIL has prepared the Mining Plan in September, 2019 for the "Integrated Manoharpur and Dip-Side Manoharpur Coal Mine" of OCPL for a Peak Rated Capacity of 16.0 Million Te per annum. Subsequently, the requirement of Forest Land for OB Dump has been reviewed by CMPDIL again on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The CMPDIL Report on "Justification for non-site specific activities on forest land" is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-I**. CMPDIL has re-iterated that external OB dumping has been minimized in the

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Regd. Office: Zone-A, Ground Floor, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023

Phone: +91 674 2300654/664, Fax: +91 674 2300657

Site Office: At/Po. : Hemgir, Dist.-Sundargarh-770013 Odisha

*L.C.*  
27/11/23

project to 9.6 % only but use of few patches of scattered forest land is essential for increasing the height of the OB dump from 60 meters to 120 meters maintaining a regular geometrical shape for slope stability.

The Note and PPT in this regard are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-II** and **Annexure-III** for further consideration on the matter.

In view of no other alternate option available for the mine working, we request your kind office for grant of Stage-I Forest Clearance of Dip-Side Manoharpur Coal Block for an area of 342.870 Ha.

Your kind support in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,  
Yours faithfully,



**Director and CEO**

Director and CEO  
Odisha Coal and Power Ltd.

**Encl.**

1. CMPDIL Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> June,23
2. Note on Forest Land requirement for OB Dump
3. PPT
4. AC Meeting MoM dated 14<sup>th</sup> Nov,23

**Copy to:**

Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar



## Justification for proposing non-site specific activities on forest land:

### 1. External OB dump (51.64Ha of Revenue Forest Land)

- Integrated Manoharpur and Dip side Manoharpur Mine is having an Annual Production Capacity of 16.0 Million Tonnes. The total volume of Overburden excavated during the life of the mine is 1747.41 M.Cum.
- Mine planning exercise has been done scientifically to minimize the external dump requirement & maximising internal dump capacity & to optimize transport lead distance. Out of total overburden of 1747.41 Mcum , 1579.49 M.Cum of overburden ( more than 90%) can be dumped internally. Mine has been designed considering minimum damage to land & ecology.
- The remaining OBR quantity of 167.92 M. cum, which is 9.6% of the total OB, is required to be dumped externally in the eastern side of the coal mine within mine lease area which is also non coal bearing, there are no other space available for external dumping as both the blocks are surrounded by other coal blocks in all it's remaining three sides. External dumping towards dipside & rehandling the same into internal void is also not possible considering single quarry operation & non availability of void between working mine & dump slope, between haul road & dump slope at high depth of mine working.
- Two number of External OB Dumps have been proposed in the Mine plan mostly over non-forest land and keeping in consideration bare minimum use of forest land. From mining point of view single external Overburden Dump would have been a better proposition, however, to minimize the involvement of forest land, two external OB Dumps have been designed with an area of 33.50 Ha and 236.01 Ha respectively in which forest land is 4.88 Ha and 63.979Ha respectively. Forest patches located in this area are in scattered manner with crown density of less than 0.3 (Eco class-III).
- During development stage enough void will not be created for back filling of entire waste, requiring the external dumping of OB. Further when the mine depth



increases beyond 200m, stripping ratio will be increased with higher annual OB removal and the void created will not be sufficient for accommodating the entire OB generated, requiring external dumping of part quantity, i.e. around 74.14Mcum.

- Backfilling has been started in 2nd year itself. However due to limited void, simultaneous backfilling & external dumping have to be continued for certain years. Care has also been taken to accommodate maximum quantity within the designed external overburden dump area with minimum surface OB transport.
- The approved MP (Rev III) already considers a maximum dump height of 150m in the internal dumps and hence further OB can't be accommodated in the existing pit.
- Further the approved mine plan rev II accommodates only 58.89 MCum of OB in the external dump-III in an area of 175.57 Ha with a maximum height of 80 m. The approved MP (Rev III) accommodates around 152.5 MCum of insitu waste in the external dump-II (earlier ext. dump-III) in an area of 235.80 Ha with addition of 51.64 Ha of forest land. To minimize the usage of forest land, in the external area, the dumps are planned to a height of 120 m from the ground level and also the irregular shapes of dumps in earlier plan (rev II) were modified in MP (Rev III) to accommodate more volume of OB. The layout of both the plans is attached as **Annexure-I**.
- The location & height of external OB dumps as well it's design has been planned scientifically. These dumps have been planned considering individual tier of 30 m with maximum capacity, adequate safety berms & proper angle. Some of these forest patches are in the middle of proposed external dump. If these scattered patches of forest are avoided, then these dumps cannot be constructed with full capacity & height & there will be shortage in dumping space.
- In absence of these forest land , following are the disadvantages:
  - Huge additional non forest of equivalent area or more may be required in outside lease area for dumping which in turn leads to destruction of more land & further damage to ecology.
  - Increased cost of mining with more transport distance for OB, transportation of OB outside lease area will further enhance pollution.



- Considering the technical and safety point of view, the forest patches are minimum requirement. Thus, total exclusion of the forest land in OB dump area is unavoidable considering the site condition and bare minimum use of forest land has been planned.

## 2. Railway Siding (0.27Ha of Forest Land) & Approach Road (8.67Ha of Forest Land)

- Integrated Manoharpur and Dip side Manoharpur Mine is having an Annual Production Capacity of 16.0 Million Tonnes. The mine is captive to 4x660MW units of Ib Thermal Power Station of OPGC.
- The coal requirement of the Captive units is envisaged as 14 to 16MTPA depending on Plant Load Factor and Specific Coal Consumption of the station.
- The entire coal is envisaged to be transported through a dedicated 47km double track Merry-Go-Round (MGR) system from mine to power plant.
- At present two units (2x660MW) are under operation and the entire coal requirement is met from the captive mine through the single line MGR track. Remaining two units and second line of the MGR system are envisaged to be commissioned by FY2029-30 as per the Govt. approval.
- As per the efficiency parameters of coal block Allotment Agreement signed with Ministry of Coal, GoI, the coal company needs to adhere the production schedule of Approved Mine Plan.
- As per the Approved Mine Plan, Integrated Mine has to produce 10MT in FY23-24, 13MT in FY24-25 and 16MT from FY25-26 onwards.
- Accordingly, there will be excess coal from the mine and the quantum of excess coal is depending on the coal requirement of OPGC.



- To avoid the road transportation of excess coal it has been planned to connect the mine with Indian Railway system by constructing a Railway siding near Laikera village, which is at a distance of only 5.4 Km from the mine.
- A dedicated concrete road will be developed from mine to the proposed Railway siding, which enables minimum road transportation, thereby reducing the air pollution to a greater extent.
- Thus, the proposed diversion of Forest land for construction of Siding and its approach road is essential for evacuation of coal with minimum damage to the environment.



Dt-27<sup>th</sup> Nov,23

**Note on review of 51.64 ha forest land requirement for external over burden dumping at Manoharpur & Dip Side of Manoharpur Coal Mine Project (Expansion of Manoharpur Coal Mine – 8.0 to 16.0 Million Te per Annum) of Odisha Coal and Power Ltd, Bhubaneswar**

**1. Background of Project**

Odisha Coal and Power Ltd a State PSU of Govt. of Odisha is allotted with two coal blocks namely Manoharpur and Dip-side Manoharpur Coal Block with specified End Use Plant at Orissa Power Generation Corporation (Thermal Power Units 4x660 MW). Manoharpur Coal Mine has obtained all permits and clearances for 8.0 MTPA and is producing coal from Dec 2019. In FY 2022-23, mine has achieved 8.0 MT Peak Rated Capacity as per approved Mining Plan. During Mining Plan approval for Dip-side Manoharpur Coal Block, the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Coal directed OCPL to integrate both the coal blocks into one mine as Dip-side Block is not geologically suitable for independent mining. Integrated Manoharpur and Dip side Manoharpur Coal Mine of OCPL is having extractable reserves of 636 Million Tonnes (MT) and the Rated Capacity of Mine is 16 MTPA. Total volume of OB proposed to be excavated during the life of the mine is 1747.41 Million Cum.

CMPDIL, the Nodal Agency for Coal Mine Planning of Govt. of India has prepared & reviewed the Mine Plan and Mine Closure Plan and CSIR-CIMFR, Govt. of India has also carried out the scientific studies on slope stability of working and OB dumps benches.

- As per the approved Mining Plan, total volume of the OB accommodated in the internal dumps is 1579.49 M.Cum. Thus, the residual OB quantity of 167.92 M. cum, which is only 9.6% of the total OB, is required to be dumped externally in the eastern side of the coal mine having no other option as there are other coal blocks adjacent to the Integrated Mine owned by NTPC, MCL & Hindalco.
- During development stage of mine, enough void will not be created for back filling of entire waste, requiring the external dumping of OB. Further when the mine depth increases beyond 200m, stripping ratio will be increased with higher annual OB removal and the void created will not be sufficient for accommodating the entire generated OB. However, the backfilling has been started in 2<sup>nd</sup> year itself but due to limited void, simultaneous backfilling & external dumping have to be continued till 31<sup>st</sup> years.
- To minimize the involvement of forest land, two numbers of External OB Dumps, have been proposed in the Mine plan mostly over non-forest land and keeping in consideration bare minimum use of forest land.
- The forest patches located in OB dump area are in scattered manner with crown density of less than 0.3 (Eco class-III). However, these forest patches are essential to increase the dump height from 60mtr to maximum height (120m) to accommodate the generated OB.

  
27/11/23



**2. Dump design:**

- A. The following design parameters have been considered for OB dump:
- i. Maximum height of each deck allowed as per DGMS permission is 30 m.
  - ii. A width of 30m shall be left on each deck.
  - iii. 40m width is required for slope (37.50) of each deck.
  - iv. For constructing each bench of 30m height, minimum 140 m width is required
  - v. Thus for a 120m height of OB dump, 560m of minimum width is required.



**B. Comparison of Dump design in earlier and revised Mine Plans:**

External Dump-2 design	Rev-II (Manoharpur block)	Rev-III (Integrated Mine)	Remarks
Dump Area, Ha	175.57	230.80	Irregular shape is rectified to increase the dump height and accommodate more OB in less area.
Dump Height	30 to 80m (avg.60m)	120m	
Quantity of OB, Mill. Cum	58.89	152.5	

**3. Justification for use of Forest Land in External OB Dump**

- Mine has been designed considering minimum damage to land & ecology and maximization of internal dumping to avoid external dumping.
- The location, height and shape of the OB dumps as well as its design has been planned scientifically during the preparation of Mine Plan and no suitable non-forest area is available in surrounding for these OB dumps.
- The approved Mining Plan (Rev-III) already considers a maximum dump height of 150m in the internal dumps and hence further OB can't be accommodated in the existing pit.
- As three sides of the mine are Coal Bearing, both designed external OB dumps are located in the eastern side of the mine in non-coal bearing area.

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- CMPDIL, the nodal agency for Coal Mine Planning, has verified twice the forest land requirement for external OB dump and has kept it at the minimum level (9.6% only balance for back filling). Justification provided by CMPDIL regarding requirement of forest land for non-site specific activities is attached as Annexure-I.
- The forest patches located in OB dump area are in scattered manner with crown density of less than 0.3 (Eco class-III). Against a existing tree enumeration of 309 trees per ha, the proposed CA Land for diversion of this patch provides for 1000 Trees per ha.

Thus considering the technical and safety point of view as reviewed by CMPDIL the forest patches are bare minimum requirement and inclusion of the forest land in OB dump area is unavoidable considering the site condition.

  
27/11/23  
CEO and Director  
OCPL

Director and CEO  
Odisha Coal and Power Ltd.



# Review on Forest Land requirement for External OB dumping

**Manoharpur & Dip Side of Manoharpur Coal Mine Project  
(Expansion of Manoharpur Coal Mine – 8 to 16 MTPA)**



## **ODISHA COAL AND POWER LIMITED**

(A Government of Odisha Company)

Regd. Office: Plot No- Zone-A, Ground Floor, Fortune Towers,  
Bhubaneswar – 751023, Odisha,

website: [www.ocpl.org.in](http://www.ocpl.org.in), email: [info@ocpl.org.in](mailto:info@ocpl.org.in);



## Project Background



- Integrated Manoharpur and Dip side Manoharpur Mine is having extractable reserves of 636 Million Tonnes(MT) and the Rated Capacity of Mine is 16 MTPA.
- Total volume of OB proposed to be excavated during the life of the mine is 1747.41 M.Cum.
- CMPDI, the Nodal Agency for Coal Mine Planning of Govt. of India has prepared & reviewed the Mine Plan and Mine Closure Plan and CSIR-CIMFR, Govt. of India has carried out the scientific studies on slope stability of working and OB dumps benches.
- Total volume of the OB accommodated in the internal dumps is 1579.49 M.Cum.
- The residual OB quantity of 167.92 M. cum, which is 9.6% of the total OB, is required to be dumped externally in the eastern side of the coal mine having no other option as there are coal blocks adjacent to the Integrated Mine owned by NTPC ,MCL & Hindalco .
- During development stage enough void will not be created for back filling of entire waste, requiring the external dumping of OB. Further when the mine depth increases beyond 200m, stripping ratio will be increased with higher annual OB removal and the void created will not be sufficient for accommodating the entire OB generated.





- To minimize the involvement of forest land, two numbers of External OB Dumps, have been proposed in the Mine plan mostly over non-forest land and keeping in consideration bare minimum use of forest land.
- Backfilling has been started in 2nd year itself. However due to limited void, simultaneous backfilling & external dumping have to be continued till 31 years.
- Forest patches located in OB dump area are in scattered manner with crown density of less than 0.3 (Eco class-III).

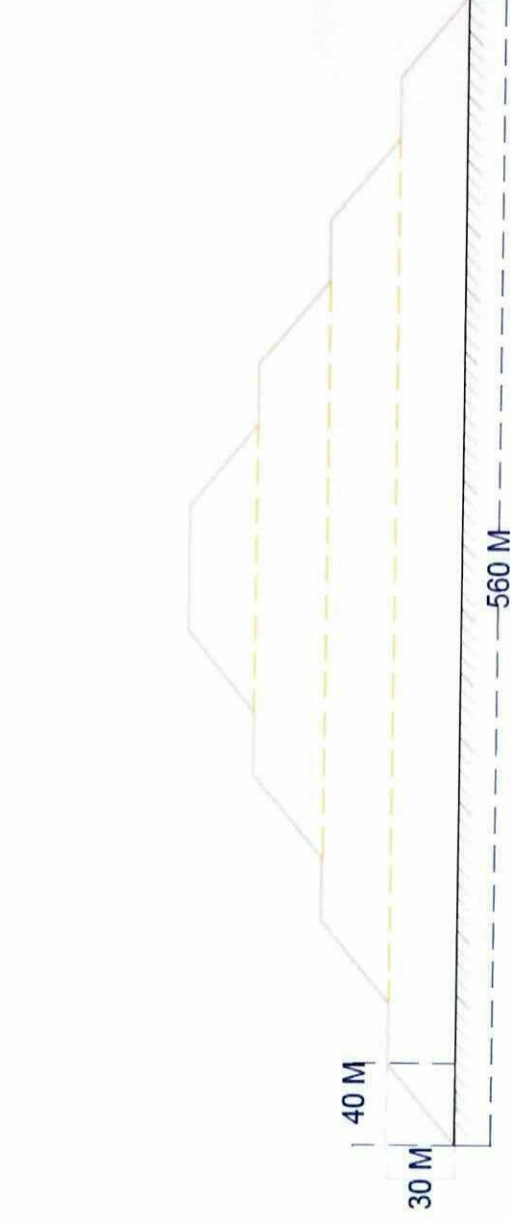




## OB Dump construction

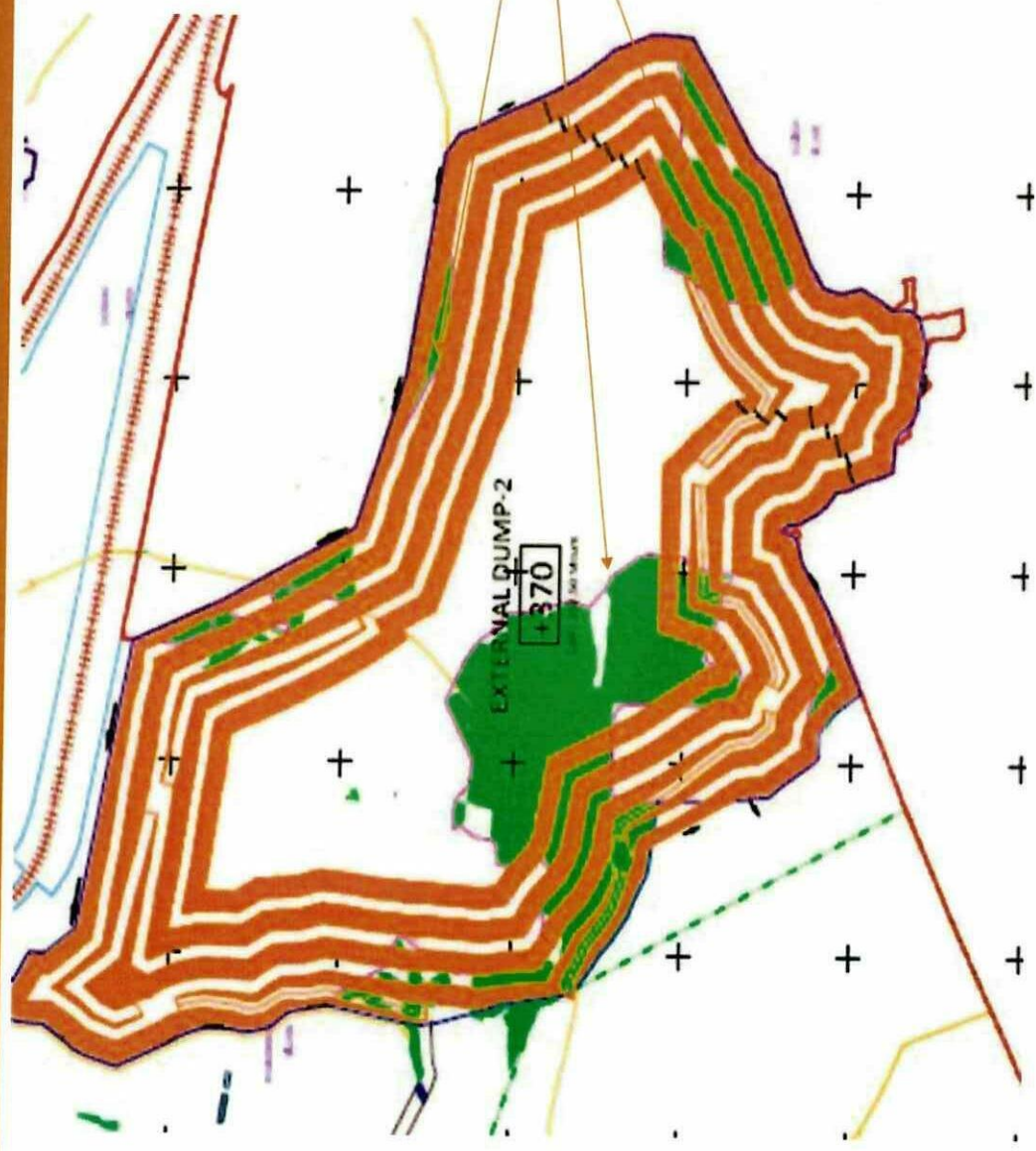


- Maximum height of each deck allowed as per DGMS permission is 30m.
- A width of 30m shall be left on each deck.
- 40m width is required for slope (37.5°) of each deck.
- For constructing each bench of 30m height, minimum 140m width is required
- Thus for a 120m height dump, 560m of minimum width is required.





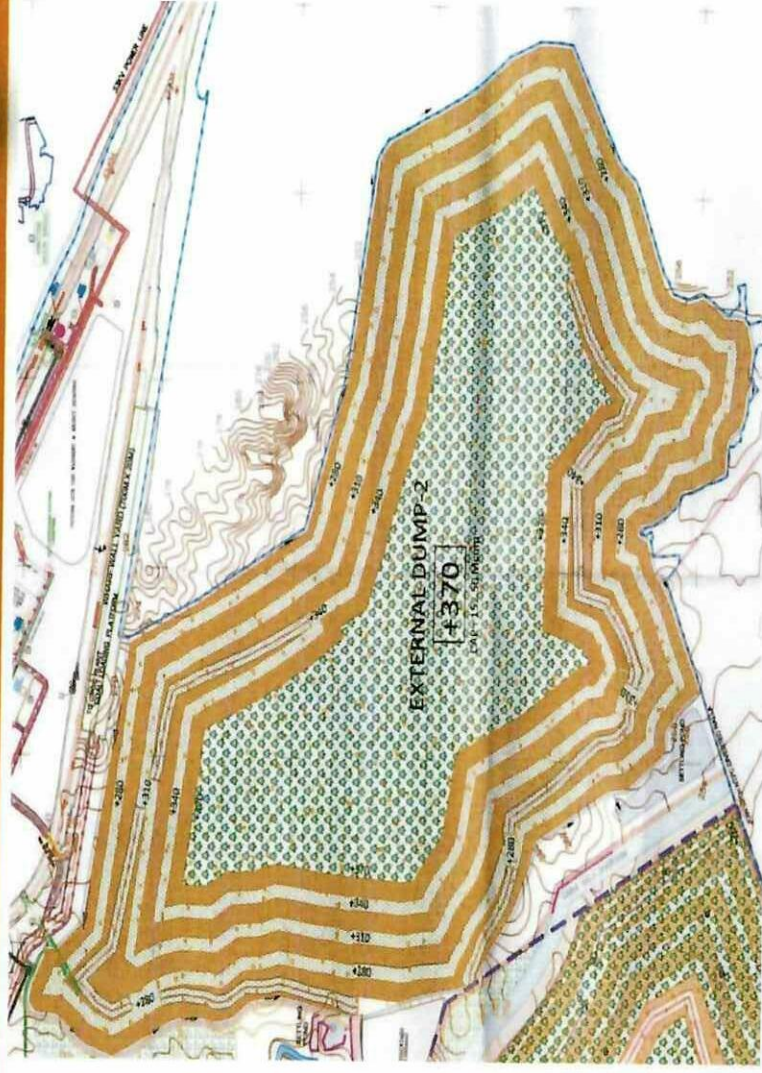
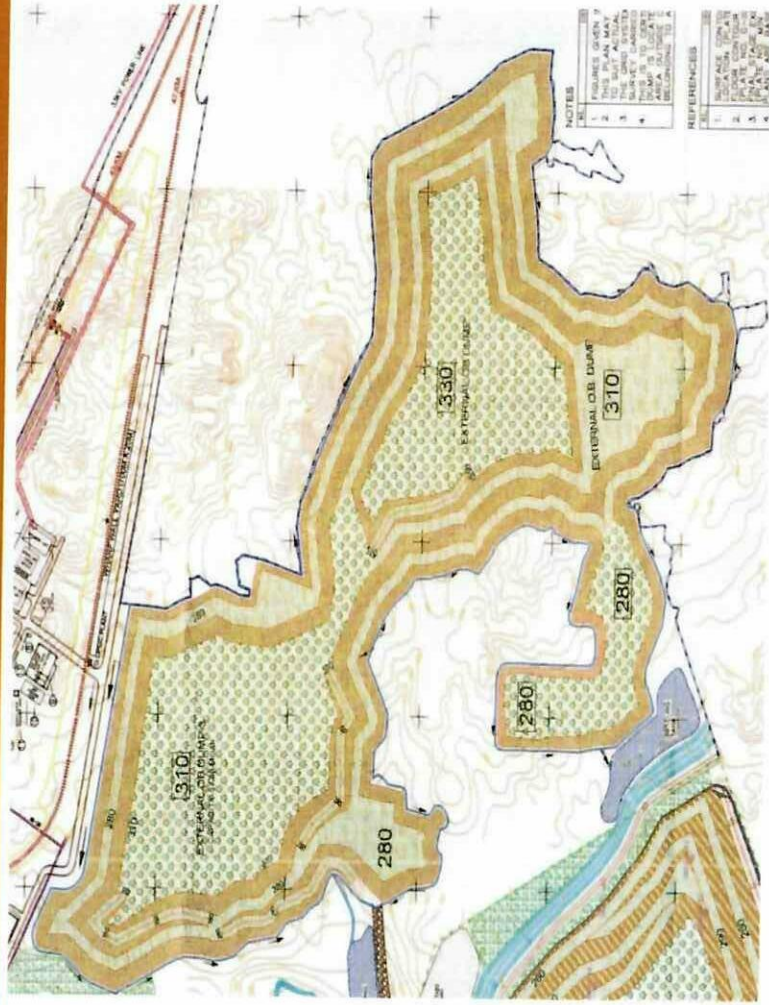
# Position of Forest Land (51.64Ha) in External OB Dump



forest patch is essential ,to increase the dump height from 60 mtr to maximum height(120m).



# OB Dump construction



External Dump-2 design	Rev-II (Earlier Plan)	Rev-III (Integrated Mine)	Remarks
Dump Area, Ha	175.57	230.80	Irregular shape is rectified to increase the dump height and accommodate more OB in less area.
Dump Height	30 to 80m (avg.60m)	120m	
Quantity of OB, Mill. Cum	58.89	152.5	





## DSS Analysis of CA sites

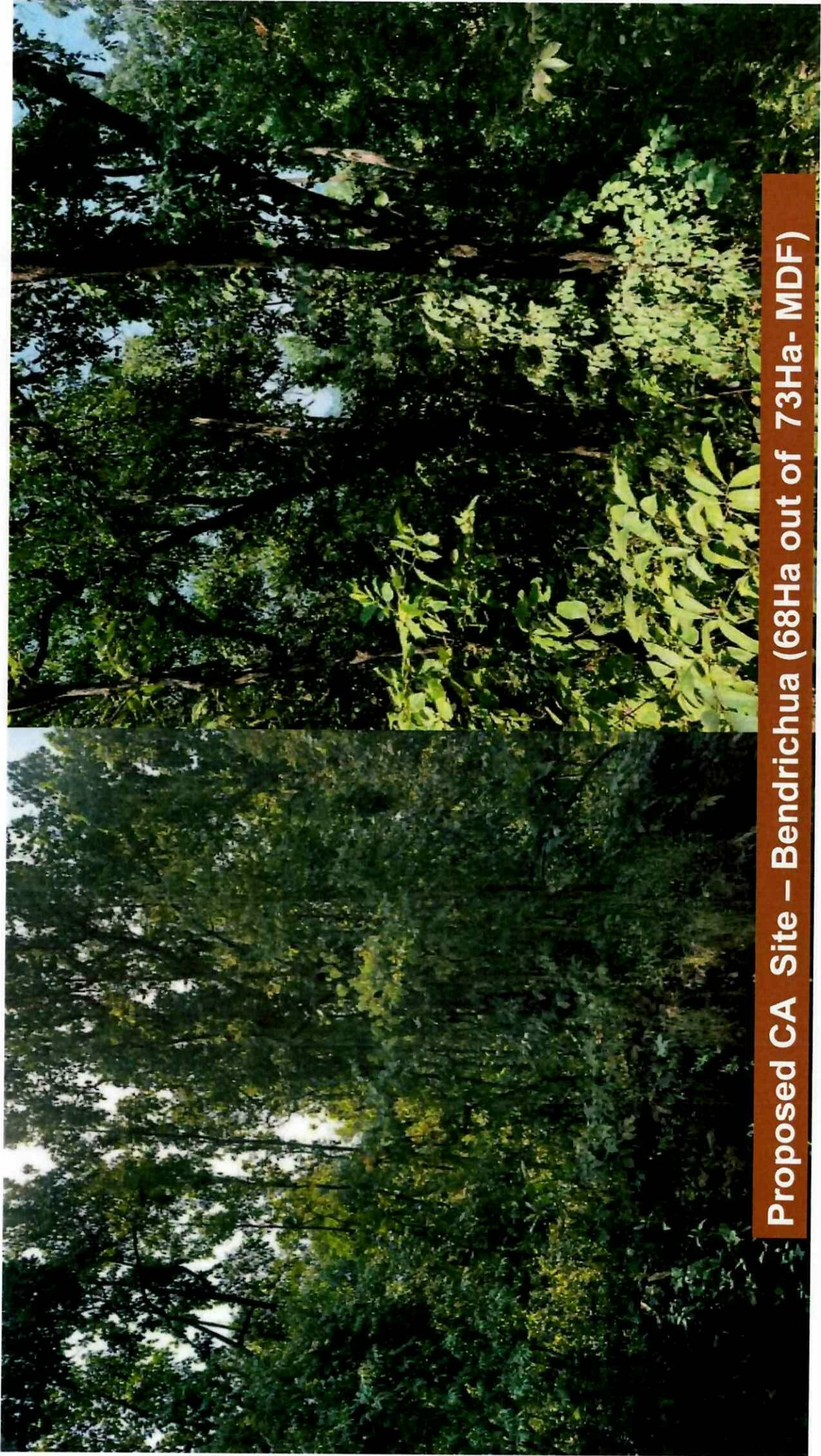


Govt. Land (Ha)	DLC Land (Ha)	Additional DLC Land (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)
<b>264.424</b>	<b>69.078</b>	<b>100.600</b>	<b>434.102</b>

Land type	Area (Ha)	Non Forest/Open forest, Ha	MDF	VDF
Govt. Land	264.424	90	122	47
DLC land	69.078	3	33	34
Addl. DLC	100.6	95	5	
Total	434.102	188	160	81
Plantation proposed	183	1,83,000	0	0

- 241Ha of CA land identified is falling in MDF & VDF category and hence the land handed over to forest department will have considerable tree growth.
- To meet the loss of tree by tree criteria, 160Ha of Degraded forest land has been identified in Malkangiri forest division.





Proposed CA Site – Bendrichua (68Ha out of 73Ha- MDF)





- Mine has been designed considering minimum damage to land & ecology, maximization of internal dumping.
- The location, height and shape of the OB dumps as well as its design has been planned scientifically during the preparation of Mine Plan and no suitable non-forest area is available for these OB dumps.
- As three sides of the mine are Coal Bearing, both external OB dumps were located in the eastern side of the mine in non-coal bearing area.
- CMPDIL, the nodal agency for Coal Mine Planning, has verified twice the Forest land requirement for external OB dump and has kept it at the minimum level (9.6% only balance for back filling ). Justification provided by CMPDI is attached with the proposal.
- Considering the technical and safety point of view, the forest patches is minimum requirement.
- Thus, inclusion of the forest land in OB dump area is unavoidable considering the site condition.



## Recommendation



- In view of the above, the proposal may be recommended for grant of Stage-I FC of Dip-Side Manoharpur Coal block.



**THANK YOU**











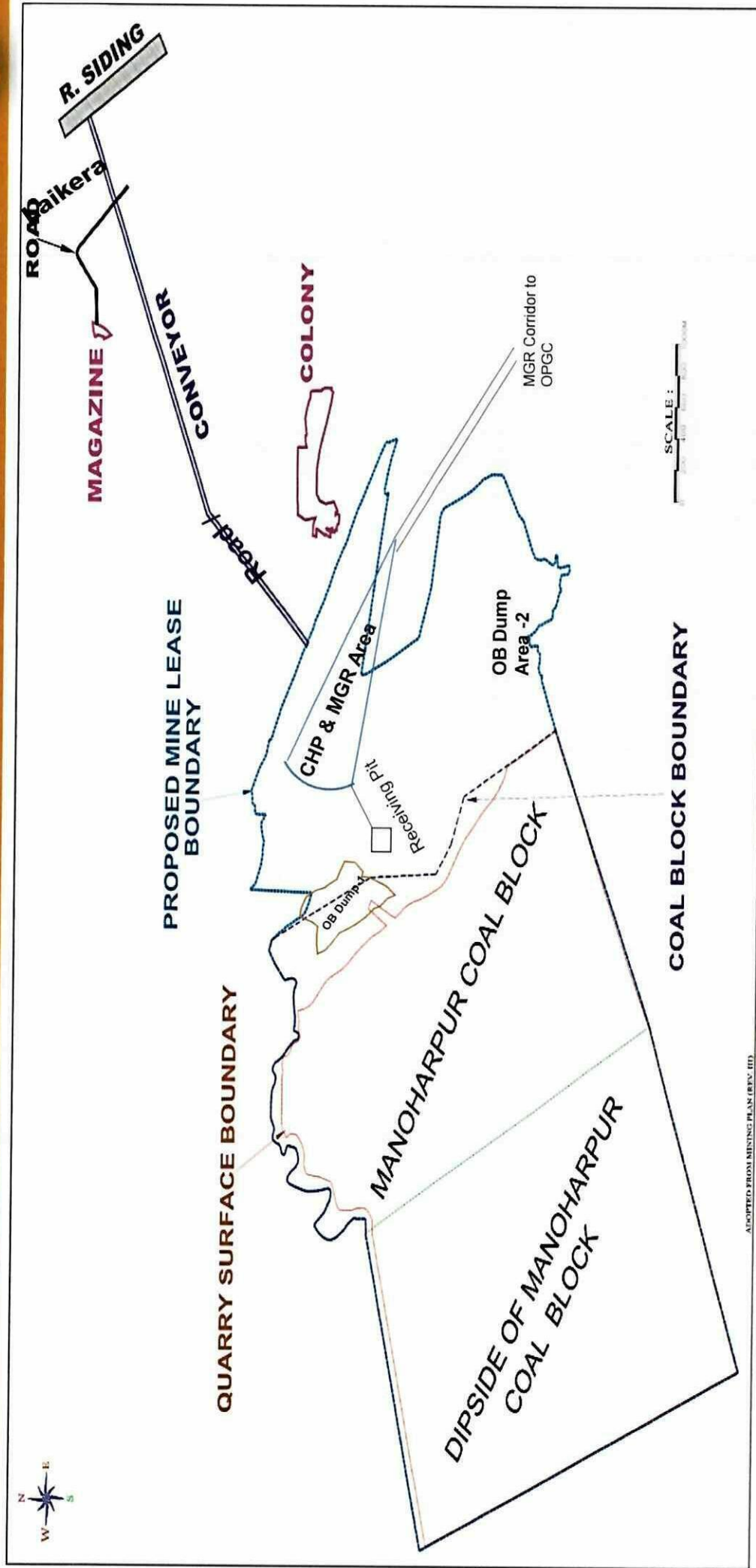








# Schematic - Coal Block & Its Contiguous Block



ADOPTED FROM MINING PLAN (REV. III)

## Diversion of 342.87 ha forest land for development of Dip-side Manoharpur Coal Block (1/2)



- Forest land cleared with Stage-II FC for Manoharpur Block: 273.244 ha
- Forest land applied for diversion in Dip-Side Block proposal: 342.87 Ha

Type of Forest Land	Inside Coal block	Outside Coal Block (OB Dump & evacuation road)	Total Forest
Reserve Forest	176.59	-	176.59
Revenue Forest	102.14	64.14	166.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278.73</b>	<b>64.14</b>	<b>342.87</b>



## Justification for use of Forest Land (2/2):



### **2.0 Road & Railway Siding : 8.94 Ha**

- To avoid the road transportation of excess coal it has been planned to connect the mine with Indian Railway system by constructing a Railway siding near Laikera village, which is at a distance of only 5.4 Km from the mine.
- A dedicated concrete road will be developed from mine to the proposed Railway siding, which enables minimum road transportation, thereby reducing the air pollution to a greater extent.
- Thus, the proposed diversion of Forest land for construction of Siding and its approach road is essential for evacuation of coal with minimum damage to the environment.

### **3.0 Mine Colony : 1.2 Ha**

- This patch is falling within the proposed colony expansion which will be protected by providing landscape and additional plantation.

### **4.0 Other Infra : 2.36 Ha**

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on 14.11.2023

### Agenda No. 1

File No. 8-05/2018-FC

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest land for extension of lease of 94.98 ha. for setting up of experimental farm at Peruvannamuzhy Range in Kozhikode District by Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)- regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting on 14.11.2023. The corresponding details of the agenda may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee (AC). Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DIGF (C) Regional Office, Bangalore was also present in the meeting during the discussion of the above proposal.
4. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - (i) The present proposal is for extension of lease of 94.98 ha. for setting up of experimental farm at Peruvannamuzhy Range in Kozhikode District by Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR). The Legal Status of the proposed forest land is Reserved Forest.
  - (ii) The following area is utilization by IISR as per record:

Area utilization at ICAR-IISR Experimental Farm, Peruvannamuzhi		
Sl. No	Particulars	Approximate Area (Ha)
1.	Residential Area	0.50
2.	Farm offices and other infrastructures (includes the buildings and surroundings of Farm office)	1.50
3.	Farm ponds/ water harvesting structures	0.50
4.	Spice processing units, drying yards, solar tunnel, boiling units etc	1.00
5.	Farm roads	1.50
6.	Area under elephant trench, compound wall and solar fence	3.00
7.	Area under nursery sheds for spice experiments, planting material production purposes	3.50
8.	Area under meteorological observatory	0.50
9.	National Active germplasm site for Black Pepper, ginger, turmeric, garcinia, clove, allspice, cinnamon, vanilla	15.0
10.	Evaluating Black pepper hybrid progenies, promising lines, DUS and other trials on nutmeg etc.	15.0
11.	Experimental and seed multiplication of Ginger and turmeric	5.00
12.	Area reserved for annual planting of ginger and turmeric on rotation basis	8.00
13.	Biodiversity conservation area (outside the trench)	15.0



- iv. The CA area has been provided over 67.052 ha NFL; therefore, the State Govt. shall ensure that the equivalent non-forest land to the extent of the forest land being diverted will be provided.

**Agenda No. 10**

**File No. 8-63/2011-FC (Vol-I)**

**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 Odisha Coal & Power Ltd (OCPL) for non-forestry use of 342.870 ha of forest land for development of Dip Side Manoharpur Coal Mining Project in Sundargarh District of Sundargarh Forest Division, Odisha (Online Proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/37631/2018)**

1. The above subject agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 14.11.2023. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha was not attended the meeting however, representative of the Nodal (FCA) from Govt. of Odisha was present and DDGF (central), MoEF&CC's RO at Bhubaneswar was also present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions of the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter no. FE-DIV-FLD-0016-2023-3667 dated 27.02.2023 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under section 2 Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
  - ii. Manoharpur and Dip side of Manoharpur block are contiguous blocks having common boundary. These two coal blocks were allocated by Govt. of India, Ministry Coal in favour of OPGC. The Supreme Court of India through its judgment dated August 25, 2014 read with its order dated September 24, 2014 (collectively the "Supreme Court Judgment") had cancelled allotment of 204 coal blocks including the Manoharpur and Dip side Manoharpur coal blocks which were allotted to OPGC. Subsequent to the Supreme Court judgment, the Coal Mines (Special provisions) Ordinance 2014 and Coal Mines (Special provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014 (collectively the "Ordinance") were promulgated and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014 (the "Rules") were framed for auction and allotment of all blocks which were subject to cancellation pursuant to the Supreme Court judgment. Further, the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 (the "Act") was enacted which replaced the ordinance.
  - iii. The net geological reserve of Manoharpur coal block is 252 Million Tonne (MT) and that of Dip side Manoharpur coal block is 726 MT Forest Clearance (Stage-I & II) for 276.655 ha (including 76.19 ha area which is to be treated as forest as per dictionary meaning) of Manoharpur Coal Block has been obtained from MOEF & CC vide letter F.No.8-63/2011-FC dated 20.08.2014 by the prior allottee (OPGC). Since, this 76.19 ha of land is Govt non forest land, the same has been acquired through OGLS Act, 1962. However, all the requirement of FC Act & conditions stipulated in Stage-I & II approval has been complied. The Forest Clearance was transferred to OCPL vide Letter



- F.No.8-63/2011-FC dated 30.11.2015. Further, 86.527 ha of land falling outside the coal block, which includes 57.078 ha of forest land were acquired by OPGC for pit head infrastructures & coal stockyard etc. under the head MGR The entire non-forest land was transferred in favour of OCPL by IIDCO, Govt. of Odisha and the entire forest land were transferred in favour of OCPL vide MoEF& CC, Regional Office Bhubaneswar Letter No.5-ORA155/2012-BHU, dated 17/10/2017.
- iv. The DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has reported that the total forest land diverted & transferred in favour of OCPL thus comes to 257.543 ha (200.465 ha + 57 078 ha). Further, OCPL has already applied 15.701 ha of left out forest land for Manoharpur coal block, the proposal of which has been forwarded from State Govt. to MOEF & CC and in the mean-time it has got Stage-I approval also. Forest Land is required for Coal mining external overburden dumping, construction of evacuation facilities & allied infrastructure.
  - v. Apart from the land already acquired for Manoharpur Coal mine project by the user agency, the total land planned to develop Dip-side Manoharpur Coal block is 780.440 ha (Inside block: 684.620 ha+ Outside block: 95.82 ha), which is proposed to be acquired. Therefore, this diversion proposal has been submitted by the User Agency covering forest land of 342.870 ha (Inside block: 278.730 ha + Outside block: 64.140 ha) for use in non-forestry purpose under the provisions of Sec-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The blocks are connected by road to the state capital Bhubaneswar through State Highway-10 and National Highway-55, with a total distance of around 400 km. approx. The nearest railhead is Hemgir on Mumbai-Howrah Broad Gauge of South Eastern Railway at a distance of about 25kms. Jharsuguda railway station on Jharsuguda-Sambalpur-Bhubaneswar rail line of East Coast Railway is situated at a distance of about 45 km. approx. The nearest port at Bay of Bengal is Paradip and situated at a distance of about 600 km. from the block. The Jharsuguda Airport, is the nearest airport from the block (Approx. 45 KM).
  - vi. The area proposed for diversion falls in Sundergarh Forest Division of Odisha and the UA has applied this area for 44 years. The legal status of the Forest land is RF (176.59 ha) and Revenue Forest (166.28 ha). The density of vegetation of Reserve Forest (176.50 ha) is 0.4 Revenue Forest (166.28 ha) is 0.3 and Eco-Value Class-III.
  - vii. The total forest land of 342.870 ha (inside block 278.730 ha + outside block 64.140 ha) has been applied for diversion. The total forest land, Govt. non-forest land and Private land involved in the Dip side Manoharpur coal block is 780.440 ha. Out of which 684.620 ha is inside block area and 95.82 ha in outside block. In the Mining lease area of 684.62 ha the forest area is 278.73 ha. Further, for outside of the Coal Block, additional area of 95.82 ha proposed, out of which the forest area is 64.14 ha. Cumulatively for both inside and outside of the proposed Coal Block, the forest area requirement is  $(278.73+64.14) = 342.87$  ha.
  - viii. The total forest land located in the safety zone area of the Mining lease is 4.15 ha.
  - ix. As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division, plantation over an area of 448.942 ha (non-forest Govt. land 245.318 ha + DLC land 93.691 ha and 109.933 ha) has been identified in village Bendrichua, Etma, Laxmanapa,



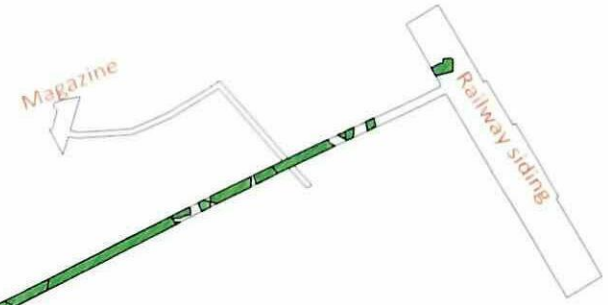
Fateimunda, Kesrijima, Kunjanala of Tahasil Hemgiri, Lephripada, Badagaon, Balisankara and in villages Bailma, Karuabahal, Khatrubahal, Tunumura, Kandeimunda, Kutra under Tahasil Kutra and Balisankara. The land schedule authenticated by the concerned Tahasildars and countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has been provided.

- x. The DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division has reported that as per DSS analysis, the effective area suitable for plantation is 76 ha out of identified 245.318 ha non-forest Govt. land and 103 ha DLC land out of identified 109.933 ha. Accordingly, the CA Scheme has been prepared by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division over 76 ha of non-forest Govt. land and 103 ha DLC land at the current wage rate ₹333/per mandays of 10 years' maintenance with required SMC measure over total area of 448.942 ha identified for CA (as per onetime cost norm). The plantation scheme has been provided. The area will be restocked by planting adequate no. of seedlings of Gamar, Asan, Jamun, Tamarind, Simuli, Jack fruit etc. as per site requirement.
- xi. The CA scheme with provision for AR plantation @1000 seedlings per ha over 76 ha of non-forest Govt. land and 103 ha DLC land has been prepared which accommodate only 1,79,000 seedlings. The balance (342.87 - 4.15 = 338.69 ha 1000 seedlings/ha = 338690 nos. 179000 nos. = 159690 or say 160000) 160000 seedlings will be accommodated in 160 ha degraded forest land identified for Addl. CA in Kondakamberu URL of Malkanagiri Forest Division with a provision for AR plantation @1000 seedlings per ha. As per DSS analysis the area found to be NF 88 & OF = 71. As reported by DFO, the identified area will be restocked by planting adequate no. of seedlings of Asan, Gamar Jamun, Pipal, Neem, Tamarind, Amla & Mahul etc. The execution and protection of the plantation will be done by local people (VSSS) with monitoring by DFO, Malkangir.
- xii. The State has reported that site suitability certificate for raising CA over non-forest Govt. land and DLC land and Addl. CA land have been furnished by DFO, Sundargarh and DFO, Malkangir have been provided respectively.
- xiii. The certificate under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, the Lol holder has applied to Collector, Sundargarh for issue of certificate under FRA, 2006 and the Collector, Sundargarh instructed BDO Hemgiri to process the FRA certificate vide his Letter No.887 Dt.27.02.2020. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division to submit the certificate under FRA, 2006 as soon as it is obtained from the competent authority.
- xiv. Environmental Clearance will be required for the project for which User Agency has applied for EC to MOEF & CC, New Delhi and ToR was issued on Dt.19.04.2020 based on Mining Plan. Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has raised few observations including obtaining of Forest Clearance.
- xv. As per the Site Inspection Report of the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division (127 nos. in village Kathaphala and 63 nos in village Paramanandpur), the project involves displacement of 190 families out of which 127 Scheduled Tribes, 4 Scheduled Castes and 59 other category families. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division that the approved R&R Plan will be submitted prior to final approval of the diversion proposal over 342.87 ha. The socio-economic survey for preparation and finalization of R&R plan for the project. displaced families/ project affected families is under progress

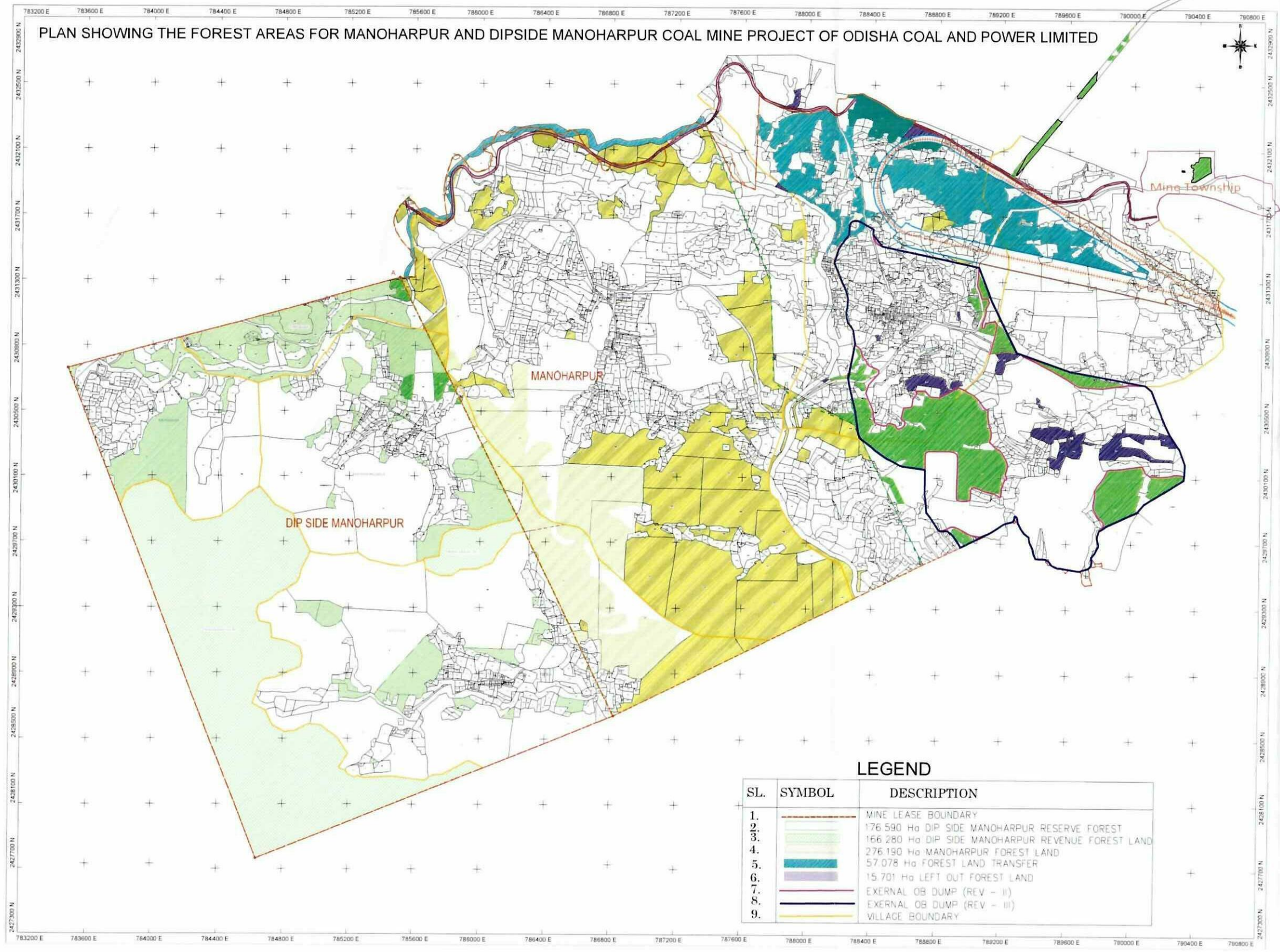


- xvi. As reported by the PCCF &HOFF, Odisha the Cost-Benefit Ratio is 1:221.514. The State has recommended the Regional Wildlife Management Plan and Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan.
  - xvii. The Mining plan including Mining closer plan has been approved by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India vide L.No.34011/15/2018-CPAM dated 26.09.2019. Subsequently one corrigendum has been made vide L.No.34011/15/2018-CPAM dated 01.10.2019, further following change made in Part-I that Mining Plan Revision-2 to Mining Plan Revision-3 being mentioned as Mining Plan (Revision-3) for Manoharpur and Manoharpur Dip Side Coal Block in IB valley of Sundargarh District of OCPL The period of Mining lease is for 30 years. The Mining operation has started as per the mining plan (Rev-III) on 01.11.2018 and life of the mine is estimated as 44 years @16MTA production. Schedule year of production has fixed to 2019-20 and proposed year of achieving production is fixed to 2022-23.
  - xviii. Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-II approval accorded by MOEF & CC vide letter F.No.8-63/2011-FC dated 20.08.2014 for the diversion of 276.655 ha forest land and the status of compliance report of Stage-I approval for diversion of 15.701 ha forest land for Manoharpur coal block has submitted by the State Government.
  - xix. There was a discrepancy in the area proposed forest for diversion. As per proposal submitted the area is 342.870 ha whereas the software-calculated area as per DSS analysis is found to be 334.069 ha. Similarly, it was mentioned that the project boundary area of dip-side is 1848.379 ha (Lease area 1781.591 ha) and its software-calculated area is found to be 1812.49 ha. The same has been rectified by the State.
  - xx. The State authorities recommended the proposal for diversion of 342.87 ha of forest land under FCA, 1980.
  - xxi. As per the proposal 64.14 ha area has been proposed for Allied Infrastructure out of which 51.64 ha is for OB dump. The justification for proposing these non-site specific activities on forest land was asked and no satisfactory reply has been received from the State Govt.
  - xxii. The proposal was also inspected by the Regional office Bhubaneswar and the AC has considered the SIR and noted that:
    - a) The mining operation will start in the Kanhupahad RF (10.52 Ha) block after 12<sup>th</sup> year of commencement of mining operation and mining in the Hunadarkhola RF block comprising an area of 166.06 Ha will commence after 25<sup>th</sup> years of mining operation.
    - b) The forest land proposed for dumping is 51.64 Ha, which is a non-site specific activity and the same cannot be considered on the forest land.
  - xxiii. As the UA has applied 342.870 ha forest land. Out of this proposed FL 10.52 ha will be used after 12 years and 166.06 ha will be used after 25<sup>th</sup> year and 51.64 ha will be used for dumping. In view of this scenario a huge patch of forest land sought for diversion does not seem to be utilized on urgent basis and in near future.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with CF (FCA), GoO and DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar the Advisory Committee deferred the proposal with observations that as huge patch of the forest land i.e. 51.64 ha is proposed to be used for dumping which is a non-site specific activity, a detailed review is required from the state side.





PLAN SHOWING THE FOREST AREAS FOR MANOHARPUR AND DIPSIDE MANOHARPUR COAL MINE PROJECT OF ODISHA COAL AND POWER LIMITED



LEGEND

SL.	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
1.		MINE LEASE BOUNDARY
2.		176 590 Ha DIP SIDE MANOHARPUR RESERVE FOREST
3.		166 280 Ha DIP SIDE MANOHARPUR REVENUE FOREST LAND
4.		276 190 Ha MANOHARPUR FOREST LAND
5.		57 078 Ha FOREST LAND TRANSFER
6.		15 701 Ha LEFT OUT FOREST LAND
7.		EXERNAL OB DUMP (REV - II)
8.		EXERNAL OB DUMP (REV - III)
9.		VILLAGE BOUNDARY