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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KORAPUT CIRCLE.

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Memo No. 3132 /1F (Project)- 37/2022

Dated 28. 09.2022.

To

The Conservator of Forests (Nodal)  
O/O the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 697.979 ha of forest land for Pottangi Bauxite Mining Lease in village Pottangi of Koraput Forest Division under Pottangi Tahasil, Koraput District by M/s NALCO Ltd. reg. (Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/29981/2017).

Ref: Your Memo No. 14993 dt 29.07.2022 of the Conservator of Forests (Nodal) O/o the PCCF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

In inviting a reference to your above cited memo on the subject, it is to inform that the DFO, Koraput Forest Division vide her Memo No.4530 dt 26.09.2022 has submitted the point-wise compliance report on observations pointed out by Gol, MoEF & CC ( FC Division), New Delhi vide their Letter No. 8-17/2022-FC dt 27.07.2022 to this office.The said compliance is as follows-

Observation No.	Observations / Compliance.
i.(a)	A Kuchha road is observed to be passing through the forest area proposed for Diversion. State Government may comment on the present use of the road and alternate road, if any, required to be provided as the area is proposed to be closed for mining.
Compliance.	The said Roads were constructed by GSI/MECL during exploration stage for preparation of pits & trenches as mentioned in Page No.35, 36 & 48 of the Mining Plan. These roads are not public road as the ML area is situated at an altitude of 1200-1500 Meter above MSL without any habitation. In this regard extract of Mining plan is enclosed as <b>Annexure-I</b> ).
(b)	Site suitability certificate has been submitted in respect of 294.70 ha. of degraded forest land only. Complete certificate for the entire forest land of 1400 ha proposed for raising CA needs to be submitted by the State.
Compliance.	The site suitability certificate for the entire land of 1400 ha. Proposed for raising Compensatory Afforestation has already been submitted earlier along with the C.A. Scheme in the Diversion Proposal. The copy of said site suitability / Land suitability certificate is enclosed as <b>Annexure-II</b> . The DFO, Koraput Division commits that, before Plantation if any illegal encroachment/shifting cultivation found in the allotted area for C.A. then that will be removed and Plantation will be undertaken as per the Scheme approved by the office of the P.C.C.F., & HoFF, Govt. of Odisha with the cost to be provided by the user agency.

<p>(c)</p>	<p>CA has been proposed in 16 patches of the total forest area for Compensatory Afforestation, 139 ha land is classified as moderately dense forest, 458 ha as open forest, 414 ha as scrub and 393 ha as non-forest (land without tree cover) in terms of forest classes. The State Government may, therefore, re-confirm the suitability of such area for raising Afforestation and if required alternate sites, suitable for raising CA may be identified and inform the Ministry, Support documents showing details of various attributes such as KML, files, derived from the Differential GPS surveys, CA Scheme suitability certificate etc. should also be furnished.</p>
<p><b>Compliance.</b></p>	<p>In lieu of 139 ha Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) an additional area of 140.00 ha. has been identified and allotted in Godmak PRF under Laxmipur Range of Koraput Forest Division. In this regard Topo sheet, DGPS Maps, KML/ shape file in CD, DSS Analysis report of the said area, CA Scheme and Site suitability Certificate for raising compensatory Afforestation is enclosed as <b>Annexure-III.</b></p>
<p>(iii)</p>	<p>As the schedule-I species have been reported in the area, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha 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.</p>
<p><b>Compliance.</b></p>	<p>The PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his Memo No.6537 dt 15.07.2022 sought Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan from the DFO, Koraput Forest Division. Accordingly the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and the same will be forwarded to the PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar through RCCF, Koraput Circle for its approval. The copy of Memo No.6537 dt 15.07.2022 of the PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar is enclosed as <b>Annexure-IV.</b></p>
<p>(iv)</p>	<p>As the area has schedule-I and Schedule-II species, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha 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.</p>
<p><b>Compliance.</b></p>	<p>The PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his Memo No.6537 dt 15.07.2022 sought Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan from the DFO, Koraput Forest Division. Accordingly the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and the same will be forwarded to the PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar through RCCF, Koraput Circle for its approval. The copy of Memo No.6537 dt 15.07.2022 of the PCCF (Wildlife) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar is enclosed as <b>Annexure-IV.</b></p>
<p>(v)</p>	<p>From the purpose wise breakup of forest land, the following may be ascertained:-</p>
<p>(a)</p>	<p>40.077 ha has been reported to be scattered between the mineralized zone. Plans, if any proposed by the user agency for the management and upkeep of these areas during the onset of mining operations may be intimated by the State.</p>
<p><b>Compliance.</b></p>	<p>The land use pattern for 40.077 Ha. as given in the FDP, submitted on 13.11.2017 prior to approval of Mining plan was a tentative one. Subsequently Mining plan approved on 27.07.2018 by IBM. Nalco undertake to abide by the Mining plan stipulation. The copy of land use pattern as mentioned in the conceptual plan approved by IBM is enclosed as <b>Annexure-V.</b></p>

V(b)	An area of 28.326 ha has been proposed for statutory buildings which appears to be exaggerated, therefore, statutory building wise detailed breakup of 28.326 ha of forest land may be informed by the State.
<b>Compliance.</b>	The area of 28.326 ha proposed for the statutory Building is for entire life of the mine (conceptual period). However, mining operations proposed to be taken up in south Block first and for this an area of 5.333 ha. has been demarcated for statutory Buildings. Rest of the area proposed is for other Blocks, which will be used as and when mining is taken up in those blocks in future. This is reflected in the table given in the Conceptual plan Map enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-V</u></b> in remarks column. NALCO has given an undertaking to use minimum forest land for infrastructure project. However, in the undertaking they have mentioned the construction of Statutory Building is of temporary in nature. The same will be demolished / wind up and that area will be utilized for mining purpose as mining activity progress from one block to other.
V(c)	Similarly, further details of area proposed for primary crusher and power line corridor may also be provided by the State.
<b>Compliance.</b>	Land for primary crusher and Power corridor has been estimated and approved by IBM as 10.230 ha. and 12.400 ha respectively. This is indicated in the conceptual plan approved by IBM. Copy enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-V.</u></b>
V(d)	Details of area proposed for Dumping of overburden is not available in the purpose-wise breakup. Comments in this regard may be provided by the State.
<b>Compliance.</b>	The waste (over burden) is proposed to be back filled into mined out pits. The waste (over burden) generated in the first three years of mining will be dumped temporarily in the portion of the central block adjacent to South Block and used for backfilling of mined out pits in south block in fourth and fifth year and plantation will be taken up. The proposed dumping of over burden is also available in the conceptual plan approved by IBM (over 5.230 ha.) Copy enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-V.</u></b>
V(e)	A consolidated KML file clearly showing various components of the proposed Mining Project may be submitted by the State.
<b>Compliance.</b>	The Consolidated KML file showing project area, safety zone etc. has been uploaded and the same has been enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VI.</u></b>
(vi)	Cost benefit Ration has been estimated as 1:258.356 (pg 233/c) which is exorbitantly high. It seems appropriation of cost and benefits components has not been done properly. The analysis may be revised by the user agency by applying appropriate economic tools to accurately estimate the various parameters and detailed analysis thereof may be submitted to the Ministry.
<b>Compliance.</b>	The revised Cost benefit Analysis has been prepared afresh and uploaded on Parivesh portal as per the format given by GoI MoEF & CC., New Delhi after taking into account the cost of Compensatory Afforestation approved by the Nodal Officer attached with the FDP. Now the ratio comes to 1:26.13 . The copy of said Cost Benefit analysis is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VII.</u></b>

(vii)	Mining Plan stated to be approved by the IBM, Bhubaneswar over an area of 697.979 ha has not uploaded online, rather a receipt of Rs.1,75,000/- addressed to NALCO has been submitted, Processing authorities in the State needs to scrutinize the correctness to the documents uploaded online before submitted the proposal to the Ministry and to ensure that correct and legible detail is uploaded online. The State Government may also confirm that land use proposed in the proposal is in conformity with the land use proposed in the approved Mining Plan.
<b>Compliance.</b>	The approval letter of Mining Plan by IBM vide letter No.MP/FM/13-012/BHU/2018-19 dated 27.07.2018 is enclosed as <b><u>Annexure-VIII.</u></b> The hard copy of the Mining Plan is enclosed along with the Diversion Proposal & the same has been uploaded in Part-I of Application Form-A on Parivesh Portal.

In this regard updated hard copy of Part-I and Part-II of Application Form-A is also submitted herewith for information and necessary action.

- Encl:**
1. Compliance report = 2 (Two) sets with Annexures.
  2. C.D. containing KML file in respect of CA land.
  3. C.D. containing KML file of project area, safety zone etc.
  4. Copy of Memo No.4530 dt 26.09.2022 of the DFO, Koraput Forest Division.



Regional Chief Conservator of Forests  
Koraput Circle, Koraput

Memo No. 3133 / Dated 28. 09.2022.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Forest Division for information with reference to her Memo No.4530 dated 26.09.2022.



Regional Chief Conservator of Forests  
Koraput Circle, Koraput