



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR DIVISION**

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**Memo No. 7491 /6F-Mining-29/2021**  
**Dated, Keonjhar the 19th July, 2025**

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.

Sub: Diversion of forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited within the total mining lease area of 24.203 ha as per LoI given by Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha.

Ref: Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021.

The diversion of forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of Odisha Mineral Corporation Ltd has been received online from the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act. O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021. The said proposal submitted over 22.551 ha forest land is sent herewith in 4 sets along with CD for approval under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

**A. Brief description of the Project Proposal**

**A.1. Brief description of the Project**

The Government of Odisha had established Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (OMECL) in pursuance of Odisha Mineral Exploration Policy, 2015. OMECL was 100% State PSU, established in order to intensify the mineral exploration and mining activities in the State. In order to cater the need of Raw material by the end user industries, the State Govt. reserved Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block over an area of 24.203 ha in Keonjhar District in favor of OMECL, under section 17 A (2) of MMDR Act 1957 vide Notification No. 946/SM, dt 28.01.2021 (**Annexure-I**) with due approval of Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. The letter of intent (LoI) was issued by the Department of Steel & Mines vide letter No.2215/SM dt 26.02.2021 (**Annexure-II**) in favour of OMECL for grant of mining lease for the said block subject to fulfilment of conditions within three years from the date of issue of LoI. Meanwhile, OMECL was decided to be merged with OMC Ltd vide order of State Govt. issued on dt 06.09.2022 (**Annexure-III**) and the process of merger was completed vide Ministry of Corporate Affairs order dt 03.05.2023 (**Annexure-IV**). Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd vide letter dt 19.08.2023 (**Annexure-V**) requested for transfer of Letter of Intent (LoI) issued in favour of erstwhile M/s Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (OMECL) for grant of Rengalbeda (NE) Iron ore Block in their favour. As per Clause No.36 (i) of the final order by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi all assets of OMECL including the LoI dt 26.02.2021 for grant of Rengalbeda (NE) mining lease stands transferred to OMC Ltd with effect from dt 03.05.2023 (**Annexure-IV**).

The State Govt. after careful consideration pleased to approve substitution of the name of OMECL with OMC Ltd in the Lol issued vide letter dt 26.02.2021 in favour of OMECL for grant of mining lease of Rengalbeda Iron Ore Block vide letter No.12897/SM dt 26.12.2023 (**Annexure-VI**). Hence, OMC is submitting the compliance as observed with revised proposal for grant of Forest Clearance.

Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block is located in the village limits of Nuagaon and Gandhalpada under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District, Odisha. It is located between latitude: 21° 57' 51.56" to 21° 58' 09.73" N & longitude: 85° 16' 03.80" to 85° 16' 29.78" E and is covered by Survey of India Topo sheet No. F 45 N 5 (**Plate No-I**). The area exhibits an undulated topography with varying elevations from 548 m to 594 m above Mean Sea Level (AMSL).

The area is approachable from Barbil town covering a distance of 26.0 km. The lease area is connected by NH-215, which passes through eastern part of the lease hold area. Also, the area can be approachable from Koira which is by the side of NH-215 at a distance of 6.0 km. The District Head Quarters Keonjhar is at a distance of 85.0 km from the lease area.

The nearest railway station at Banspani is 25 km away from Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block. Barbil Railway Station comes under Tatanagar-Barbil section of the South-Eastern Railway, which is 30 km away from the area.

The mining leases located around Rengalbeda Iron Ore Block are given below and indicated on the Location Map (**Plate No. I**) for reference:

Sl. No.	Name of the lessee	Location	Area in ha.	ML/PL
1	M/s K J S Ahluwalia	Nuagaon	772.09	ML
2	M/s Rungta (BICO)	Nadidihi	73.85	ML
3	M/s National Enterprises	Sagasahi	37.64	ML
4	M/s O.M.C.Ltd	Parulipada	100.71	ML

Rengalbeda (NE) Iron Ore Block over 24.203 ha comprises 17.034 ha of revenue forest in the village limits of Gandhalpada and Nuagaon and 7.169 ha of non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 (SABIK) as per the certified copy of the land schedule issued by the Tahasildar, Barbil over 59.807 Ac. or 24.203 ha of the ML area vide letter No.106 dt 02.01.2021 (**Annexure-VII**). The copy of the authenticated lease map is enclosed as **Plate No. II**. The village wise and category wise forest land details as per the certified land schedule is given as under for reference.

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Forest Land (In ha.)			Total (In ha.)
		Revenue Forest	Forest as on 25.10.1980	Total	
1	Gandhalpada	0.386	1.731	2.117	2.117
2	Nuagaon	16.65	5.438	22.09	22.086
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.03</b>	<b>7.169</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>24.203</b>

The block contains a reserve of 18.34 million tons of iron ore of probable category (122) as per the mining plan approved by IBM vide letter No.RMP-2303/2024-25-IBM\_RO\_BBS dt 03.12.2024. The production rate approved for the mine is 2.0 MTPA. Considering 18.34 million tons of iron ore reserve (122), the expected life of the mine at the above approved capacity will continue for more than 10 (Ten) years. The copy of the Geological plan showing different litho units is given in **Plate No. VI**.

Earlier, the user agency had submitted the proposal vide proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/142246/2021, Sl. No. OR-036/2021 dated 03.06.2021 for diversion of 24.203 ha of forest land. Accordingly, the said diversion proposal was sent to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela vide this office memo No.7869 dated 07.11.2021. Subsequently the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela vide his memo No.1436 dated 02.05.2023 has also forwarded the said proposal to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o. the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

On scrutiny of said proposal, the PCCF (Nodal) has intimated that, ***“the user agency has again applied for 24.203 ha of forest land including 1.652 ha forest land already diverted to NHAI without getting the NOC. But it is not feasible as per the Clause-5.6 (b) of Hand Book of Guidelines circulated by the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India during 2019. Accordingly, the user agency is advised to submit proposal deducting already diverted area of 1.652 ha forest land from their Mining Lease area as Highway and Mining cannot be treated as compatible use in any case”.***

Accordingly, the user agency has submitted the instant diversion proposal over 22.551 ha excluding 1.652 ha of forest land already diverted in favour of NHAI.

## **A.2. Physiography and Geological formation**

The lease hold area has been earmarked in Toposheet No. F45N5 (73G/5) along with the adjoining lease areas of allotted boundary. The allotted mining lease area is bounded by Latitude- 21°-57'-51.56" to 21°-58'-09.73 N and Longitude- 85°-16'-03.80" to 85°-16'-29.78" E.

## **A.3. Floristic- Faunal Composition**

The prevailing vegetation in the forest land proposed for diversion includes Sal and Sal associates. The geological formation of this area is quite suitable for growth of Sal. Sal constitutes around 70 to 75% of the top canopy.

As per tree enumeration list the floral species found viz *Shorea robusta*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Bridelia retusa*, *Mangifera indica*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Diospyros melanoxylon* & Misc Species are present in the applied forest land.

The applied Forest land in village Gandhalpada & Nuagaon under Barbil Tahasil of Barbil Range of Keonjhar Division is dwelling habitat for Elephant, Bear, Barking Dear, Hyena, Porcupine and etc. wild elephants, often, visit nearest



Sidhamath Reserved Forest and the adjoining Forest Blocks. There is very good Sal generation of up to 8-10 years age pole size, but there is hardly any Sal mother tree in ML area. Kendu Chara & Mahula trees also seen. The average density taken into consideration is **0.5**, ECO Class-I considering that of Sidhamath RF which has maximum coverage under medium dense Forest category (Canopy density 0.4-0.7) as per ORSAC supplied Forest block wise canopy density maps based on Forest Survey of India, State of Forest Report 2019.

## **B. Documents and Undertakings as regards Forest Diversion Proposal**

### **B.1. Maps**

The user agency has furnished the required maps as depicted in the following table-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Maps</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	Location Plan on 1: 50, 000 scale in the Survey of India Topo Sheets No. F 45 N 5, showing the ML boundary, adjoining leases, the boundary of adjoining forest blocks and various natural features.	<b>Plate No. I</b>
2	Copy of the lease map.	<b>Plate No. II</b>
3	Copy of the existing land use plan.	<b>Plate No. III</b>
4	Copy of the Plan showing the details of the Safety Zone area for mining operation in 1: 4000 scale.	<b>Plate No. IV</b>
5	Copy of the Proposed land use plan on 1:4000 scale.	<b>Plate No. V</b>
6	Copy of the Geological Plan on 1:1000 Scale.	<b>Plate No. VI</b>
7	Copy of the Plan showing the year-wise phased reclamation and afforestation programme on 1: 4000 scale.	<b>Plate No. VII</b>
8	Copy of the DGPS surveyed map of ML area on 1:3960 scale authenticated by ORSAC.	<b>Plate No VIII</b>
9	Plan showing category of Forest land included within the ML	<b>Plate No. IX</b>
10	Map showing WL sanctuaries, biosphere reserve, elephant reserve etc. and their distance from ML area.	<b>Plate No. X</b>
11	Copy of the cadastral map showing non-forest Govt. land for CA in Kalahandi district.	<b>Plate No. XI</b>
12	Copy of the survey of India Topo sheet showing non-forest Govt. Land for CA in Kalahandi district.	<b>Plate No. XII</b>

### **B.2. Forest Land**

The submitted diversion proposal over 22.551 ha forest land within Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited under Barbil Tahasil of Keonjhar District in Keonjhar forest division, involves 22.551 ha forest land. The details of the forest land involved in the project with the purpose of utilisation is furnished hereunder-

#### **Purpose wise breakup of the forest land required for the project**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Pattern of Utilization</b>	<b>Forest Area (ha.)</b>		
		<b>Revenue forest</b>	<b>Forest As on 25.10.1980</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Mining	13.167	4.933	18.10
2	Infrastructures.	-	0.010	0.010

3	Safety Zone area (7.5m along ML boundary & 50m on both side of NH-215)	3.39	1.051	4.441
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>16.557</b>	<b>5.994</b>	<b>22.551</b>
4	Land Occupied by NH-215 (Not Proposed for Diversion)	0.478	1.175	1.652
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.035</b>	<b>7.169</b>	<b>24.203</b>

### B.3. Tree Enumeration.

There are 483 nos. Sound tree and 37 nos. Un-Sound tree standing on the forest land over 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron ore mines of M/s OMC Limited within the total mining lease area of 24.203 ha as per LoI given by Steel & Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha. The species wise and diameter class wise abstract of total enumerated trees is enclosed as **Annexure- ~~XXI~~**.

### B.4. Cost benefit analysis.

The Cost Benefit analysis has been worked out as per the guide lines of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and enclosed in the proposal as **Annexure- IX**.

### B.5. Re-settlement and Rehabilitation.

During the site inspection, it is observed that, 16 to 17 nos households are staying in Nuagaon village, coming within the lease area since last 30 years or more. Hence, Re-settlement of the above households are essential. So, the user agency should prepare the Re-habitation Plan for the above purpose and get it approved by the competent authority. The undertaking furnished by the user agency in this regard is enclosed in this proposal as **Annexure- XVI**.

### B.6. Safety Zone

The submitted proposal over 22.551 ha Forest Land involved, in Keonjhar District and the area located in the safety zone is 4.441 ha Forest land. The details of forest land located in the safety zone involved in the mining lease is furnished hereunder-

#### DETAILS OF SAFETY ZONE AREA

Sl. No.	Particulars	Forest area in hectares			Total Area (ha.)
		Revenue Forest	Forest as on 25.10.1980	Total	
1	7.5 m strip along ML boundary	0.788	0.708	1.496	1.496
2	50 m strip on either side of NH-215	2.602	0.343	2.945	2.945
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.39</b>	<b>1.051</b>	<b>4.441</b>	<b>4.441</b>

### **B.7. Concurrent Reclamation Plan.**

The User Agency has undertaken vide **Annexure- XI** to abide the condition to be stipulated as regards reclamation of broken up areas in respect of submitted diversion proposal.

### **B.8. Lease Profile**

The User Agency has furnished the lease profile vide **Annexure- XVIII** in the Diversion Proposal.

### **B.9. District Profile**

The district profile in the prescribed proforma vide **Annexure- VII** of FC Act guideline is annexed herewith as **Annexure-**

### **B.10. Certificate under FRA, 2006**

The Collector, Keonjhar vide his letter No.1389 dated 29.05.2023 was issued certificate under FRA, 2006 over an area 24.203 ha in favour of M/s OMCEL involved in aforesaid mining block of Keonjhar Division is enclosed herewith as **Annexure- XIV**

### **B.11. Site Inspection Report of DCF**

Site Inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Keonjhar Division is furnished as **Annexure- XXII**

### **B.12. DGPS maps**

The DGPS map signed by all concerned officials of Revenue, Mining and Forest Dept., validated by ORSAC and duly countersigned by the undersigned is enclosed as **Plate- VIII**. The area as per land schedule and that of DGPS map involved in the submitted diversion proposal is produced below-

Sl. No.	Category of Forest Land	Area as per land schedule (in ha.)	Area as per DGPS (in ha.)	% variation
1	Revenue Forest	16.557		
2	Sabik Forest	5.994		
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>22.551</b>	<b>22.551</b>	<b>0%</b>

The category wise forest land has not been mentioned in the DGPS Survey map.

## **C. Compensatory Levies**

### **C.1. Compensatory Afforestation**

Non-forest land, equal in extent the forest land submitted for diversion over 22.551 ha under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, will be met from the identified and allotted non-forest Govt. land over 24.203 ha in village Sepaskhanda under Th. Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi District. The CA scheme prepared by DFO, Kalahandi (S) Division is enclosed herewith vide **Annexure- XX**.

## **C.2. Net Present Value.**

NPV of the forest land proposed for diversion of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 will be realised from the User Agency on receipt of Stage-I approval. The undertaking submitted by the User Agency to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure- XVI**.

## **C.3. Wild Life Management- Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan and Regional Wildlife Management Plan.**

As per condition No. (xi) of Term of Reference (ToR) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha, the user agency has to prepare and submit the Site Specific Wild Life Conservation Plan in the instant diversion Proposal. In this regards the user agency has submitted an undertaking vide **Annexure- XVII**. The user agency is required to prepare a Site Specific Wild Life Conservation Plan for the above project for protection of wild elephant and mitigative measures.

## **D. Statutory Clearances**

### **D.1. Forest Clearance**

No forest clearance has been accorded/ approved under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 earlier for the instant proposal.

### **D.2. Environmental Clearance**

The user agency has obtained Term of Reference (ToR) from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha vide No. 3015/SEIAA dated. 28.09.2021 is enclosed as **Annexure- XVI**.

### **D.3. Consent to Operate from SPCB, Odisha**

Not obtained

### **D.4. Mining Plan/ Scheme**

The Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by IBM vide No. RMP-2303/2024-25-IBM\_RO\_BBS dated 03.12.2024 with validity of excavation proposal for this document shall expire within 5(five) year from execution of the mining lease. The copy of the approved Plan is enclosed as **Annexure- VIII**

## **E. Misc. Information**

### **E.1. Drone Survey Image of the proposed Forest land**

The drone survey image of the proposed forest land over 22.551 ha is enclosed herewith as **Annexure- XXIII**

### **E.2. Google Series Map of proposed forest land.**

The Google Series Map of the proposed forest land over 22.551 ha is enclosed herewith as **Annexure- XXIV**



### **E.3. Observation by the DFO, Keonjhar during Site Inspection.**

During the site inspection, the following observations are noticed.

1. There is no Perennial Nala flowing in the Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited.
2. The NH-520 Passing through lease has been excluded.
3. All lease pillars are posted and intact.
4. 16-17 households have been staying Nuagaon village for last min 30 years who needs to be rehabilitated.
5. M/s Rungta Mines Transmission line is passing through left corner of the lease whose proposal for rerouting from outside the lease has already received Stage-II clearance.
6. ESL Vedanta Mines is adjacent to present lease sharing common boundary but in Sundergarh district and Bonai Forest Division.

### **E.4. Violation and Action Taken thereof.**

No violation has been committed in the forest land proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for 22.551 ha within the allotted block of Rengalbeda North East Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Limited.

### **E.5. Pending Court Matters.**

There is no Court matter pending against the User Agency in respect of the forest land proposed for diversion under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The undertaking submitted by the User Agency to this effect is enclosed as **Annexure- XVII**.

The submitted diversion proposal over 22.551 ha Forest Land for the said project, in Keonjhar District is forwarded herewith for necessary consideration as per provision under section-2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

**Enclosure- Diversion proposal along with requisite documents.**

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Keonjhar Division.

**Memo No.** 7492 / **Dated** 19.07.2025

Copy forwarded to the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o. the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Keonjhar Division.