



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
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F.No. FC-II/MH-165/2021-NGP /11158

Date: 9th February, 2023

✓ To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 12.07 ha forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Ltd., Ballarpur under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Sakhari-Irawati (Pouni III) Opencast Mine Project at Village- Sakhari, Tal. Rajura, Distt- Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-3616/CR-01/F-10 dated 10.06.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/I.D- /1715/15-16 dated 15.12.2015 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal was forwarded to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for approval of the competent authority. Now the proposal has been returned with a request to submit the additional information on the following points:

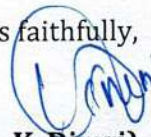
- i. Mining Plan for enhanced capacity of 1.55 million tonnes per annum has been approved by the Board of Directors of WCL on 29.05.2010. However, a copy of the same is not available in the proposal. A copy of mining plan for enhanced capacity along with the undertaking from the User Agency that the land use provided in the proposal is in conformity with the land use provided in the approved Mining Plan.
- ii. Mining Plan has been approved in the year 2010 while the proposal for approval under the FC Act, 1980 has been received after a gap of almost 12 years. Reasons for exorbitantly delay needs to be furnished.
- iii. It is indicated in the proposal that the mining operations in the lease area are ongoing. However, it cannot be ascertained whether the mining operations in the additional area required for enhanced capacity are also being taken up by the user agency. Exact detail of the same may be furnished by the State Government.
- iv. Land use proposed in the forest land cannot be ascertained from the detail available in the proposal, same need to be submitted.
- v. As per detail provided in the Part-I, the total project area has been indicated as 820.70 ha while the same is mentioned as 1140.59 ha in the deliberation of REC dated 14.10.2022. Exact position in this regard may be informed by the State Government.
- vi. To mitigate the impact of project activity on the wildlife, preparation of Wildlife Management Plan of Rs. 20 lakh has been recommended by the State Government, same need to be approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and specific comments in term of holistic impact of the mining activity on the surrounding flora and fauna need to be submitted.

- vii. The specific comments from the State Government on why this case should not fall under category of *fait accompli*, since mining is on in NFL and now the UA is asking for mining in forest land need to be submitted.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,



(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.



(N. K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)