

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)**

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 1st March, 2023

2nd

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 57.618 ha forest land including 55.030 ha in Forest compartment No PF-365 & PF 441, Damua Range of West Chhindwara Forest Division and 2.588 ha Revenue Forest land in various Khasra of Village Chikatbari for Dhau North under-ground Coal mining project in favour of M/s Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) under Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/151657/2022) - - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/834/2021/10-11/156 dated 11.01.2023 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After examining the proposal, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The Government of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. F-1/834/2021/10-11/156 dated 11.01.2023 forwarded the proposal for diversion of 57.618 ha forest land for Dhau North under-ground Coal mining project as a fresh diversion proposal without any reference to the extension of the existing mine, whereas, as per online Part-I, the instant proposal is submitted by the User agency for extension of Nanndan-II Under Ground Mine in Dhau North Block. Further, the Ministry of Coal vide letter dated 02.07.2013 has assigned the Dhau North Block of Kanhan area, Madhya Pradesh to CIL/WCL specifying that the mining operation shall be carried out through existing infrastructure and incline of Nandan-II under ground Mine. The above variation needs clarification.
- ii. The Environmental clearance dated 17.10.2006 as submitted against instant proposal is for Nandan Underground Coal Mine Project wherein it has been mentioned that total lease area is

543.50 ha out of which 206.20 ha is forest land. Therefore the copies of approval granted under Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 along with status of compliance of the stipulated conditions therein shall be submitted.

- iii. As per the records submitted the instant proposal is not approved by Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh for prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This needs clarification.
- iv. The PCCF Wildlife had earlier recommended to reject the proposal because the the area proposed was within a Tiger Corridor. Accordingly the earlier proposal was rejected on the recommendation of the State Government. The details of the earlier proposal have not been given in the Part-1 of the application form. Further, the State shall clarify whether the area proposed earlier and that proposed now is same or otherwise. A detailed well reasoned justification for change in the opinion/recommendation shall also be submitted.
- v. The DCF/CF have recommended the proposal subject to obtaining Wildlife clearance as the area is within the Pench-Satpura Tiger Corridor. The detail of safeguards proposed/required in view of the location of the proposed area within a Tiger corridor shall be submitted.
- vi. As per DSS Analysis the calculated area of Mining lease boundary through KML file is found to be 109.879 ha instead of 112.64 ha as per proposal. Therefore the correct KML file of mining lease as per proposal shall be submitted.
- vii. The State Govt has submitted a combined Mining Plan for Nandan-1 and Nandan-II Colliery, which includes an area of 2148.562 ha. The State Govt shall submit the detail including kml file of the total forest/non-forest land involved in the mining lease/plan along with the status of approval of the remaining forest area within the lease/mining plan.
- viii. High resolution satellite imagery shows the presence of Human settlement and Agriculture land within Revenue forest Khasra no. 6/2. Further a road is passing through compartment No. 441 proposed for diversion. This needs clarification.
- ix. High resolution satellite imagery shows that the plantation activities have been carried out in the Compartment no. 441 proposed for diversion. The detail of the plantation activities shall be provided by the State Government.
- x. The Cost Benefit analysis is required to be submitted as per the the format prescribed in the FCA, 1980 Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 keeping in view the revised rates of NPV dated 06.01.2022.
- xi. The Mining plan was approved 13 years ago in the year 2009. Hence, the relevance of the same in view of the technological advancement in the subsequent years is required to be examined. The State Govt shall examine the matter and submit a revised Mining plan along with Progressive mine reclamation/ closure plan.
- xii. As per DSS analysis, it has been observed that a River is passing

through the Mining lease area. In this regard the comments of the Water Resource Department of the State/State Government on the effect of underground mining on ground water recharge and measures to protect river subsidence due to under-ground mining shall be submitted. The details of any study done in this regard shall also be submitted.

- xiii. The State Govt. has uploaded the details of CA in Part-II of the application form on PARIVESH. The details given for CA area are however identical to the forest patches applied for diversion. Therefore, the State Govt. shall examine the applicability of CA in the instant proposal and do the needful correction in Part-II of the application form.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 02-03-2023 17:21:22

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.