

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 8th March, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 631.39 ha (instead of 622.783 ha) forest land of Survey No. RF-276, 281 & PF -277, 278, 279, Village- Muhair and Padri, Range Baidhan in Singrouli Forest Division for Block-B Expansion Opencast Coal Mining in favour of M/s Northern Coalfield Limited in Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/44294/2020) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

This is in reference to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) & Nodal Officer, FCA, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/823/2021/10-11/3462 dated 18.10.2021 on the above mentioned subject. In this regard, the proposal for diversion of 631.39 ha forest land was considered by the FAC in its meeting held on 21st February, 2022.

The FAC, after detailed deliberation observed that the proposal in its present form is not site specific as more than 80% of the forest area is proposed for dumping the overburden, which can be done over Revenue land as well as other Non-forest areas. Keeping this in view, the FAC deferred the proposal and decided that:

- i. The State Government shall explore more options on non-forest land/existing voids created by mining activities for dumping.
- ii. The State Govt. shall verify and intimate, whether the voids created in Old Gorbi Mine are in forest land or otherwise. In case the same are in forest land, the status of permission for dumping fly ash under the provisions of FCA, 1980 shall be intimated. The status of Environmental Clearance under Environment Protection Act, 1986 shall also be intimated.
- iii. The capacity of the voids created by the Old Gorbi Mine and the capacity still to be utilised shall be verified. The State govt. shall also explore the possibility of using the said void together with NTPC. In this regard the use of modern technology like conveyor belts can also be made for reducing the transportation through Trucks/dumpers.
- iv. In case the rehabilitation process from non-forest land in adjoining area is not cost effective, then the State Government shall explore other nearby Non-forest areas in this regard. The possibility of transportation through the conveyor belts may also be explored.

Accordingly, the State Govt is requested to explore more areas/options and identify Non-Forest Land for dumping the overburden.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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