

F.No. 8-06/2022-FC

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 22nd April, 2022

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh
Nawa Raipur

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 214.869 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MAHAGENCO) for Gare Pelma Sector -II Opencast and Underground Coal Mining Project in the Mand Raigarh Coalfield, in District Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) – reg.

Sir,

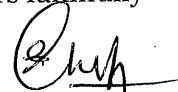
I am directed to refer to the State Government of Maharashtra's letter No. F5-26/2021/10-2 dated 19.04.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the examination of the said proposal in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. Given the density of 0.5 of the 214.869 ha of forest land, number of project affected trees reported as 3684 appears to have been estimated on lower side. The same needs to be reconfirmed by the State.
- ii. Kelo river is flowing adjacent to the mining area for which the provisions of embankment have been proposed by the State. However, comments of the Water Resource Department on the proposed measures and impact of the project on the hydrological regimes in the area have not been submitted.
- iii. Approach road has also been proposed to be diverted, detail of forest land, if any involved in the proposed diversion of road could not be known from the detail provide in the proposal.
- iv. Site suitability certificates from the DCF concerned, certifying the suitability of non-forest land for raising CA, have not been submitted and uploaded online.
- v. Cost benefit analysis indicating the CB ratio of 1:48.2 has been submitted which appears to be exorbitantly high. The same needs to be revisited and estimated using appropriate techno-economic tools for estimation of all parameters and their discounting to arrive at same values of cost and future benefits.
- vi. Area specific provisions for the conservation and protection of wildlife have not been discussed in the Wildlife Management Plan, approved by the PCCF (WL). Accordingly, the State Government may update the recommendations made in the Wildlife Management Plan, based on wildlife census data and other relevant field data of the area and accordingly provisions provided in the Wildlife Management Plan may be revised with ratification from the relevant institute of repute.

P.T.O.

- vii. As per land use provided in the Mining Plan total forest area involved in the mining lease is 211.319 ha, comprising of 75.945 ha of PF and 135.374 ha of Revenue Forest land, instead of 214.869 ha as proposed for diversion. Discrepancy in the area needs to be rectified by the State and accordingly land use in the Mining Plan should be amended.
- viii. KML files indicating the different components of the projects have not been submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted conspicuously depicting the various projects component vis-à-vis total lease area.
- ix. KML files and afforestation scheme of the degraded forest land proposed for afforestation in lieu of 1.5 times the area of safety zone have not been provided in the proposal. The same needs to be submitted along with the afforestation scheme and suitability certificate
- x. Detail of degraded forest land identified for afforestation of trees which could not be planted in the MDF area of 84 of non-forest land, has not been provided by the State. The same needs to be submitted along with the afforestation scheme and suitability certificate.
- xi. Detail of coal evacuation plan and involvement of forest land, if any, may be also be intimated by the State.

Yours faithfully


(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur
2. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Raipur
3. The Nodal Officer, Forest Deptt., Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Divisions, MoEF
6. Guard File