

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: September, 2023

To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 80.59 ha forest land (15.549 ha Revenue forest land of Shahdol Range under South Shahdol Forest Division and 46.488 ha in RF-227 & PF-779 of Ghanghunti Range and 18.553 ha Revenue Forest Land under Umaria Forest Division) for Sahapur West Underground Coal Mine Project & surface use in favour of M/s Sarda Energy & Minerals Ltd. in Shahdol & Umaria Districts of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/151378/2022) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter no. F-1/839/2023/10-11/3824 dated 23.08.2023 and letter no. F-1/839/2023/10-11/3840 dated 24.08.2023 on the above cited subject forwarding the required information. The examination of the said information has revealed that:

- i. The land use details as mentioned in the mining plan are not matching with the components proposed and mentioned in the online Part-I. Therefore; a clarification must be provided with justification.
- ii. It is not clear whether the Green belt is different from the safety zone or otherwise. This needs clarification along with submission of KML file.
- iii. Further, area under road & infrastructure as mentioned in the mining plan is increasing from 14.875 to 14.905 ha and details in this regard shall be submitted.
- iv. Progressive mine closure plan does not indicate the time and how much forest land will be biologically reclaimed at the end of mine life which needs submission.
- v. As per the mining plan the proposal involves the construction of embankment, settling pond etc. and mining activity will be carried out at minimum depth of 72.15 meter to maximum depth of 141.73 meter from the surface. Therefore, the comments of the water resource department shall be submitted and if any, hydrological study has been carried out in the past shall also be submitted.
- vi. The user agency has uploaded an incorrect KML file indicating the different

components of the projects vis-à-vis including the components proposed to be undertaken on the Non-forest land because as per the said KML file the area of forest land proposed for diversion is found 80.90 ha instead of 80.59 ha and the total area of components proposed over the Non-forest land is found 1.61 ha instead of 15.814 ha. Moreover, the user agency has not given the attributes against each component KML file due to which it is impossible to segregate the KML files on the basis of their proposed components. Therefore a correct KML file for both forest and non-forest land showing the components shall be submitted.

- vii. Examination of KML file showing coal evacuation plan through GIS-DSS tool revealed that the road does not exist on the ground. Further the total area of the proposed road calculated through the KML file is found 7.02 ha and as per the map showing the coal evacuation plan which has been uploaded by the user agency in Part-I, the proposed path of the road is passing through the Revenue Forest land and the forest area coming under this road has not been included in the present proposal. Therefore a complete proposal involving the total requirement of forest land shall be submitted.
- viii. The undertaking from the user agency to bear the 2% cost of project towards wildlife management plan and cost towards chain link fencing for the proposed forest land as recommend by the PCCF, Wildlife shall be submitted.
- ix. Earlier, it was noticed during the examination of the proposal through DSS that the user agency has not sought the diversion of forest land in the Compt No. 780, Block: Kathoutiya, Shahdol Range located on the south-eastern corner of the Mining lease. But the State Govt. has now clarified that the said forest patch does not comes in the Mining lease. However the forest compartment boundaries available on DSS were submitted by the State Govt. to the FSI, Dehradun for their uploading on the DSS portal and as per DSS analysis, a protected forest (PF) patch i.e. Compt No. 780, Block: Kathoutiya, Shahdol Range located on the south-eastern corner of the Mining lease has not been included in the instant diversion proposal. It has been directed that either boundaries on the DSS should be corrected or else the state should submit the revised proposal including the said forest patch.

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

Yours sincerely,

Signed by
(Dr. Surabhi Rai)
Surabhi Rai
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Date: 22-09-2023 14:48:00

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), 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

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PARIVESH portal.