

F. No. 8-08/2007-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Parivaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.  
Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

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

Sub: Diversion of 728.750 ha of forest land for Coal mining at Amelia (North) Coal Block  
by Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/442/07/10-11/566 dated 02.03.2007 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 728.750 hectares of forest land for Coal mining at Amelia (North) Coal Block by Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, was sought, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh vide their letter No. F-1/442/07/10-11/2051 dated 08.07.2011, No. F-1/ 442/ 07/10-11/2409 dated 08.08.2011, No. F-5-2/2010/10-3/2591 dated 01.11.2012, No. F-1/442/07/10-11/3874 dated 08.11.2012 and No. F-1/ 442/ 07/ 10-11/4055 dated 26.11.2012, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 728.750 ha of forest land for Coal mining at Amelia (North) Coal Block by Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation in Sidhi District of Madhya Pradesh, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over equivalent non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department from funds realised from the user agency;

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अपर प्रकाश, मुख्य वन संरक्षक (नू-प्रबंध)

महाराष्ट्र, भोपाल

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- (iii) Out of the 728.750 hectares of non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department for creation of compensatory afforestation, the 226.215 hectares of land which has not been notified as Protected/ RF so far, shall be notified as Reserved Forest under Section 4 or Protected Forest under Section 29, of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, must report compliance within a period of 6 months and send a copy of the original notification declaring the said 226.215 hectares of non-forest land under Section- 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, as the case may be, to this Ministry for information and record;
- (iv) The User Agency shall create, fence and maintain a proper safety zone (100 metre strip) around the mining area. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost;
- (v) Following activities shall be undertaken by the User Agency or the State Forest Department at the project cost:
- (a) Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented;
  - (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion;
  - (c) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour;
  - (d) The top soil shall be protected at the project cost;
- (vi) The mining lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be co-terminus with the current lease granted under Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 or any other Act or 20 years, whichever is earlier;
- (vii) The State Government shall realize the additional NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the Ad-hoc CAMPA;
- (viii) The user agency shall supply the coal produced from the proposed mine, to the proposed 500 MW Thermal Power Project and other such projects which do not have coal linkages from Coal India Limited;
- (ix) The Reclamation Plan as revised shall be implemented by the User Agency as per the plan. Progress of reclamation shall be monitored regularly by the State Forest Department and Regional Office, Bhopal;
- (x) The User Agency shall plant the blank areas within a period of 10 years and maintain them during the entire period of lease in consultation with State Forest Department;

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The user Agency shall implement the conservation plan for the project area prepared under the guidance of the State Forest Department for maintenance and eco-restoration of the area at the project cost;

- (xii) The area within the lease, but outside diversion, be conserved and developed as Green Belt at project cost by the user agency;
- (xiii) Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xiv) No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area;
- (xv) No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- (xvi) The State Government shall implement the Wildlife Conservation Plan prepared in consultation with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun from funds realised from the user agency;
- (xvii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xviii) Other standard conditions as applicable to proposal related to mining shall also be applicable in the instant case;
- (xix) User agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report, indicating status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval, to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry; and
- (xx) Any other condition that the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal, may impose from time to time for the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area;

Yours faithfully,

*sd/-*

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:-**

- ✓ 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
- 2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
- 3. The CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
- 4. User Agency.
- 5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
- 6. Guard File.

*sd/-*

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests