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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE.**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 198 OF 2024(WZ)

**IN THE MATTER OF NEWS ARTICLE TITLED "COAL OVER
CONSERVATION: STATE WILDLIFE BOARD OKAYS
MINING IN CHANDRAPUR TIGER CORRIDOR"
APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 27.08.2024**

- RESPONDENTS** :
- 1) **Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,**
Maharashtra, Van Bhawan, Ramgiri FRoad,
Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440001.
 - 2) **Wildlife Institute of India,**
Through its Director, Post Box 18,
Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001
(Uttarakhand).
 - 3) **Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change,**
Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office,
Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat
Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440001.
 - 4) **District Magistrate (Chandrapur),**
Railway Station Road, Near District Court,
Chauhan Colony, Chandrapur, Maharashtra –
442401.
 - 5) **Western Coalfields Limited,**
Through Area General Manager, Chandrapur
Area, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

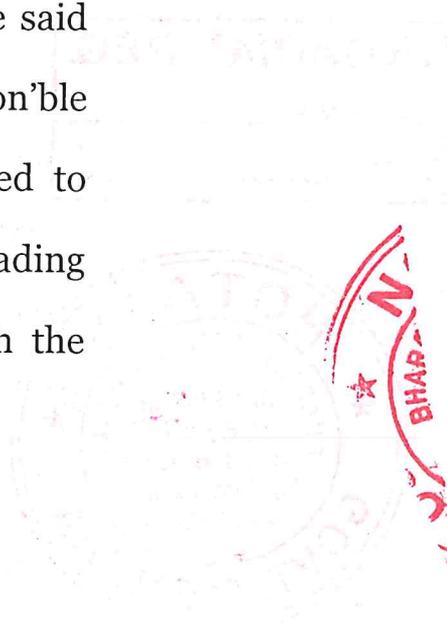


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SUBMISSIONS OF THE
RESPONDENT NO. 5 – WESTERN
COALFIELDS LIMITED

The Respondent No. 5 most respectfully, makes its submissions, as under:

1) That, vide order dated 13/09/2024, the Principal Seat of this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to take *suo-motu* cognizance of a newspaper report dated 27/08/2024, appearing in Times of India, titled "COAL OVER CONSERVATION: STATE WILDLIFE BOARD OKAYS MINING IN CHANDRAPUR TIGER CORRIDOR". That, the Hon'ble Principal Seat of this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to institute the present issue as an original application by taking *suo-motu* cognizance vide order dated 13/09/2024. That the said original application was transferred before this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 25/04/2025 was pleased to issue notice to the answering Respondents by impleading Western Coalfields Limited as Respondent No.5 in the present matter.



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2) It is submitted that Western Coalfields Limited (hereinafter referred to as "WCL" for the sake of brevity), the Respondent No. 5 herein, is a company duly incorporated and registered under relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and deals with mining of coal and other associated activities. The answering Respondent – WCL is one of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited and works under Ministry of Coal, Government of India. That the present submissions are being made on behalf of the WCL by Shri L Boopathi, Manager (Community Development Project & Planning), Chandrapur Area, WCL, Chandrapur, who is authorized on behalf of the Western Coalfields Limited to depose in the present Original Application and is duly conversant with the facts of the present case.

3) It is stated that the Western Coalfields Limited had been operating various mines in Chandrapur Area of WCL amongst which, Durgapur Deep Extension Open Cast Mine was also being run by the WCL. That the said mine was being run since a long time (1979) and it was felt proper to extend the limit of the mine for additional



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extraction of coal. That an area of 338.85 Ha. was acquired by Western Coalfields Limited under the provisions of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 on 04/08/1979. Out of the 338.85 Ha Forest Land 257.77 Ha Forest land is being utilized by the WCL with clearances from Ministry of Coal and Government of Maharashtra. 36.00 Ha Forest Land had been returned to the State Forest Department after the mining activities. Remaining 45.08 Ha is being utilized for the adjacent project namely Durgapur Rayatwari Colliery Underground Project with a proper Forest Clearance. That the said 257.77 Ha. included an area of 80.77 Ha., which was a Forest Land. That initially Forest Diversion was issued in favour of Western Coalfields Limited on 08/11/2005. That the said diversion was granted for a period of 8 years. A copy of Forest Clearance letter dated 08/11/2005 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-A**. That during this period, the answering Respondent utilized the said land admeasuring 80.77 Ha. for mining activities.



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4) It is stated that during the period of 8 years, the area of 80.77 Ha. was mined out and 98% of the total land area had been utilized for mining purposes and is currently used as water body and mine benches. It is stated that adjacent land of 121.58 Ha. is a Forest Land, it is also included in the same project. That the said land of 121.58 Ha. has also been diverted for mining purposes after grant of Forest & Wildlife Clearance. However, in order to utilize the said 121.58 Ha. land, the present land of 80.77 Ha. is required for proper utilization of the said adjacent land. It is specifically stated that neither the land admeasuring 80.77 Ha. nor land admeasuring 121.58 Ha. falls in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco-Sensitive Zone.

5) That in view of expiry of Forest Diversion, an application for renewal of Forest Clearance for 80.77 Ha. land was submitted to the Forest Department on 01/02/2013. A copy of application dated 01/02/2013 is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE NO. : R5-B. It is to be pointed out that since 2013, the land had remained non-operational, due to expiry of Forest



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Clearance. However, it is stated that the proposal for Forest Clearance was deliberated at various levels during the intervening period.

6) That vide letter dated 14/02/2024, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra directed the Respondent to apply for wildlife clearance for the said area. That, therefore, the answering Respondent submitted online proposal for wildlife clearance on 27/02/2024. A copy of proposal dated 27/02/2024 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-C**. The said proposal was also submitted offline by submitting a hard copy to the DFO, Chandrapur on 14/03/2024, which is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-D**.

7) At this juncture, it is required to point out that various allegations appearing in the Newspaper Report dated 27/08/2024, needs to be addressed in order to get better clarity of the issue involved and pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal.



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8) That the present project is located 12.25 Kms. away from Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) and 10 Kms. away from the buffer zone of the said Reserve Forest. That further, the project does not fall within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of TATR. That, therefore, the area proposed for mining i.e. 80.77 Ha. does not violate any distance norms issued by various authorities from time to time. However, it is required to be pointed out that the said land falls within the Tiger Corridor between Tadoba-Tipeshwar-Kawal and that therefore wildlife clearance for the said land was required. However, no impact upon wildlife is expected due to clearance of the said land as almost the entire area has been mined out and currently the mine void is filled with water.

9) As stated above, the entire project relating to 80.77 Ha. land was duly excavated during the existence of earlier Forest Clearance between 2005 to 2013 and there is no change in the nature or use of land since then. In fact, the Wildlife Institute of India has vide its letter dated 16/05/2024 clarified that in view of wildlife impact



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assessment study, being conducted for the entire Chandrapur Area, in view of directions issued by 324th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forest on “Status of forests in India”, fresh wildlife impact assessment is not required for the area in question. A copy of letter dated 16/05/2024 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-E.**

10) That, after getting required clarification from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and after various inspections by the Forest Department, the PCCF (WL), forwarded the proposal for wildlife clearance to the Principal Secretary (Forest), Revenue & Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, for further consideration. The said letter dated 23/07/2024 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-F.**

11) That, in pursuance of the proposal made by the Respondent No.5, a meeting of State Board of Wildlife (SBWL) was held on 12/08/2024, the minutes of meeting



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along with covering letter dated 26/08/2024 are annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE NO. : R5-G. That, in the said meeting, the proposal for wildlife clearance of 80.77 Ha. of land was recommended to National Board of Wildlife (NBWL).

12) That after recommendation of the project to the NBWL, the PCCF (WL) issued letter dated 30/08/2024 wherein, the said authority directed the Western Coalfields Limited to deposit 2% of the total project cost falling within Tiger Corridor. A copy of letter dated 30/08/2024 is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE NO. : R5-H. The said amount of Rs.0.91 Crore was paid towards wildlife mitigation measures on 15/10/2024.

13) That, after submitting the compliance report, the proposal was forwarded to various authorities and on 18/11/2024, the PCCF (WL) agreed with the compliance report and forwarded the same to Principal Secretary (Forest), Revenue & Forest Department, State of Maharashtra. A copy of letter dated 18/11/2024 is



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annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. :**

R5-I.

14) It is stated that during the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife (SCNBWL) dated 12/03/2025, a site inspection committee was constituted for inspection of the subject area of 80.77 Ha forest land. That, inspection was carried out by the committee, as constituted by the SCNBWL on 12/06/2025. A copy of the report submitted by the inspection committee is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-J.**

15) That, accordingly, the proposal along with the inspection report was placed before NBWL in its meeting dated 26/06/2025, wherein the proposal was considered and recommended by NBWL. That the NBWL issued letter dated 23/07/2025 to the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, thereby informing that the proposal for wildlife clearance for 80.77 Ha. Forest Land had been



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cleared. A copy of letter dated 23/07/2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-K.**

16) That similarly, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, issued letter dated 30/09/2025, thereby informing about grant of Stage-II/ Final approval for Forest Clearance for the said 80.77 Ha. Forest Land. A copy of letter dated 30/09/2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE NO. : R5-L.**

17) It is therefore demonstrated by the answering Respondent that diversion of Forest Land admeasuring 80.77 Ha had been done as per Rules & Regulations and only after compliance of various conditions put-forth by the authorities granting the same. That the report under consideration by this Hon'ble Tribunal is therefore totally misleading and has been published without verifying actual facts of the matter and therefore the same is required to be ignored by this Hon'ble Tribunal by closing the proceedings at hand. At present 1263 number of employees are depended on this project. Currently, WCL



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is working on submission of compliance of Wildlife Clearance and Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land to obtain possession of the said land. Delay in possession will lead to the closure of mining activities which may cause transfer of employees of the project

18) Further, the coal produced from this project is directly supplied to the MAHAGENCO through Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station. If the 80.77 Ha forest land is not taken possession, closure of the project is unavoidable. The loss of production of coal negatively impact the energy security of the nation.

19) It is submitted that various documents have been annexed along with the present reply. However, this Hon'ble Tribunal may grant liberty to file additional documents on record and make further submissions, if so required in future.

Hence, these submissions.

(N. G. Moharir, Advocate)

NAGPUR :

DATED: 03/10/2025.

C.F. RESPONDENT NO. 5



..13..

DECLARATION/SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

I, L Boopathi, Aged about 43 years, Occupation: Service, Resident of Chandrapur, do hereby take oath and state on solemn affirmation as under:

1) That, I am working with Western Coalfields Limited as Deputy Manager (Community Development Project & Planning), Chandrapur Area and that I am conversant with the facts stated in the reply/submissions. I am authorized to sign the present reply on behalf of Respondent No. 5.

2) Present submissions have been drafted by the counsel as per instructions given by me to him and contents of thereof in paras 1 to 18 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and information received from the records as well as from the Counsel and believed to be true by me. The contents with respect to legal submissions are as received by me from the Counsel and believed to be true by me.



..14..

Hence, verified & signed at Nagpur, on this 3rd day of November 2025.

[Handwritten Signature]

DEPONENT

Manager (Community Development)
Chandrapur Area, WCL

*I know and identify
the deponent.*

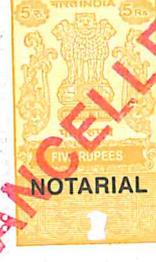
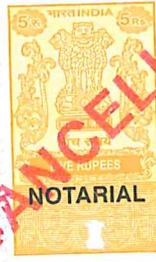
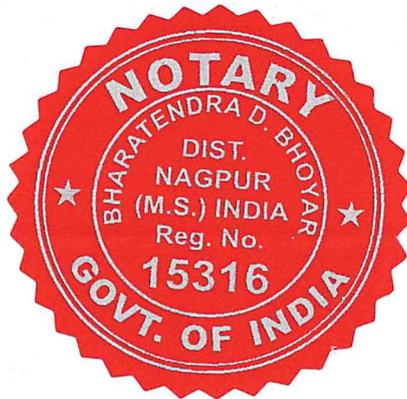
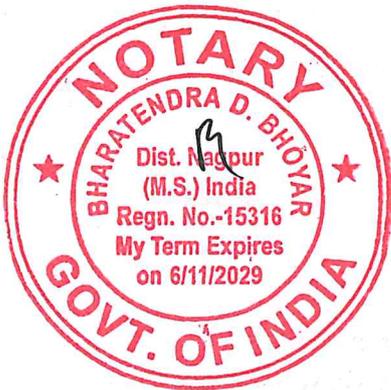
[Handwritten Signature]

**(N. G. MOHARIR)
ADVOCATE**

SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 03rd THE
DAY OF Nov. 2025 AT NAGPUR BY
SHRI/SMT/KU. L. BOO PASHU

R/o. NAGPUR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED
BY SHRI/SMT N. G. Moharir, Adv.
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR.

[Handwritten Signature]
**BHARATENDRA. D. BHOYAR
NOTARY
NAGPUR DIST. (M.S.) INDIA**



CANCELLED

..15..

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE.**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 198 OF 2024(WZ)

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- 1) **Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,**
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(Uttarakhand).
 - 3) **Ministry of Environment, Forest and
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Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office,
Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat
Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur – 440001.
 - 4) **District Magistrate (Chandrapur),**
Railway Station Road, Near District Court,
Chauhan Colony, Chandrapur, Maharashtra –
442401.
 - 5) **Western Coalfields Limited,**
Through Area General Manager, Chandrapur
Area, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

LIST OF ANNEXURES FILED BY
RESPONDENT NO.5

SR. NOS.	ANNEX. NOS.	PARTICULARS	DATE	PAGE NOS.
1.	R5-A	Copy of Stage-I Clearance.	08/11/2005	18 – 21
2.	R5-B	Copy of application for renewal of Forest Clearance.	01/02/2013	22 – 24
3.	R5-C	Copy of online proposal for wildlife clearance.	27/02/2024	25 – 29
4.	R5-D	Copy of offline proposal for wildlife clearance.	14/03/2024	30
5.	R5-E	Copy of clarification given by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun with respect to wildlife impact assessment study.	16/05/2024	31 – 32
6.	R5-F	Copy of letter issued by PCCF (WL), to the Principal Secretary (Forest), Revenue & Forest Department, State of Maharashtra.	23/07/2024	33 – 40

..17..

7.	R5-G	Copy of minutes of SBWL meeting.	26/08/2024	41 - 43
8.	R5-H	Copy of letter issued to WCL by PCCF (WL)	30/08/2024	44 - 45
9.	R5-I	Copy of letter issued by PCCF (WL) to Principal Secretary (Forest), State of Maharashtra.	18/11/2024	46 - 47
10.	R5-J	Copy of the inspection report		48 - 57
11.	R5-K	Copy of letter issued by MoEF & CC to Government of Maharashtra.	23/07/2025	58 - 59
12.	R5-L	Copy of Stage-II/Final approval for Forest Clearance.	30/09/2025	60 - 63

NAGPUR :

DATED: 03/10/2025.

(N. G. Moharir, Advocate)

C.F. RESPONDENT NO. 5

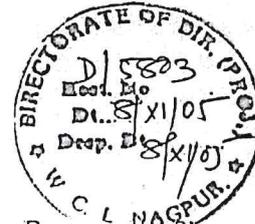
ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-A"

11-2005 12:12 FAX 01-11-22017464

C I L DELHI

1201

F. No. 8-123/2003-FC
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment & Forests
 (FC Division)



Paryavaran Bhawan
 CCO Complex, Lodhi Road
 New Delhi-110 003

Dated : 8th November 2005

CCM (Chandrapur)
OSD (L&R)
TS for rule
8/11/05

To

The Secretary (Forests),
 Government of Maharashtra,
 Mumbai.

Sub: Diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project, in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3603/CR-40/F-10 dated 28.10.2003 and subsequent letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/2691/04-05 dated 20.01.2005 and letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/1082/05-06 dated 26.09.2005 on the above mentioned subject whereunder the above proposal and compliance of various conditions was submitted, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project, in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra, subject to fulfilment of following conditions :-

- (i) ✓ Legal status of the forest shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) ✓ Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted, i.e., over 162.00 ha and shall be maintained at the project cost.
- (iii) ✓ The lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be for 8 years.
- (iv) ✓ The State Government should transfer amount of NPV and other funds to Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which has already been constituted and notified by the Central Government on 23.04.2004. Till such time, the CAMPA intimates the Head of Accounts for deposition of funds, the funds will be maintained in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Nodal Officer or concerned Divisional Forest Officer of the State Government. The funds realized towards the NPV shall not be utilized by the State Government.
- (v) ✓ RCC pillars of 4 feet height shall be erected to demarcate the area by the user agency at the project cost and will be marked with forward and back bearings.

- (vi) The user agency shall raise, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost.
- (vii) All necessary measures should be taken by the user agency to protect the environment.
- (viii) The user agency should implement the reclamation works as per the reclamation plan. Monitoring of the reclamation works should be done continuously by the State Forest Department. The user agency shall submit progress report of reclamation works to the State Forest Department and Regional Office, Bhopal
- (ix) Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of State Forest Department, and at the cost of the project.
- (x) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (xi) Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation
- (xii) The user agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife.
- (xiii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xiv) The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Asthana)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to :

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCE, Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency/Shri M.K. Shukla, CGM, Coal India Limited, Core-1, 4th Floor, Scope Minar, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.
5. RO (HQ)/Monitoring Cell, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

OSD(LA)

(Pankaj Asthana)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

⑥

F.No. 8-123/2003-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110003,
Dated : 27th April, 2004

11192

828
20/4/04

To: The Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai

Sub: Diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Coal Mining Project (OCP) in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.

77(1)

22-5-04

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3603/CR-40/F-10, dated 28th October, 2003 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee mentioned above, the Central Government hereby agrees in-principle to diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Coal Mining Project (OCP) in favour of Western Coal Fields Ltd in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

1. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of Compensatory Afforestation over degraded forest land, double in extent of the forest land diverted under the proposal (i.e. 2 x 81 = 162.00 ha.) to the State Forest Department.
2. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of removal of 1,044 trees from the diverted forest land to the State Forest Department.
3. The User Agency shall raise and maintain a safety zone (including fencing, regeneration etc.), making 7.5 mtrs strip of the forest land all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area at the project-cost.
4. The User Agency shall, in addition to the Compensatory Afforestation, transfer the cost of plantation on 3.94 ha of degraded forest land (other than that identified for raising CA), which is 1.5 times the area falling as the safety zone, to the State Forest Department.
5. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30.10.2002 and 01.08.2003, in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 7202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt. II) dated 18.09.2003 and 22.09.2003 in this regard.

Cont. page 2.

Pre Project 80.77

All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Agency (CAMPA). Till such time CAMPA is created, such funds shall be kept in the form of Fixed Deposits in the name of the concerned DFO or the Nodal Officer in any Nationalised Bank as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 22-03-2004.

After receipt of compliance report from the State Government on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal will be considered for its final approval under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till the formal order of final approval is issued by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

|

(Sandeep Kumar),
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copies

- 1 The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ✓ 2 The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- 3 The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
- 4 The General Manager, Western Coal Field Ltd, Chandarpur, Maharashtra.
- 5 RO (HQ), New Delhi.
- 6 Guard file


(Sandeep Kumar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

// TRUE COPY //



**COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)**

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-B"



वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड
WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
A Govt. Of India Enterprise
(Natl Ratna Company)

Office of the Area General Manager
Chandrapur Area,
Po & Distt. Chandrapur (MS)

नवी क्रमांक संज्ञा हस्तैः सिमित ताइन्ना भागपुर 440 001

Regd. Office: Coal Estate, Civil Line, Nagpur- 440 001

Ref. No. WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REVI 6157

Date 31.1.2013

01.02

To,
The Dy Conservator of Forest,
Chandrapur Division,
Chandrapur.

Sub.:- Renewal of forestry clearance -
Proposal for diversion of 80.77 Ha. forest land for opencast mining
of Durgapur Opencast Project of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited,
Chandrapur Area

Dear Sir,

Proposal for 80.77 Ha. of forest land has been approved by Govt. of India vide MOEF New Delhi order no. F.No. 8-123-2003-FC dtd. 8.11.2005 for a period of 8 years (i.e. 8.11.2005 to 7.11.2013).

We are enclosing herewith the proposal for Renewal of lease of above forest land in the prescribed Form 'B' duly filled along with the relevant documents in 8 (Eight) sets in respect of Durgapur Opencast Project of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area, Tahsil & Distt. Chandrapur

You are therefore, requested to forward the enclosed proposal for onward submission to MOEF, New Delhi for getting necessary approval from Central Govt. under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Thanking you.

Encl.: as above

Yours faithfully,

AREA GENERAL MANAGER
CHANDRAPUR AREA

Copy to :-

1. The Addl. PCCF / Nodal Officer, Forest Deptt. Van Bhawan, Nagpur
2. The Chief Conservator of Forest, North Circle, Nagpur road, Chandrapur.
3. The G.M. (L&R), WCL, Nagpur.
4. The SAM, DOC SA

11/2/2013
आमक / संसाधन विभाग
विभागीय वन अधिकारी
चंद्रपुर वन विभाग, चंद्रपुर

विभागीय वन अधिकारी, चंद्रपूर वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांचे कार्यालय.

रामबाग फॉरेस्ट कॉलनी, मुल रोड, चंद्रपूर - ४४२४०९ (म.रा.)

दुरध्वनी क्र. ०७९७२-२७०४४८

फॅक्स नं. ०७९७२-२७१४२०

E-mail :- dfochandrapur@gmail.com

विषय :- Renewal of forestry clearance.

Proposal for diversion of 80.77
Ha. forest land for opencast
mining of Durgapur Opencast
Project of M/s. Western Coal
fields Limited, Chandrapur Area

क्रमांक :- कक्ष-5/सर्व्हे/जमीन/ 397

चंद्रपूर, दिनांक २४/३/१३

प्रति,

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,
वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्ड लिमिटेड,
चंद्रपूर एरिया, चंद्रपूर.

12/12 9/4/13

संदर्भ :- आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/6157, दिनांक 01/02/2013.

उपरोक्त संदर्भिय पत्रान्वये 80.77 हेक्टर क्षेत्राचा Renewal Proposal सादर केलेला होता. सादरहु प्रस्तावाची तपासणी केली असता खालीलप्रमाणे त्रुट्या निदर्शनास आले.

1. प्रस्तावातील Form 'B' मध्ये दिलेल्या Renewal (शिल्लक) क्षेत्राचा ताळमेळ जुळत नाही.
2. प्रस्तावासोबत जोडण्यांत आलेल्या 1:50,000 च्या नकाशावर प्रकल्प बांधत क्षेत्राचे Latitude व Longitude दर्शविलेले नाही.
3. प्रस्तावातील जोडण्यांत आलेल्या नकाशांमध्ये दर्शविलेले प्रकल्पबाधीत क्षेत्र आणि Form 'B' मध्ये दिलेले क्षेत्र योग्यरित्या दर्शविले नाही.
4. प्रकल्पबाधीत 80.77 हेक्टर क्षेत्रापैकी शिल्लक क्षेत्र आणि मागणी करावयाचे क्षेत्र याबाबत सुस्पष्टपणे माहिती Form 'B' मध्ये घावी.

वरील त्रुटींची पूर्तता करून प्रस्तावाच्या आठ प्रती या कार्यालयास सादर करावे.

सहपत्र :- वरीलप्रमाणे.

प्रस्तावाच्या 8 प्रती.

enclosures
not received

SOE (PAP)
[Signature]

cc

SAM/DOCSA

विभागीय वन अधिकारी,
चंद्रपूर वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर

E:\Survey\80.77 Ha.doc

Sr. Manager (Sur)

for compliance file

11-4-13

file [Signature]

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,**CHANDRAPUR DIVISION, CHANDRAPUR.**

Rambagh Forest Colony, Mul Road, Chandrapur – 442401 (M.S.)

Office Tel. No. 07172-270448

Fax No. 07172-270448

E-mail : dfochandrapur@gmail.com

Sub.:- Forest Land ChandrapurRenewal of forestry clearance

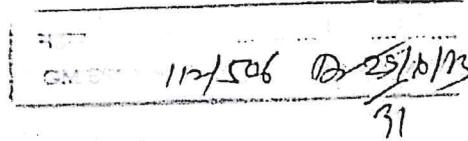
Proposal for renewal of 80.77 Ha. Forest land
Open Cast Mining of Durgapur Opencast Mine
of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur
Area.

No.:- Desk-5/Survey/land/1316

Chandrapur, Dated 22/10/13

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chandrapur Circle,
Chandrapur.



Ref.:- Western Coal Field Limited Chandrapur Area letter No. 957, dtd. 19/05/2013.

The proposal for renewal of 80.77 Ha. Forest land (Reserve Forest 80.77 ha.) under F.C. Act 1980 required for Durgapur Opencast Mine, Chandrapur Area, Tah. Chandrapur, Dist. Chandrapur as received vide their letter under reference has been scrutinized in this office and the proposal in 5 copies and Mining Plan in 5 copies is forwarded to your office for further necessary action.

- Encl.:- 1. Proposal in 5 copies.
2. Mining Plan 5 copies.

SO (P&P)

Divisional Forest Officer,
Chandrapur Forest Division,
Chandrapur

Copy submitted to General Manager, Chandrapur Area, Western Coalfield Ltd., Chandrapur for information.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE AREA GENERAL MANAGER
CHANDRAPUR AREA : PO & DISTT. CHANDRAPUR

REF.NO.WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/

DATE : 4.11.2013

Copy to :-

The Sub Area Manager, DOC SA.....for information.

// TRUE COPY //

STAFF OFFICER (P&P)
CHANDRAPUR AREA

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)

..25..



ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-C"

47



Seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL/ SBWL

Project Name: DURGAPUR OPENCAST PROJECT
State: MAHARASHTRA

Proposal Number: WJ/MH/AN/CRY/46319/2024
Single Window Number: SW/172253/2024

Common Application Form

Project Details

1. Details of Project

1.1. Name of the Project: DURGAPUR OPENCAST PROJECT

1.2. Project proposal for: Expansion

1.3. Whether proposal expansion is made under 7 (ii) (a)? NO

1.4. Project ID (Single Window Number): SW/172253/2024

1.5. Description of Project: The project is located in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State which covers coal to the Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station. Wildlife Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for Coal Mining Purpose. Forest Clearance obtained for 80.77 Ha Forest Land during 2005-2013 and renewal of FC Proposal is in process. This 80.77 Ha forest land is part of Reserve Forest Compartments 400 & 401 falling in the Wildlife Corridor located in south of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve connecting to Chhapra Wildlife Sanctuary to Indravati Tiger Project in Chhattisgarh State.

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/User Agency: Central PSU (eg. NIAL, MAF, NTP, CIL, SAIL)

2.2. Name of the Company/Organization/User Agency: Western Coalfields Ltd

Registered address:

2.3. Address: Area General Manager Chandrapur Area Chandrapur PO Babupeth Chandrapur Area General Manager Chandrapur Area Chandrapur PO Babupeth Chandrapur

2.4. Village/Town/City: Durgapur

2.5. State: MAHARASHTRA

2.6. District: CHANDRAPUR

2.7. Pin Code: 442404

2.8. Landmarks: Office of the Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area

2.9. E-mail address: gmwclnco@gmail.com

2.10. Landline Number: 0712253322

2.11. Mobile number: 8275937501

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name: Boopathi Lakshmanan

3.2. Designation: Deputy Manager

Correspondence address:

3.3. Address: Office of the Area General Manager, WCL- Chandrapur Area

3.4. Village/Town/City: Durgapur

3.5. State: MAHARASHTRA

3.6. District: CHANDRAPUR

3.7. Pin Code: 442404

3.8. E-mail address: boopathil@cooindia.in

3.9. Landline Number: 259222

3.10. Mobile number: 9962770360

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

4.1. Upload KMI: 80.77 Ha kmi

4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders: NO

5. Shape of the Project: Non-Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/khasra No.
F-405	MAHARASHTRA	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	RESERVED FOREST	400
F-406	MAHARASHTRA	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	RESERVED FOREST	401

Remarks

Forest land is falling in Survey or Patta Toposheet No. 55P10, 55M5, 55P4, 55M1 in Reserve Forest Compartments of Chandrapur Forest Range & Division

6. Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity			
Nature of Land involved in (Ha)	Area Existing in Ha [X]	Additional Area Proposed in Ha [Y]	Total Area required after expansion in Ha [X+Y]
Non-Forest Land [A]	0	0	0
Forest Land [B]	0	80.77	80.77
Total [A+B]	0	80.77	80.77

Project Activity Cost

6. Project/Activity Cost	
6.1. Cost of the existing Project at current price level (in Lakhs) [A]	0
6.2. Cost of the proposed expansion/ modernization of Project at current price level (in Lakhs) [B]	4551
6.3. Total Cost of the project/ Activity (in lakhs) [A+B]	4551

7. Employment likely to be generated

7.1. During construction phase

7.1.1. Permanent employment	
7.1.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	0
7.1.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	0
7.1.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]	0
7.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment	
7.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	0
7.1.5. Total [X] + [Y]	0

7.2. During operational phase

7.2.1. Permanent employment		Existing	Proposed	Total
7.2.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]		1021	0	1021
7.2.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]		365	0	365
7.2.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]		372665	0	372665
7.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment				
7.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]		280	0	280
7.2.5. Total [X] + [Y]		372945	0	372945

Others

8. Whether Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&N) Involved?	NO
9. Whether project area involves shifting of watercourse/road/rail/Transmission line/water pipeline, etc. required?	NO
10. Whether any alternative site(s) examined or part thereof for the non-site-specific component?	Not applicable as the project or activity is site specific
11. Whether there is any Government Order or Policy/ Court order relevant or restricting to the site?	NO
12. Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up?	NO
13. Whether the proposal involves violation of Act/Rule/Regulation/Notification of Central/State Government?	NO

Part-I & Part-II (Seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL/ SBWL)

Project Details

Wildlife Clearance									
14 State	MADHARASHTRA								
15 Whether proposal is for investigation/survey?	No								
16 Upload a copy of note containing justification for locating the project in protected area	Justification for locating the project in protected area.pdf								
17 Category of the project	Mining / Quarrying								
18 Category of area required	Tiger Corridor								
19 Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past?	Yes								
Status of the Proposal	Proposal No./ SW No./ CDN No.	Project Name	MoEFCC File No.	Area proposed for Diversion (Ha)	Area Diverted (Ha)	Recommend Area For Diversion	Date of In-principle approval	Date of final approval	Date of Application
Submitted and under process	FP/14/MN/16734/2012	Dagapur Open Cast Project	W-124/2012-FC	80.77	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	12-05-2012

Proposed Land

20. Location of project / activity with respect to Protected Area	
20.1 Location of Project Area	CDWR
20.2 Please specify	Higer Corridor falling south direction of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve with an area of 80.77 Ha. It is located in Chhattisgarh State.

21 Detailed breakup of land required for the project

21.1 No. of Divisions involved in Protected Area

1

21.2.1 Details of the proposed land

Division	Total Patches	Km ²
Chhattisgarh Div's Div's	1	4760292_WL_KML_170215C163057_607716.kml
		4760292_WL_KML_170215C103057_607716.kml
		4760292_WL_KML_170215C163057_607716.kml

21.2.2 Location Details

Division	Proposed No.	District	Village	Pango	Proposed area inside PA (ha)	Proposed area outside PA (ha)

21.3 Remarks Details

Remarks

21.4.1 Division-wise breakup of land required

Name of the District	Name of the Division	Name of the protected area/ Tiger Reserve	Project area under Protected Area/Tiger Reserve (ha)			Project area outside Protected Area (ha)		
			Forest	Non-Forest	Total	Forest	Non-Forest	Total
Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh Div's Div's	Tiger Corridor falling to in a region of Tobacco Anandri Tiger Reserve	0	0	0	30.77	0	30.77

Total area (ha) 30.77

21.4.2 Component-wise breakup of land required

S.No.	Component	Name of the PA	Project area under PA (X) (ha)			Project area outside PA (Y) (ha)			Component Area (X + Y) (ha)
			Forest	Non-Forest	Total	Forest	Non-Forest	Total	
1		Tiger Corridor falling to in a region of Tobacco Anandri Tiger Reserve	0	0	0	30.77	0	30.77	

1.1 Component Area (ha) 30.77

2.5 Total period for which forest land is required (years) 25

2.6 Shortest distance of the project from the boundary of the PA (km) 10.23

2.7 Project area under PA (Tiger Corridor/ Tiger Reserve) (ha) 30.77

2.9 Area of trees proposed to be cut 13

2.10 Copy of the Georeferenced map of the project area with respect to the protected area prepared by using GPS or Total Station (pdf only) 05/2.pdf

2.11 Copy of Biodiversity Impact Assessment report (in case the proposal involves use of more than 50 ha of NP/WLS) Biodiversity Impact Assessment report.pdf

2.12 Information on the project undertaken by the proponent 2112 - Annexure Land

2.20 Cost-benefit analysis in terms of maintenance of carbon neutrality or increase in carbon sequestration? Cost Benefit - Carbon neutrality.pdf

2.21 Whether the Project requires Clearance Under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance)? No

2.22 Status of Environmental Clearance? EC granted

2.23 Approval ID/Proposal No. IN/MH/CMN/02201/2018

2.24 Date of issue of environmental clearance 10-11-2017

2.25 MHC/EC/2008/123456

2.26 Approval letter (pdf) 170215C163057_607716_PA-11 [2].pdf

Category Specific Details

24. Detailed information regarding project undertaken by the proponent agency in Protected Areas Information on Project undertaken by PA in Form.pdf

25. Copy of approved mining plan along with approval letter Approved Mining Plan & Approval letter.pdf

26. Copy of map of the site boundary of mining lease area (PDF only) Revenue Plan.pdf

27. Copy of the detailed land use plan in 1:4,000 scale prepared by using GPS or Total Station (Kml only) 4760292_WL_Alt_KML_17080215C17E35_607716.kml

- 28. Copy of the prospecting licence and extension of the prospecting licence, if any
Prospecting Licence - 500 4(1) 1901002201
- 29. Copy of the approval accorded for M&E/FCC for prospecting
Prospecting Licence - 500 4(1) 1901002201
- 30. Copy of note containing details of the plan for the transportation of the mineral's proposed to be raised from the mining lease (pdf only)
transportation.pdf

31. Period of validity of Mining Plan

- 31.1 From 21-02-2017
- 31.2 To 23-02-2041

32. Period of Mining Lease (Years)

33. Mineral Reserves

Name of Mineral	Proved Reserves	Indicated Reserves	Inferred Reserves	Minable Reserves	Remarks
COAL	0	3	0	0	

34. Details of Letter of Intent (LoI) / Vesting order / Mining Lease

- 34.1 Date of issue of LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease 04-08-1978
- 34.2 Period of validity of LoI / Vesting order (years and months) 41/01
- 34.3 Period of lease (years and months) 41/02
- 34.4 Date of expiry of lease 24-10-2018
- 34.5 Lease area (in ha) as per LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease 1597.8
- 34.6 Production capacity (in MTPA) as per LoI / Vesting Order / Mining lease, if any prescribed 3
- 34.7 Details of lease renewal(s), if any MINE LEASE AREA WAS ACQUIRED THROUGH COA (AGD) ACT 1957
- 34.8 Other information, if any RENEWAL OF FOREST CLEARANCE

35. Status of approval of Mining plan

Approved

36. Minerals to be mined

Name of Mineral	Classification	Production Capacity	Remarks
COAL	Major	3	AS PER PRESENT DC

37. Details of Total excavation (REM) including Topsoil, Overburden, Mining waste, Rejects, etc.

- 37.1 Total excavation in MTPA 3
- 37.2 Total Excavation in M. Cum/Annulm 24257
- 37.3 Stripping Ratio 14.2/03
- 37.4 Other information, if any MINE WORKED BY OPENCAST METHOD

38. Life of mine (years and months)

- 38.1 Life of the mine as per approved mining plan (in years and months) 17/00
- 38.2 Life of the mine as per total estimated reserves, if any (in years and months) 17/00
- 38.3 Other information, if any

39. Type and method of Mining Method

- 39.1 Type of mining Open cast
- 39.2 Method of mining Mechanical
- 39.3 Other information, if any

40. Type of blasting, if any, to be adopted

- 40.1 Type of blasting D&B (SMB)
- 40.2 Mitigation measures for control of blast induced vibrations MITIGATION MEASURES TAKEN AS PER OMS 2017
- 40.3 Other information, if any

41. Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant/Cool washery within the mining lease area?

No

42. Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area?

Yes

- 42.1 No. of crushers 2
- 42.2 Capacity of crushers 3 M/A
- 42.3 Total Capacity of crushers 6 M/A

43. Dumping strategy

Description	Area in Ha	Maximum height in m	Remarks
External dump	210.05	50	AS PER OMS 2017
Internal dump	600.66	60	AS PER OMS 2017
Topsoil dump/ storage	50000	30	AS PER OMS 2017

44. Topsoil management

44. Environmental Management		
44.1 How Topsoil excavated during the entire life of the mine (mt/3)	135	51
44.2 Utilization strategy of topsoil	AS A FINAL CLOSURE ACTIVITY TOPSOIL SHALL BE SPREAD BACK ON THE INTERNAL DUMPS	
44.3 Other information, if any		
45. Details of the Quarry/Mine Pit		
45.1 Total Quarry Area (ha.)	000.00	
45.2 Area of Tailings (ha.)	176	
45.3 Maximum Depth of Pit (m)	150	
45.4 Other information, if any		
46. Details of Transportation		
46.1 Mode of transportation upto pit head	BY DEPARTMENTAL HEAVY	
46.2 Mode of transportation from pit head to loading/loading	CONTRACTUAL TRUCKS	
46.3 Mode of transport from loading/loading to conveyor	AIRIAL ROPEWAY & WSP SYSTEM	
46.4 Other information, if any		
47. Details of reclamation/post mining land use		
47.1 Final use (ha.)	000	
47.2 Water body (ha.)	176	
47.3 Fallow land (ha.)	176	
47.4 Open areas (ha.)	000	

48. Additional Information

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	Final Report on 02.07.16	Finalization of 90.77 Ha Forest Clearance of Durgapur OC Project, Chandrapur Area, WCL	DGC OC 77 Ha presented on pdf
2	Justification for locating in Forest	At Durgapur OC project, located in Durgapur Area with a forest Clearance granted by WCL, New Delhi. The clearance is sought for renewal of Forest Clearance for the project.	Justification for locating in Forest.pdf
3	Undertaking by WCL and WCL of Project	The cost proposed from the Durgapur OC Project is being supplied to CEMTS of IITMCHDC for power generation.	Undertaking by WCL of the Project.pdf
4	Undertaking by Project Proponent for tree felling	Undertaking by the Project Proponent for tree felling under supervision of State Forest Department	Undertaking by tree felling.pdf
5	Stage II of the project	Forest Clearance of 400.00 Hectare was granted by WCL, New Delhi on 04.08.1976	DGC OC 400 Hect.pdf
6	Details regarding compliance of the conditions	Details regarding compliance of the conditions on each proposal	Details regarding compliance of the conditions on each proposal.pdf
7	Undertaking for the payment of Project Cost	Undertaking by the Project Proponent for payment of 2% of Project Cost towards Wildlife Mitigation	2% of Project Cost.pdf
8	Forest Clearance of 10.16 Ha	Forest handed over before FC Act 1980	Durgapur OC_10.16 Ha_23.05.1980_Before FCA 1440.pdf
9	NWLC Clearance of 12.55 Ha	Recommendation of National Board of Wildlife for 12.55 Ha	NWLC Clearance 12.55 Ha - 13-05-2022.pdf
10	Stage III of the project	Stage III of the project 24.16 Ha of Durgapur OC Project	Stage III of 24.16 Ha - 11.04.2014 Hg.pdf
11	Stage IV of 12.54 Ha	Stage IV of 12.54 Ha Forest land of Durgapur OC Project	12.54 Ha - 10.03.2008.pdf
12	Stage V of 00.77 Ha FC	00.77 Ha was granted from CEI 2695 to 97.12.2012. Removal of 90.77 Ha Forest Clearance is in process	Stage II - 00.77 Ha - 06-11-2008.pdf
13	Consent Approval by CEA	CEA has issued Consent Approval dated 04.08.1975 for 400 Hectare Forest land was required in this application for expansion of Durgapur OC Project	CEA 400 Hect.pdf
14	Consent Approval by CEF	Consent Approval dated 04.08.1975 for 00.77 Ha Forest land was required in this application	CEA 400 Hect.pdf
15	Wildlife Clearance	Wildlife Clearance for the project is in process	Wildlife Clearance - Durgapur OC Project.pdf
16	Wildlife Clearance	Wildlife Clearance for the project is in process	Wildlife Clearance - Durgapur OC Project.pdf
17	Approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan	Approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan approved by WCL, Chandrapur	Approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan.pdf
18	Authority letter	Authority letter for making online application	Authority letter.pdf
19	Map showing	Map showing project area with forest land, water body, and other details	Map showing project area with forest land.pdf
20	Map showing the Project & Tailings	Map showing project area with forest land, water body, and other details	Map showing project area with forest land.pdf
21	Index Map	Index Map showing Project boundary, 90.77 Ha Forest land, etc. Buffer Zone & Core Zone of Fauna and Flora Conservation, Chandrapur District	Index Map.pdf

49. Undertaking

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that the data and information furnished in the application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be stopped and I shall be liable to the project cost. I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be stopped and I shall be liable to the project cost.

Name	Deepthi Lakshmanan
Designation	Deputy Manager
Company	Western Coalfields Ltd
Address	Office of the Area General Manager, WCL - Chandrapur Area
District	CHANDRAPUR
State	MHARASHTRA
Pin	442404
Date	27.02.2024

// TRUE COPY //



Amritha

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-D"



वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड /Western Coalfields Limited
मिनिरातन कंपनी (A Miniratna Company)
कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की अनूबंगी कंपनी (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
CIN-U10100MH1975GO1018626



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

उप क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक का कार्यालय
दुर्गापुर उपक्षेत्र, चंद्रपुर क्षेत्र
ऊर्जनगर, चंद्रपुर - 442404

Email: sam.doc-cha.wcl@coalindia.in

Office of Area General Manager
Durgapur Sub Area
Chandrapur Area
Address: Urjanagar Post
Dist: Chandrapur, MS, PIN:442403

Phone: 07172-265270

संदर्भ : वेकोलि/चक्षो/दुउक्षो/उक्षेत्र/PA/4837

दिनांक: 14/8/2024

प्रती
विभागीय वन अधिकारी
चंद्रपुर वन विभाग
चंद्रपुर

विषय : दुर्गापुर ओपनकास्ट माइन - Wildlife Clearance for Renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for Durgapur Opencast Project Mine in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra – Application for Wildlife Clearance

संदर्भ : Letter from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State vide Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey/Pr.Kr.292/5236/2023-24, dated 14th February 2024

महोदय,

With reference to the above subject & above referred letter, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State directed to apply for Wildlife Clearance for renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance Proposal. WCL Chandrapur Area (User Agency) has submitted an online application on 27.02.2024 through Parivesh 2.0 portal.

The details are as below:

Proposal number: 463196

Date: 27.02.2024

We are herewith submitting 6 sets of Hard Copy of the same proposal along with relevant documents for and onward submission at your end.

It is therefore requested kindly to do the needful towards submission of online Part III in parivesh portal at your end for wildlife clearance under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Thanking you.

संलग्न: यथोपरी

14/03/2024
आवक लिपिका
मुख्य वनसंरक्षक चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

भवतीय,

Project Proponent/SAM
Durgapur Sub Area

1. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, वन भवन, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर - 440001
2. अपप्र प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी, वन भवन, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर - 440001
3. मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपुर
4. महाप्रबंधक (भू/रा), वेकोली मुख्यालय, नागपूर
5. महाप्रबंधक (पर्यावरण), वेकोली मुख्यालय, नागपूर
6. क्षेत्रीय महाप्रबंधक, चंद्रपुर क्षेत्र

14/03/2024
आवक/लिपिका
कार्यालय
विभागीय वन अधिकारी
चंद्रपुर वन विभाग

// TRUE COPY //

Annohascib

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)

..31..

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-E"

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

File No. WII/AE&CB/BH/WL/Minning/2019-01

Dehradun, the May 16, 2024

To

The Area General Manager
Chandrapur Area, WCL
Planning Department
PO: Babupeth
Dist.: Chandrapur, MS
442 403
E-mail: gmwclcha@gmail.com , agmchandrapur.wcl@coalindia.in

Sub. Durgapur Opencast Mine – Clarification regarding conducting a fresh Wildlife Impact Assessment Study for Renewal of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for opencast mining of Durgapur Opencast Project, M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area – reg.

Ref. 1. Your letter (WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/9780) dated 19th March 2024.
2. WII letter No. WII/AE&CB/BH/WL/Mining/2019-01 dated 22nd April 2024.

With reference to aforementioned communication (Sr. No. 1) seeking clarification if a fresh wildlife impact assessment study is required for renewal of forest clearance of opencast mining in different areas in the Chandrapur mining area, it is stated that a research project "Understanding the impacts of mining areas of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant, Chandrapur" is already being carried out by WII, Dehradun, as mandated by the 324th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forest on "Status of forests in India". The aim of the study is to assess the impacts of all mines (opencast and underground) in the Chandrapur district and provide a detailed assessment of the impacts of mines and an integrated wildlife mitigation and management plan for the WCL mining areas in the district. It is, therefore, submitted that a fresh wildlife impact study would not be required for the renewal of the forest clearance of 80.77 ha of Durgapur Opencast Mine, WCL Chandrapur area.

A joint committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Maharashtra has already given a mitigation plan for maintenance of the existing wildlife corridor for the 121.58 ha Durgapur Extension Deep OC Project which encircles the 80.77 ha renewal area Vide Letter No. 23(2)/WG/V/P/No. 53/1061/2022-23; Dated: 12.07.2022.

पत्रपेटी सं० 18, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून – 248 001, उत्तराखण्ड, भारत
Post Box No. 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun - 248 001, Uttarakhand, INDIA
ई.पी.ए.वी.एक्स. : +91-135-2640114, 2640115, 2646100 फ़ैक्स : 0135-2640117
EPABX : +91-135-2640114, 2640115, 2646100 Fax: 0135-2640117
ई-मेल / E-mail : wii@wil.gov.in वेब / Website : www.wii.gov.in



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

Further, regarding communication Sr. No. 2 seeking no-cost extension of the project, it is again requested to kindly release the third instalment of Rs. 33.0975 Lakhs (Each by WCL and MAHAGENCO) to finalise and submit the final deliverables of the project which is an integrated management plan.

Thanking you.

V. Tiwari
(Virendra Tiwari) 6/5/24
Director

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Chief Wildlife Warden Maharashtra State, Nagpur, Van Bhawan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, NAGPUR-440 001 (Maharashtra), E-mail: pccfwlncp@mahaforest.gov.in
2. General Manager (Environment), Western Coalfields Ltd., Civil Line, Sadar Nagpur, 440001, Maharashtra, E-mail: gmenvironment@westerncoal.gov.in with a request to release the third installment of the Project (30 % Rs. 33.0975 Laks).
3. Chief Engineer, Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station, Chandrapur – 442 404. E-mail: cegenchandrapur@mahagenco.in with a request to release the third installment of the Project (30 % Rs. 33.0975 Laks).
4. The Chief Conservator of Forest (Territorial) Chandrapur. E-mail: ccfchandrapur@gmail.com
5. The Conservator of Forests & Field Director Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. E-mail: ccffdtadoba@mahaforest.gov.in

// TRUE COPY //

N. Moharir

**COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)**

पत्रपेटी सं० 18, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून – 248 001, उत्तराखण्ड, भारत
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ई-मेल / E-mail : wil@wil.gov.in वेब / Website: www.wil.gov.in

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-F"



महाराष्ट्र शासन
महसुल व वन विभाग

प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक(वनबल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांचे कार्यालय.

O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State

प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), महाराष्ट्र राज्य

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State

Phone - 0712-2549563

E-mail - pccfwlnp@mahaforest.gov.in

Website - www.mahaforest.gov.in

"Van Bhavan" 3rd Floor, Rangiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001



पत्र-ईमेल क्रमांक:- कक्ष-२३(२)/वजी/सर्व्हे/प्र.क्र.२९२/१२३७ /२०२४-२५ दिनांक २३/०७/२०२४

प्रति,

प्रधान सचिव (वने),
महसुल व वनविभाग,
मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२.

विषय:- दुर्गापूर ओपन कास्ट माईन प्रकल्पासाठी आवश्यक चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील ८०. ७७ हे. वनजमिनी वरील खाणपट्टा नूतनीकरणाचा प्रस्ताव. (ताडोबा - अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प- कन्हारगाव वन्यजीव अभयारण्य - टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्याचे मंजूर व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्ग)

संदर्भ - अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) पूर्व, नागपूर यांचे कार्यालयीन पत्र क्र. कक्ष-१(ब)/सर्व्हे/२४-२५/१८७, दिनांक २७/०५/२०२४.

राष्ट्रीय उद्यान/अभयारण्य/व्याघ्र भ्रमण मार्ग/ पर्यावरण संवेदनशील क्षेत्रात वनेत्तर काम करण्यासाठी भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण व वन मंत्रालय, यांचे पत्र क्रमांक F.No. 6-30/2019-WL, दिनांक १३/१२/२०२३ अन्वये सुधारीत मार्गदर्शक सूचना निर्गमित केलेल्या आहेत.

विषयांकित प्रकरणी प्रस्तावित प्रकल्प दुर्गापूर ओपन कास्ट माईन प्रकल्पासाठी आवश्यक चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील ८०. ७७ हे. वनजमिनी वरील खाणपट्टा नूतनीकरणाच्या कामास परवानगी मिळणेबाबतचा प्रस्ताव अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) पूर्व, नागपूर यांनी संदर्भिय पत्रान्वये सदर प्रस्ताव शिफारसीसह या कार्यालयास सादर केलेला आहे.

सदर प्रस्तावास राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव मंडळाच्या स्थायी समितीची मान्यता आवश्यक आहे. प्रस्तावित प्रकल्प प्रथम राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाचे स्थायी समितीचे विचारार्थ व अनुमोदनार्थ ठेवणे आवश्यक आहे.

सदर प्रस्तावातील ठळक बाबी खालील प्रमाणे आहेत.

- प्रस्तावित क्षेत्र हे कोणत्याही संरक्षित क्षेत्रात किंवा पर्यावरण संवेदनशील क्षेत्रात नसले तरी सदर प्रकल्पाचे क्षेत्र ताडोबा - अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्पाचे मंजूर व्याघ्र संवर्धन आराखडयानुसार ताडोबा - अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प- कन्हारगाव वन्यजीव अभयारण्य - टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्याचे मंजूर व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्ग येत आहे. सदर क्षेत्र हे ताडोबा-

अंधारी व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्ग- टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य -कावल वन्यजीव अभयारण्य प्रस्तावित आहे.

- सदर प्रकल्पाकरीता एकूण ८०.७७ हे. वनजमिन प्रस्तावित आहे.
- प्रस्तावाचे स्थळ चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील राखवी वनखंड क्र. ४०० आणि ४०१ मध्ये प्रस्तावित आहे.
- प्रस्तुत प्रकल्पाचा क्षेत्र तपशील खालील प्रमाणे आहे.

अनु.क्र	जिल्हा /तालुका	परिक्षेत्र	वनखंड क्र./सर्व्हे क्र.	क्षेत्र (हे.)	दर्जा
१	चंद्रपूर	चंद्रपूर	४००	३९.१५	राखीव वन
२			४०१	४१.६२	
			एकूण	८०.७७	

- सदर प्रस्तावामध्ये ४५ वृक्ष व ४८ बांबुरांझी असे एकूण ९३ वृक्षतोड प्रस्तावित आहे.
- वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, १९७२ चे कलम ३८(०)(१)(g) अनुसार प्रस्तुत प्रकल्प व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्गात येत असल्याने, राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळ तसेच राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव मंडळाच्या स्थायी समितीची मान्यता घेणे प्रकल्प यंत्रणेस बंधनकारक आहे.
- प्रस्तावासोबत प्रकल्प यंत्रणेने प्रस्तावित स्थळाचे झोनव्दारे घेतलेले चित्रीकरण आणि छायाचित्र सादर केलेले आहे.
- सदर प्रकल्प प्रकल्प यंत्रणेने परिवेश या संकेत स्थळावर ऑनलाईन सादर केलेला आहे. प्रकल्पाची व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्गातील एकूण किंमत अंदाजे रू. ४५.५९ कोटी राहणार आहे
- महाराष्ट्र शासनाचे दिनांक २३/११/२०२३ रोजीचे पत्रान्वये वनजमिनीवर करण्यात येणा-या विकासात्मक कामांसाठी (ऑप्टिकल फायबर केबल (OFC), विद्युत केबल्स, पाण्याची पाईपलाईन, गॅस/पेट्रोलियम पाईपलाईन, रस्ते ई.) खोदकाम करतांना प्रकल्प यंत्रणांद्वारे / उत्खननकर्त्याद्वारे "Call Before u Dig" (CBuD) या मोबाईल ॲपचा वापर अनिवार्य करण्यात आला असून, खोदकाम करण्यास परवानगी देण्याच्या आदेशामध्ये सदर ॲपचा वापर केल्याशिवाय खोदकाम/ उत्खनन करता येणार नाही या अटीचा समावेश करण्यात यावा, असे निर्देश आहेत. त्याअनुषंगाने सदर अटीचा समावेश Part-IV मध्ये करण्यात आलेला आहे.

..35..

प्रस्तावित प्रकल्पास उपरोक्त निर्णयानुसार राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाचे विचारार्थ व अनुमोदनार्थ ठेवण्यास विनंती आहे. या कार्यालयाचे अभिप्राय प्रपत्र भाग- १ मधील मुद्या क्रमांक ७ (i) ते (vi) बाबत व प्रपत्र भाग IV ची पूर्तता करून शासनास सादर करण्यात येत आहे.

सहपत्र- चरील प्रमाणे प्रपत्र भाग I ते IV


(महिप गुप्ता)

मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक तथा
प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव),
महाराष्ट्र राज्य

प्रतिलिपी :- अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक तथा केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) पूर्व, नागपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक), चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प, चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- महाव्यवस्थापक, वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्ड्स लि. चंद्रपूर क्षेत्र यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित. E-mail- agmchandrapur.wcl@coalindia.in , gmwclcha@gmail.com,

— २-१ —

(महिप गुप्ता)

मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक तथा
प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव),
महाराष्ट्र राज्य

(To be attached to part I)

Opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State

["Proposal for renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 ha. Forest land for Durgapur Opencast Project in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur (Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve- Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary- Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary - Tiger Corridor)"]

i) Brief history of the Protected Area :-

The proposed forest land is outside of Protected Area. It falls in Reserve Forest Compartment No. 400 & 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division. The proposed 80.77 Ha land forest falls in Tiger Corridor as per Volume III –Adjoining Area Plan of Tiger Conservation Plan(Plan period 2016-17 to 2025-26).

ii) Current status of wildlife:-

The proposed 80.77 Ha was already diverted by MoEF order vide F.no.8-123/2003-FC,dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 8 years. Specified Forest Land was mined out during the above forest clearance period. The area is currently left as Water Body and benches of coal mine. The diverted 121.58 Ha Forest Land is located between the corridor area & the mining area. The surrounding area is a tiger & other wildlife habitat. Specific Wildlife Study has been conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on the recommendation of Joint Secretary, Revenue & Forest Department, Maharashtra Government vide letter No. FLD/613/CR-25/F-10, dated 05.08.2013. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have submitted its report vide letter No. WII/ AE&CB/BH/ Durgapur/01/ 2014, dated 25.06.2014.

In this report, WII mentioned that "The proposed forest diversion area is at the western side of the Tadoba Southern Corridor, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is connected to Chaprala WLS in Maharashtra and Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh by TATR's southern corridor. The proposed forest area for diversion is adjacent to existing Durgapur Open Cast Mine. This diversion may not have much effect on movement of animals through this corridor, but subsequent diversion if any may adversely affect the animal movement corridor".

The proposed 80.77 Ha is located inside the mining lease of area and it is already broken during the earlier forest clearance period. Hence, there will be no impact on wildlife movement using this corridor.

iii) **Current status of pressures on Protected Areas:-**

The proposed forest land is outside of Protected Area. The area does not come under any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco Sensitive Zone.

iv) **Impact of project on wildlife, habitat management and access/use of resource by various stakeholders :-**

As per specified forest land was already and broken during the earlier forest clearance period and already diverted 121.58 Ha forest land is located between the corridor, there may be no impact of this project on wildlife, habitat management and access / use of resource by any stakeholder.

v) **Contiguous wildlife areas, which would benefit wildlife if added to National Parks/Sanctuary :-**

The present diversion is for renewal of Forest Clearance of already working Durgapur OC coal mine, therefore no area can be added.

vi) **Other areas in the State, which have been recommended by State Government, Wildlife Institute of India, BNHS, SACON, IISC, IUCN or other expert body for inclusion in Protected Area Network :-**

The areas recommended by Wildlife Institute of India, BNHS, and other stakeholders are considered and majority of the areas have been notified as Protected Areas from 2012 to 2024. Following is the abstract of such area notified as protected areas during 2012 to 2024.

Sr. No.	Particular	Nos.	Area (in Sq.km.)
1	Wildlife Sanctuary	18	2376.30
2	Conservation Reserve	27	1874.42
Total		45	4250.72

Proposals for notification of following Protected Areas are being examined and some are under the consideration of State Government.

Sr. No.	Name of proposed WLS /Cons. Reserve	District	Approx. Area (sq.kms)
1	2	3	4
1	Gaganbawada Conservation Reserve	Kolhapur	105.47
2	Ajara- Bhudargad Conservation Reserve	Kolhapur	246.63

3	Taharabad Conservation Reserve	Nashik	122.45
4	Velhe-Mulshi Conservation Reserve	Pune / Raigad	87.41
5	Naneghat Conservation Reserve	Pune / Thane	98.78
6	Bhorgirigad Conservation Reserve	Pune	37.64
7	Dindori Conservation Reserve	Nashik	62.10
8	Surgana Conservation Reserve	Nashik	86.28
9	Kareghat Conservation Reserve	Nandurbar	97.45
10	Chinchpada Conservation Reserve	Nandurbar	93.91
11	Alibag Conservation Reserve	Raigad	60.03
12	Ghera Manikgad Conservation Reserve	Raigad	53.25
13	Rajmachi Conservation Reserve	Thane/Pune	83.15
14	Lonavala Conservation Reserve	Pune / Raigad	121.20
15	Gumtara Conservation Reserve	Thane	125.50
16	Jawhar Conservation Reserve	Palghar	118.28
17	Dhamani Conservation Reserve	Palghar	49.15
18	Asherigad Conservation Reserve	Palghar	80.95
19	Ekara Conservation Reserve	Chandrapur	102.99
	Total		1835.62

Nagpur
Dated :- 23/07/2024



Mahesh Gupta
(Mahesh Gupta)
Chief Wildlife Warden &
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Maharashtra State

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-G"

महाराष्ट्र शासन

महसूल व वन विभाग,

४ था मजला, विस्तारीत इमारत,

हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक, मादाम कामा मार्ग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-४०० ०३२.

ईमेल:- deskfl.rfd-mh@gov.in

क्रमांक :- डब्ल्यूएलपी ०८.२४/प्र.क्र.१५९/फ-१

दिनांक :- २६.०८.२०२४.

प्रति,

प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) तथा सदस्य सचिव,
राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळ,
महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर.

विषय : राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाच्या २३ व्या बैठकीच्या कार्यवृत्तांतास मान्यता देण्याबाबत.

संदर्भ : आपले पत्र क्र. कक्ष-२३(२)/वजी/सर्व्ह/प्र.क्र.१०२/१५२०/२०२४-२५, दिनांक
१३.०८.२०२४.

महोदय,

सोमवार दिनांक १२.०८.२०२४ रोजी सकाळी ११.०० वाजता, मा. मुख्यमंत्री तथा अध्यक्ष राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळ यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखाली, त्यांचे वर्षा निवासस्थान, मलबार हिल, मुंबई येथे राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाची २३ वी बैठक आयोजित करण्यात आली होती. संदर्भिय पत्रान्वये आपण मान्यतेसाठी सादर केलेल्या इंग्रजी कार्यवृत्तांता आवश्यक त्या दुरुस्तीसह मा. मुख्यमंत्री तथा अध्यक्ष, राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळ यांनी मान्यता दिली आहे.

मा. मुख्यमंत्री तथा अध्यक्ष राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळ यांनी मान्यता दिलेले राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाच्या २३ व्या बैठकीचा इंग्रजी कार्यवृत्तांत सोबत जोडून पाठविण्यात येत आहे. तरी सदर कार्यवृत्तांत मंडळाच्या सदस्यांना तात्काळ उपलब्ध करून देण्यात यावे, ही विनंती.

सहपत्र :- वरील प्रमाणे.

(Signature)
26/8/24
(विवेक होशिंग)
उप सचिव (वने)
महसूल व वन विभाग

Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of State Board for Wildlife

Date: 12th August, 2024

The 23rd meeting of State Board for Wildlife was held on 12th August, 2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra State at 11.00 AM at Varsha Bungalow, Malabar Hill, Mumbai. The list of the members who attended the meeting is attached herewith as Annexure-I.

At the outset, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Member Secretary, State Board for Wildlife welcomed Chairman, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Vice Chairman, Hon'ble Minister (Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries), Maharashtra State and other members of State Board for Wildlife. The Member Secretary presented the issues listed in the agenda for discussion with the permission of the Chairman. The details of the discussions held and the decisions taken by the Board are as follows.

AGENDA No. 1

Item No.	Item	Discussion held/decisions taken
1.1	Minutes of the 22 nd meeting of Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife held on 16 October, 2023.	The 22 nd Meeting of State Board for Wildlife was held on 16 th October, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra State. The minutes of the meeting were presented to all members of the State Board for Wildlife. The Board approved the minutes of the 22 nd meeting of State Board for Wildlife.
1.2	Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 22 nd meeting of State Board for Wildlife held on 16 October, 2023.	The board approved the Action Taken Report of the 22 nd Meeting of State Board for Wildlife



AGENDA No. 2

Proposals to seek wildlife clearances for Projects in Protected Areas and Eco-Sensitive Zones/Tiger Corridors.

Item No.	Item	Discussion held / Decision taken												
2.1	<p>Proposal for Wildlife clearance of 80.77 ha. Forest land for Durgapur Opencast Mine Project in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur. (Tiger Corridor joining Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary & Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RF Compt No.</th> <th>Forest</th> <th>Non Forest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>400</td> <td>39.15</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>401</td> <td>41.62</td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>80.77</td> <td>00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	RF Compt No.	Forest	Non Forest	400	39.15	00	401	41.62	00	Total	80.77	00	<p>The Member Secretary introduced this agenda item and informed that this project proposal is for wildlife clearance of 80.77 ha Durgapur open cast mine located in Chandrapur District.</p> <p>The State Board for Wildlife recommended this project for consideration to the National Board for Wildlife subject to the conditions laid down by the Chief Wildlife Warden.</p>
RF Compt No.	Forest	Non Forest												
400	39.15	00												
401	41.62	00												
Total	80.77	00												
2.2	<p>Proposal for Permission of the Mining / Quarrying in Village – Selgaon (Lawane) Survey No. 178 Area- 2.07 Ha.in Tal. Karanja Dist.Wardha.</p> <p>(Tiger Corridor joining Pench Tiger Reserve & Melghat Tiger Reserve,)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)</th> <th rowspan="2">Total (ha)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Forest</th> <th>Non-Forest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0.00</td> <td>2.07</td> <td>2.07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)		Total (ha)	Forest	Non-Forest	0.00	2.07	2.07	<p>The Member Secretary introduced this agenda item and informed that this project proposal is for wildlife clearance of already existing mining/ quarrying in village Selgaon (Lawane) located at Wardha District.</p> <p>The State Board for Wildlife recommended this project for consideration to the National Board for Wildlife subject to the conditions laid down by the Chief Wildlife Warden.</p>				
Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)		Total (ha)												
Forest	Non-Forest													
0.00	2.07	2.07												
2.3	<p>Proposal for Permission of the Mining / Quarrying in Village – Nara Survey No. 521 Area- 1.92 Ha.in Tal. Karanja Dist.Wardha.</p> <p>(Tiger Corridor joining Pench Tiger Reserve & Melghat Tiger Reserve)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)</th> <th rowspan="2">Total (ha)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Forest</th> <th>Non-Forest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)		Total (ha)	Forest	Non-Forest				<p>The Member Secretary introduced this agenda item and informed that this project proposal is for wildlife clearance of already existing mining/ quarrying in village Nara located at Wardha District.</p> <p>The State Board for Wildlife</p>				
Area in the Tiger Corridor (Ha.)		Total (ha)												
Forest	Non-Forest													

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**COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)**

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-H"



महाराष्ट्र शासन
महसुल व वन विभाग

प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक(वनबल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर यांचे कार्यालय.
O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State



Phone - 0712-2549563

E-mail - pccfwlmgp@mahaforest.gov.in

Website - www.mahaforest.gov.in

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State

"Van Bhavan" 3rd Floor, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001

पत्र-ईमेल क्रमांक:- कक्ष-२३(२)/वजी/सर्व्हे/प्र.क्र.२९२/१७७७५/२०२४-२५ दिनांक ३०/०८/२०२४

प्रति,

महाव्यवस्थापक, वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्डस लि.

चंद्रपूर.

E-mail- agmchandrapur.wcl@coalindia.in , gmwclcha@gmail.com ,

विषय - दुर्गापूर ओपन कास्ट माईन प्रकल्पासाठी आवश्यक चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्यातील ८०.७७ हे. वनजमिनी वरील खाणपट्टा नूतनीकरणाचा प्रस्ताव. (ताडोबा - अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प- कन्हारगाव वन्यजीव अभयारण्य - टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्याचे मंजूर व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्ग)

- संदर्भ - १. या कार्यालयाचे पत्र क्रमांक कक्ष-२३(२)/वजी/सर्व्हे/प्र.क्र.२९२/१३९५, दि. ०५/०८/२०२४.
२. महाराष्ट्र शासन पत्र क्रमांक डब्ल्युएलपी- ०७.२४/प्र.क्र.१५२/फ-१, दि. २६/०८/२०२४.
३. महाराष्ट्र शासन पत्र क्रमांक डब्ल्युएलपी- ०८.२४/प्र.क्र.१५९/फ-१, दि. २६/०८/२०२४.

संदर्भीय पत्र १ अन्वये विषयांकित प्रकरणीचा प्रस्ताव राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाचे निर्णयार्थ ठेवण्यासाठी राज्य शासनास सादर करण्यात आलेला होता. राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाची स्थायी समितीची दिनांक ०७/०८/२०२४ रोजीच्या तिस-या बैठकीमध्ये विषयांकित प्रस्ताव निर्णयार्थ मंडळासमोर सादर करण्यात आला होता. स्थायी समितीने सदर बैठकीमध्ये प्रस्तुत प्रस्तावावर चर्चा करून मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांनी घालून दिलेल्या अटीच्या अधिन राहून, राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाचे निर्णयार्थ ठेवण्यासाठी शिफारस केली होती. सदर तिस-या बैठकीचे कार्यवृत्तांत २ अन्वये या कार्यालयास प्राप्त झाले आहे. (प्रत सहपत्रीत)

राज्य वन्यजीव मंडळाची २३ वी बैठक दिनांक १२/०८/२०२४ रोजी संपन्न झाली. सदर बैठकीमध्ये प्रस्तुत प्रस्तावावर मंडळाने चर्चा करून, घेतलेला निर्णय संदर्भ पत्र ३ नुसार, शासनाकडून प्राप्त झाला असून, मुख्य वन्यजीव रक्षक, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांनी घालून दिलेल्या अटीवर राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव मंडळाकडे पाठविण्याची शिफारस केलेली आहे. (प्रत सहपत्रीत). सदर प्रस्तावाच्या अटी खालीलप्रमाणे आहेत.

१. भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान देहरादुन यांचे कडून प्रकल्प यंत्रणा वन्यजीव उपशमन उपाययोजना तयार करून घेवून त्या पूर्ण करण्याच्या अटीचे अधिन राहून शिफारस करण्यात येत आहे.
२. प्रकल्प यंत्रणेने ताडोबा- अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प - कन्हारगाव वन्यजीव अभयारण्य- टिपेश्वर वन्यजीव अभयारण्य- कावल वन्यजीव अभयारण्यात व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्गात येणा-या प्रकल्प खर्चाच्या २% रक्कम वन्यजीव अभयारण्याच्या संरक्षण व व्यवस्थापनासाठी ताडोबा- अंधारी व्याघ्र संवर्धन प्रतिष्ठान, चंद्रपूर यांचेकडे जमा करावी.

वरील बाबीचे अनुषंगाने अट क्रमांक १ नुसार, मुद्रांकावर (Stamp Paper) लिखित हमीपत्र सादर करावे, तसेच अट क्र. २ नुसार व्याघ्र भ्रमणमार्गात येणा-या प्रकल्पाच्या भागाच्या अंदाजपत्रकीय रक्कम रु. ४५.५१ कोटी रक्कमेच्या २ % रक्कम रु. ०.९१ कोटी रक्कमेचा भरणा ताडोबा- अंधारी व्याघ्र संवर्धन प्रतिष्ठान, चंद्रपूर यांचेकडे जमा करावी.

वरीलप्रमाणे सदरहू प्रस्तावाच्या प्रकल्प किंमतीच्या २ % रक्कम रु. ०.९१ कोटी रक्कमेचा भरणा केल्याचा अहवाल, तसेच मुद्रांकावर (Stamp Paper) हमीपत्र प्राप्त झालेनंतर, सदर प्रस्ताव केंद्र शासनास सादर करण्याबाबत, राज्य शासनास या स्तरावरून विनंती करण्यात येईल.

सहपत्र- वरील प्रमाणे


(कुलराज सिंह)

उप वनसंरक्षक (नियोजन व व्यवस्थापन-वन्यजीव),
प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव),
महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांचे कार्यालय

प्रतिलिपी :- अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक तथा केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव) पूर्व, नागपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक), चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

प्रतिलिपी :- वनसंरक्षक तथा क्षेत्र संचालक, ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प, चंद्रपूर यांना माहिती व योग्य त्या कार्यवाहीस अग्रेषित.

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COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-J"

Report of the Committee constituted as per directions of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in respect of proposal WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024

1. BACKGROUND

The Proposal is for the use of 80.77 ha forest land in Reserve Forest Compartment Nos. 400, 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division for Coal Mining at Chandrapur District, Maharashtra. **WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024** was discussed in the 82nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) held on 12th March 2025 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Geo-referenced map of the project area along with its key component is depicted in **Figure 1**.

2. COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

As directed by the Standing Committee, a site inspection committee was constituted vide its OM No. **F.No. 7-15/2025-NTCA** dated 26th May 2025, for comprehensive appraisal of the proposal:

1. Representative of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Member – Convenor)
2. Representative of Director, Wildlife Institute of India (Member)
3. Representative of Chief Wildlife Warden (Member)
4. Representative of User Agency (Member)

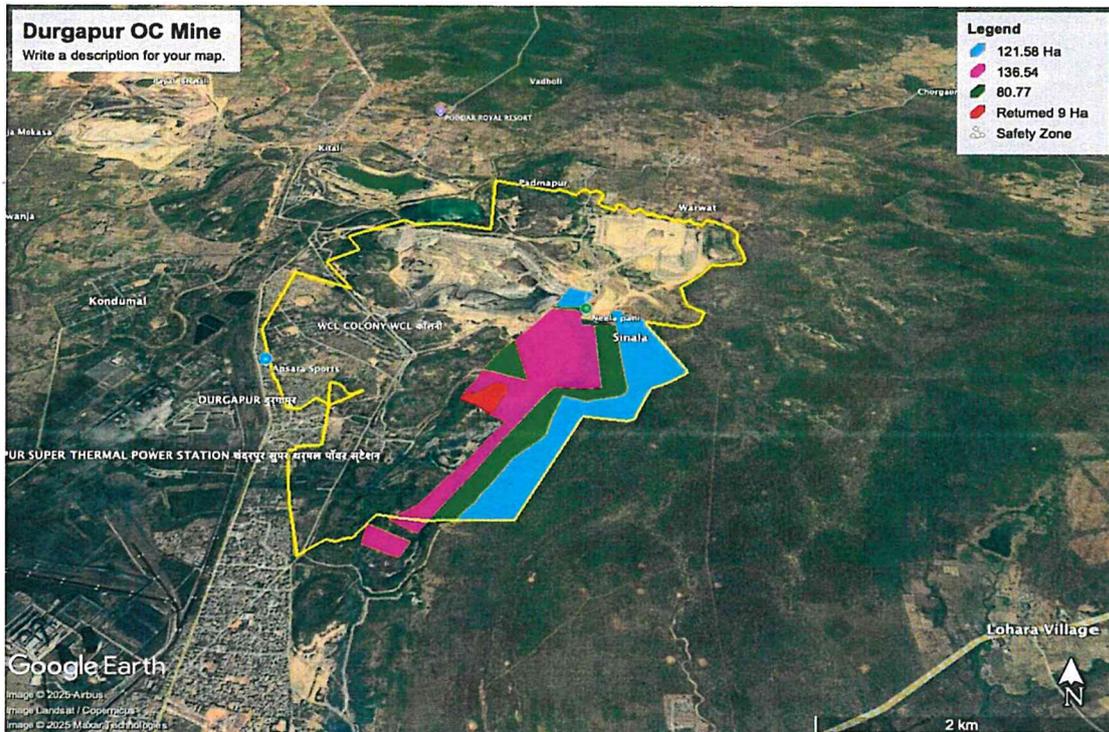


Figure 1: Map of the project area

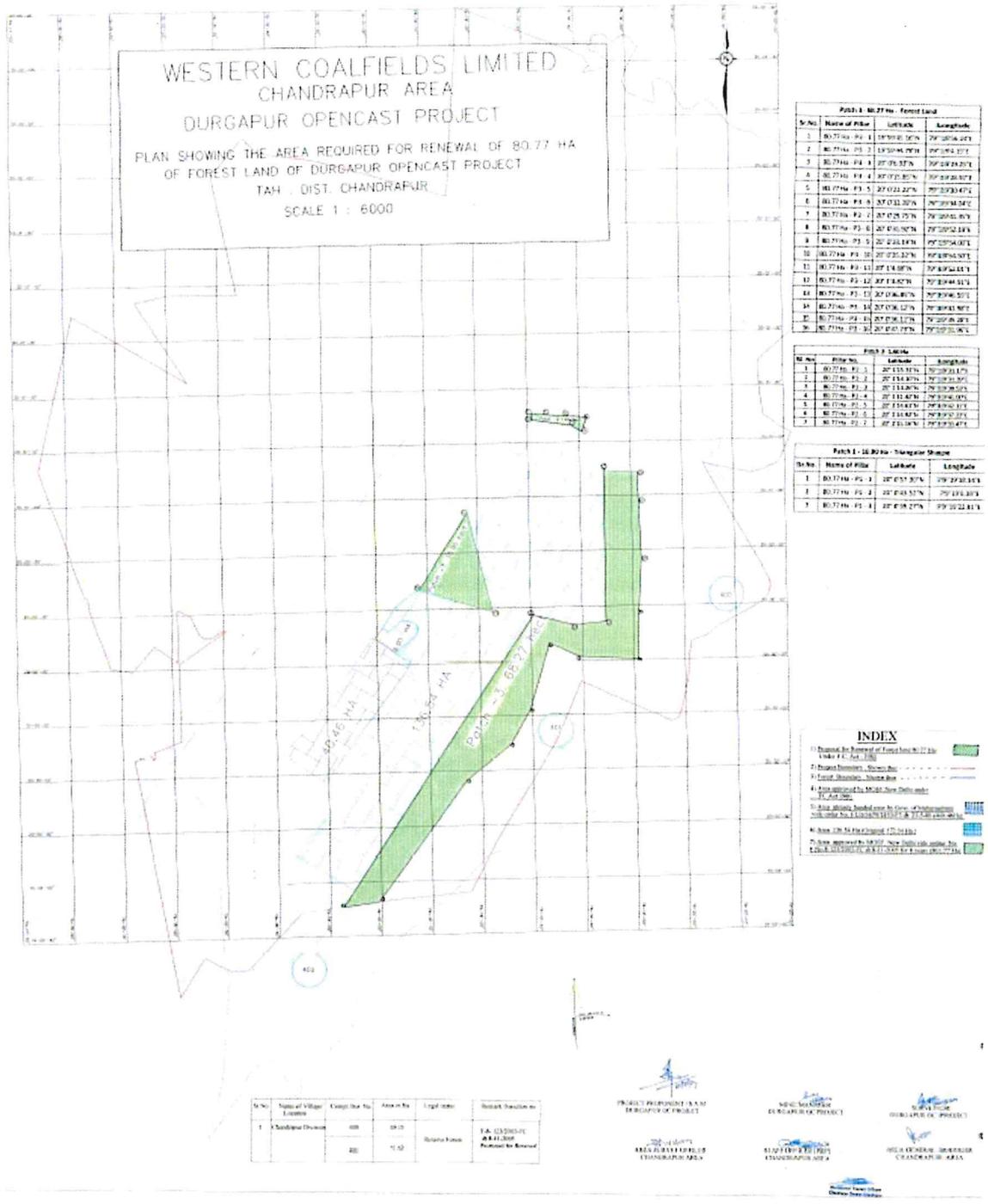


Figure 2: Geo-referenced map of the project area

3. Terms of Reference:

- I. The Committee shall examine the proposal and carry out site inspection.
- II. The Committee may co-opt experts in this field.
- III. The Committee shall study relevant reports, court orders, tribunal decisions, policy directives etc. with regard to proposal.
- IV. The Committee shall submit its report within 15 days.

Shri Nandkishor Kale, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Nagpur, was nominated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to the committee. Wildlife Institute of India nominated Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist F., represented by Ms. Anjali Thapriyal, Research Associate at WII, Dehradun who's already engaged on TATR Related Wildlife Studies inspected the site in place of Dr. Bilal Habib along with Shri. Prashant Khade, Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division. Shri. Harish K Gawali, Project Proponent / Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area, Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area nominated by the User Agency as their representative. Shri. G.R. Naigamkar, Range Forest Officer, Chandrapur Range and Shri. Harish K Gawali, Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area of WCL also accompanied the team for Site Inspection.

The Committee carried out a site inspection on 12.06.2025. Figures 2, 3, and 4 provide visual documentation of inspection of 80.77 Ha Forest Area, along with the inspection team's visit to the site. The figures capture key moments from the field visit, including site observations, stakeholder engagement, and on-site discussions held by the inspection team regarding the proposed project.



Figure 3: Field Visit



Figure 4: Inspection Team at 80.77 Ha Forest Pillar – RF Compartment No.400

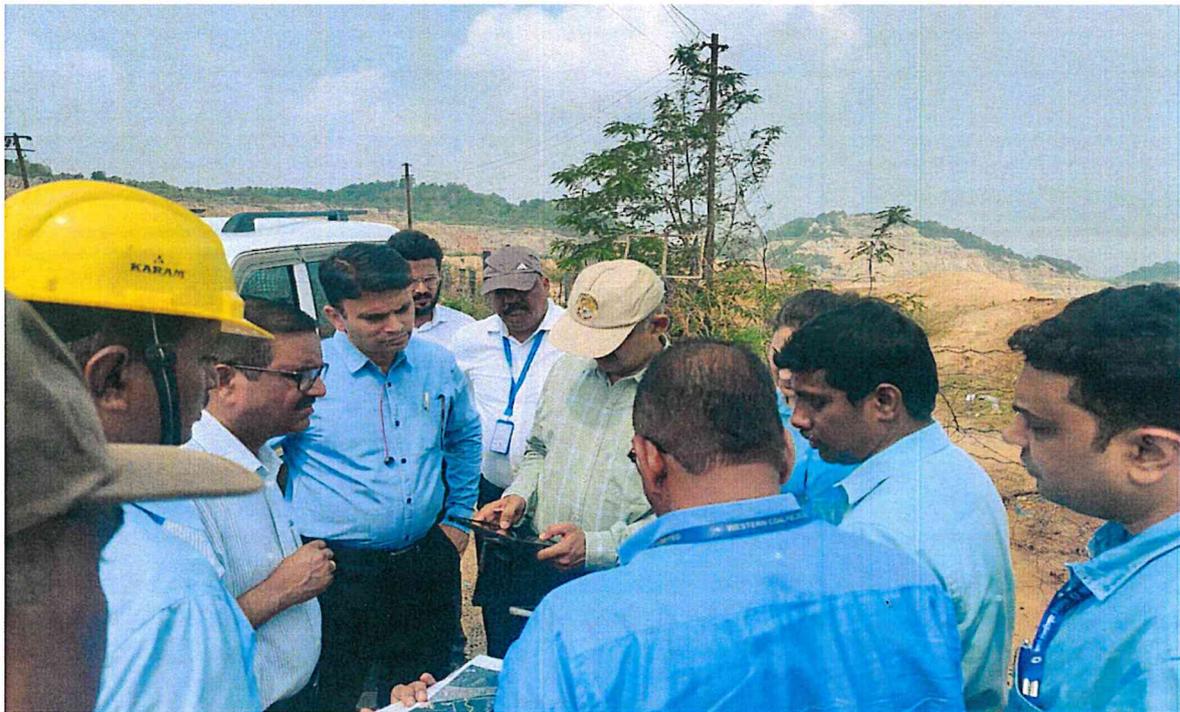


Figure 5: Verification of location with help of KML file

Figure 6: Backfilled Area along with Water Body in 80.77 Ha Forest Land

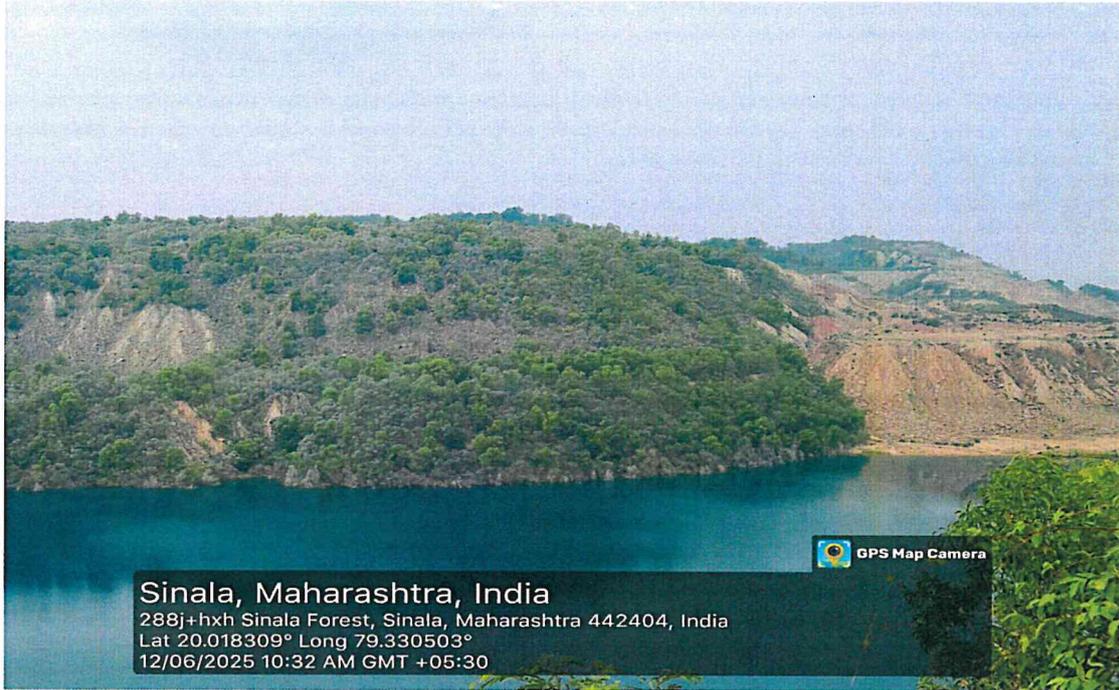
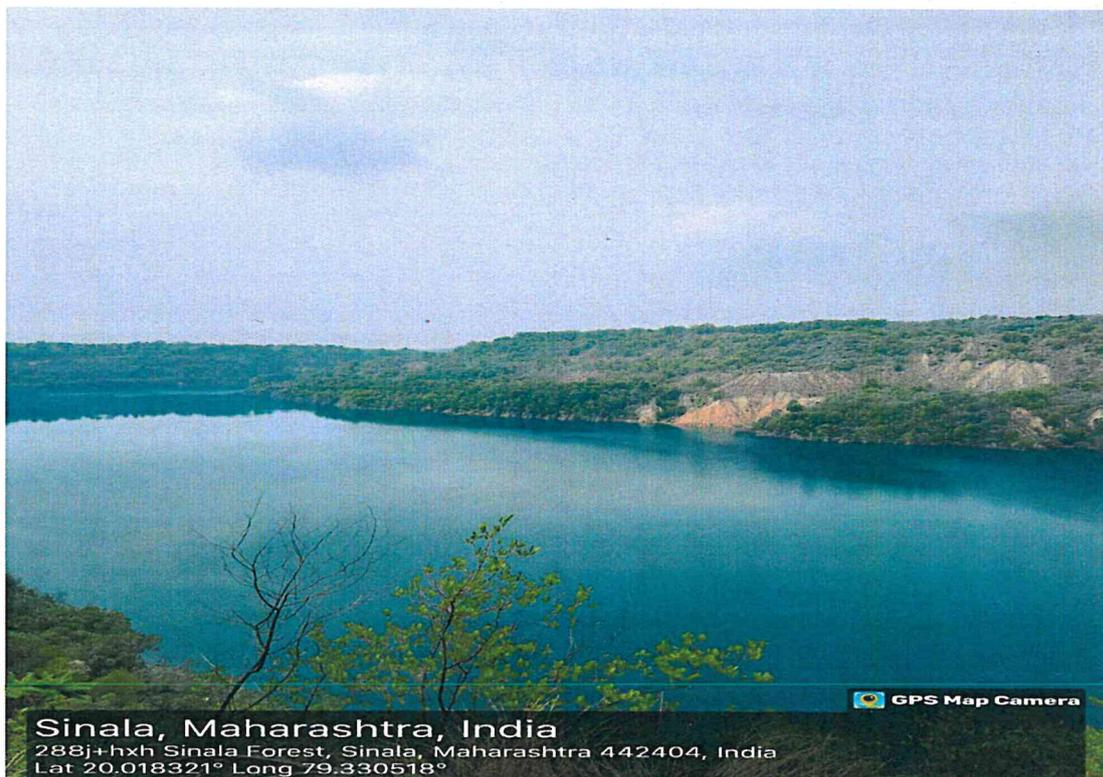


Figure 7: Water Body formed at 80.77 Ha Forest Land with submerged benches

4. OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Project Background and Objective: Durgapur Opencast Project of Western Coalfields Limited is located at Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. This project was started in the year October 1978. The committee noted that the 80.77 Ha Forest Land is located at the Compartment Nos. 400 & 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division at Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

- I. The Durgapur Opencast project is having total area of 1597.50 Ha land. Total non-Forest land is 1218.15 Ha and Forest Land is 379.35 Ha. Out of which 177.00 Ha was already diverted for mining operations. Apart from that, Forest Clearance and Wildlife Clearance for 121.58 Ha Forest Land was obtained from MoEF & CC, New Delhi in 2021 & 2023 respectively. The current proposal is for renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 Ha forest land for which Stage I in-principle approval was issued by MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 06.05.2025. **Figure 1** shows the relative positions of 80.77 Ha and 121.58 Ha of the forest land.
- II. The User Agency has backfilled and reclaimed 36.00 Ha Reserve Forest Land out of 172.54 Ha Forest Land diverted earlier in the year 2002 and returned to the State Forest Department in the year 2006.
- III. The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land was a diverted forest land vide MoEF, New Delhi Order dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 08 years. The User Agency has submitted a proposal for Renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha which is recently accorded in-principle approval by the FC Division of MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 06.05.2025.
- IV. As per the observation during the site inspection, 80.77 Ha Forest Land was mined out during the earlier diversion period except the Safety Zone area which are demarcated by pillars at ground level.
- V. Proposed 80.77 Ha is not falling in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco Sensitive Zone.
- VI. The proposed 80.77 Ha is falling in the TATR Tiger Corridor 4 as per Tiger Conservation Plann(TCP) which connects Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) to Chaprala WLS in Maharashtra and Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh by TATR'S southern corridor.
- VII. As recommended in the WII-Wildlife Assessment Study, WCL is not planning any mining operations beyond 121.58 Ha Forest Land in the future.

Court Cases related to Forest Land in this Project

- I. **NGT Case OA No 198/2024 related to diversion of 80.77 Ha is subjudice at Hon'ble NGT Bench Pune. This case is related to the same area for which this inspection is done. Presently there is no stay by NGT in this case.**
- II. **A Public Interest Litigation vide 20/2024 is filed at Hon'ble High Court Bench of Nagpur related to the diversion of 121.58 Ha Forest Land of Durgapur Opencast Project-, Hon'ble High Court of Nagpur has issued an Order to stop the felling of trees vide Order dated 04.12.2024. Last hearing is held on 28.04.2025 and the matter is sub-judice at the court at present.**

Figure 8 depicts an overall view of the Google imagery after superimposing the KML files of the proposed project, along with the core zone boundaries of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Eco-Sensitive Zone – Buffer Zones at Chandrapur District.

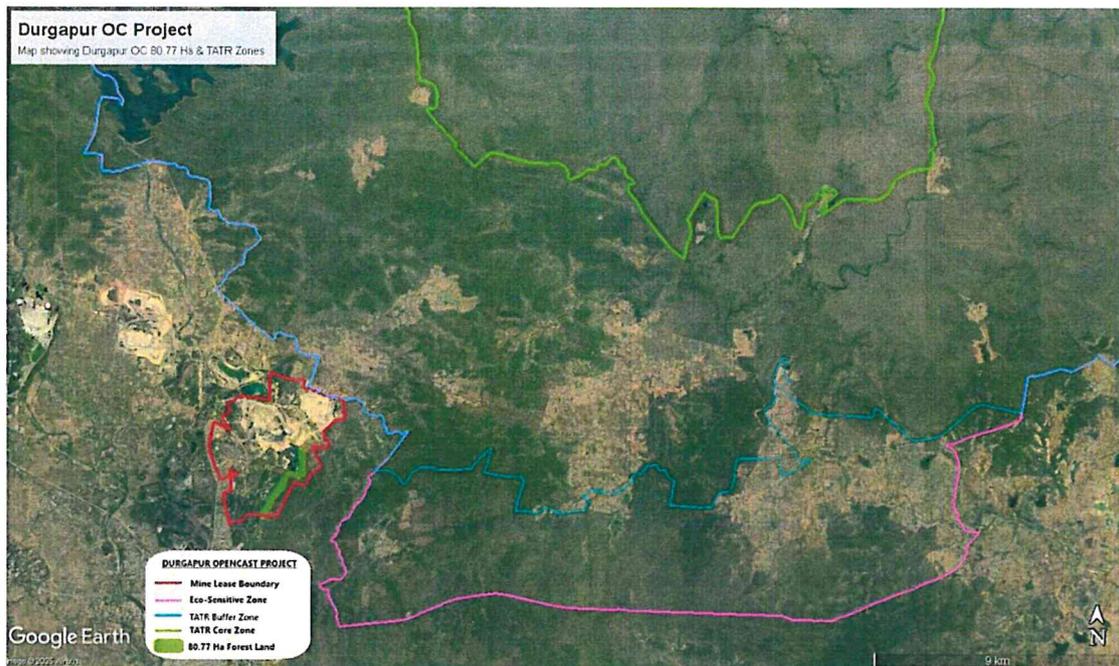


Figure 8: Durgapur OC Project in relation to TATR Zones



Figure 9: Safety Zone Pillar of 80.77 Ha Forest Land



Figure 10: Shows the 36.00 Ha Forest Land Returned to State Forest Department

Purpose & Societal Impact:

Necessity and urgency of the project

Coal reserve from 50.77 Ha out 80.77 Ha was extracted during the earlier diversion. However, coal reserve left in benches below 80.77 Ha forest land is about 8.00 Million Tonnes at the time of closure of operation in the area. This left out benches will be the approach for further mining in the proposed diverted 121.58 Ha forest land.

The Project is directly linked to Pit head of Chandrapur Super Thermal Power station (CSTPS) for generation of electricity which is supplied to the public through MAHAGENCO. A major portion of the coal demanded by CSTPS is being supplied through this project. Hence, this on-going project, establishing national importance on power generation front. Currently, the Durgapur Opencast Project is working with 3.00 MT capacity per annum.

As informed by User Agency, there is no further expansion of Durgapur Opencast mine and 121.58 Ha is the final working limit of Durgapur Opencast Project. **There will be no coal mining beyond already diverted 121.58 Ha Forest Land.**

WCL will carry out reclamation of used forest land and non-forest land area as per approved mining plan / mine closure plan. As informed by User Agency, OB generated during the mining operations shall be backfilled into existing mine voids. The concurrent technical reclamation/ backfilling shall continue for the next 17 years.

Plantation over the reclaimed land expected to be completed in subsequent four years post the closure of the mines.
Hence, the reclamation and return of the forest land is expected to be completed over next 22 years i.e by 2047.

Plantation of native species will be carried out through expert agencies.

Protected Areas Involved:

The Durgapur Opencast Project is located 12.25 Kilometres from the Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Durgapur project was conceived in 1978 and when around 2010 buffer was carved it touched the boundary of Durgapur project. But present proposal of 80.77 Ha is 1.2 Km from Buffer boundary. This project is also outside of eco sensitive zone of any PA.

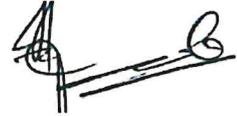
Recommendations:

The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land is already broken-up land. Renewal of 80.77 Ha is required to approach the adjacent diverted 121.58 Ha. Hence the project is recommended subject to the following conditions-

- i. A dedicated Wildlife Management Plan amounting to Rs. 18.07 Crs. has already been prepared based on the study conducted by WII, Dehradun for entire Durgapur OC project. User Agency should ensure implementation of all the Mitigative measures as recommended by the WII-Dehradun and approved by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden. Maharashtra State.
- ii. All the area on forested side shall be fenced to avoid movement of wild animals inside mining area. It will also prevent felling of wild animals in mined out pits, Fencing shall be completed before initiation of mining operation.
- iii. User Agency should ensure implementation of WII's recommendation in Wildlife Assessment Study 2013.
- iv. In order to mitigate man-animal conflict in the area and to actively decrease/remove unnatural shelter areas for wildlife closer to human habitations, prosopis and other invasive species removal shall be completed within 5 years in entire Durgapur Project Area. A plan in this regard shall be prepared in consultation with forest departments which shall be approved by chief conservator of Forest, Chandrapur.



Dr Bilal Habib
Scientist-F
Wildlife Institute of India
Dehradun



Shri Harish K Gawali
Sub Area Manager
Durgapur Sub Area
WCL



Shri Prashant Khade
Divisional Forest Officer
Chandrapur



Shri Nandkishor Kale
Assistant Inspector General of Forest
NTCA, Nagpur



Chief conservator of Forest
Chandrapur

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COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)

ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-K"

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



2nd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110003

Date : 23 July, 2025



To,

The Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of MAHARASHTRA,
Revenue & Forest Department,
4th Floor, Mantralaya,
Mumbai-400032.

Sub: Proposal for use of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast Project Mine in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur within tiger corridor connecting Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve- Kanhargoan Wildlife Sanctuary- Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra. regarding-WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024

Sir,

Reference is invited to the following proposal:

i) Proposal No.	WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024
ii) Name of the Project	DURGAPUR OPENCAST PROJECT
iii) Category of the project	Mining / Quarrying
iv) Name of User Agency	Western Coalfields Ltd
v) Location of Project (District,State)	400, RESERVED FOREST, Chandrapur, Chandrapur, MAHARASHTRA

1. The above proposal was considered in the 84th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life held on 26 June, 2025. under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

2. After discussions, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife decided to recommend/approve the proposal subject to the following conditions:

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that the NTCA shall issue clarification that henceforth only the least cost pathways identified by them should be treated as tiger corridors for the purposes of section 38-O(1)(g) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Standing Committee decided to approve the proposal with the following conditions:

Green Clearance No.: GCN13709385-15032024

1. A dedicated Wildlife Management Plan amounting to Rs. 18.07 Crores has already been prepared based on the study conducted by WII, Dehradun for entire Durgapur OC project. User Agency should ensure implementation of all the Mitigative measures as recommended by the WII-Dehradun and approved by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State.

2. All the area on forested side shall be fenced to avoid movement of wild animals from surrounding forest areas into mining area. Special measures should also be taken to avoid accidental falling of wild animals in mined out pits. Fencing shall be completed before initiation of mining operation.

3. The User Agency should ensure implementation of WII's recommendation in Wildlife Assessment Study 2013 .

4. In order to mitigate man-animal conflict in the area and to actively decrease/remove unnatural shelter areas for wildlife closer to human habitations, prosopis and other invasive species removal shall be completed within 5 years in entire Durgapur Project Area. A plan in this regard shall be prepared in consultation with forest departments which shall be approved by chief conservator of Forest, Chandrapur.

5. An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government.

3. The minutes of the meeting have been posted online in the "PARIVESH" portal of this Ministry.

4. The State/Union Territory Government may take further necessary action in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)

Scientist 'E'

Email: sudheer.ch@gov.in

Copy to:

1. Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Maharashtra, Forest Department, Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440001.
2. Deputy Director General of Forests Integrated Regional Offices, Nagpur Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
3. Inspector General of Forests, Forest Conservation Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.
4. Joint Secretary, IA Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.



(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)

Scientist 'E'

Email: sudheer.ch@gov.in

Green Clearance No.:GCN13709385-15032021

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ANNEXURE NO. :- "R5-L"

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated:30-09-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra
Mumbai.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of mining lease over 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project by M/s WCL in compartment No 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/MIN/6704/2014) - regarding.

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to refer the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10 dated 19.06.2024 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was granted '**In-Principle**' (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government vide letter dated 06.05.2025. The Government of Maharashtra has reported/submitted the compliance report vide letter dated 02.09.2025 to the conditions stipulated in the '**In-Principle**' approval and requested for grant of final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Forest), Government of Maharashtra vide letter No. Desk-17/FCA-S1/1/PID-6704/Chandrapur 2004/2024-25/1308 dated 02.09.2025, **Stage-II/Final approval** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of mining lease over 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project by M/s WCL in compartment No 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Government shall ensure to implement the recommendations of SC- NBWL;
3. The State Government shall ensure that the safety zone with effective green belt shall be maintained by the User Agency along the inner boundary of the mine;
4. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, at a later date or as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;

5. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency, shall obtain the environment clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act; 1986, if required;
6. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area. The User Agency shall prepare a detailed plan for life of project as per mining plan, clearly linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees. Felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due for mining as per mining plan. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
7. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the surrender schedule prepared by the User Agency for the mined out and reclaimed forest land;
8. The State Government shall ensure that the rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;
9. The State Government shall ensure that the following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry:
 - i. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - ii. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - iii. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - iv. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms.
9. The State Government shall ensure that the following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
 - i. Mitigation measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream, shall be implemented within a period of two years with effect from the date of issue of order of diversion of forest land, in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;

- ii. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - iii. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - iv. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - v. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan as submitted along with the compliance report.
10. The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government;
 11. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake the gap plantation and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities;
 12. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per plan submitted, so as to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;
 13. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
 14. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency will undertake adequate care to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;
 15. The State Government shall ensure that the User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 16. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC;
 17. The State Government shall ensure the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
 18. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
 19. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

20. The State Government shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS Coordinates;
21. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and forest land not to be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal except the change in land use allowed on the forest land vide Ministry's guidelines dated 26.12.2024;
22. The State Government shall ensure that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
23. The State Government shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
24. The State Government and the User Agency shall comply the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
25. The State Government shall ensure that the User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
26. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
27. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
28. The State Government after receiving 'Final approval' of the Central Government under sub section (1) of Section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of the all other acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes or Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date: 30-09-2025
14:58:02

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur at MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

// TRUE COPY //

**COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.5
(NACHIKET G. MOHARIR)**