

F. No. 8-88/2007 – FC (Pt)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110510
Dated: 09th November, 2012

To

Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Sub: Diversion of 117.0059 (total lease area 155.078 ha) of forest land for Ghatkuri Vijay –II Iron Ore mining project in favour of M/s Usha Martin Private Limited in Saranda Forest Division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. no. 3 / Vanbhumi - 49 / 2010 / 1911 / VP dated 29.05.2010 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under section-3 of the said Act, 'in-principle' approval was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 25.02.2011 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter no. 3/*Van Bhumi*-49/2010/2341 dated 6 June 2012, final approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 117.0059 (total lease area 155.078 ha) of forest land for Ghatkuri Vijay –II Iron Ore mining project in favour of M/s Usha Martin Private Limited in Saranda Forest Division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over equivalent non-forest land proposed for diversion shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the project cost.
3. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 metre strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area), wherever feasible, shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost.
4. Following activities shall be undertaken by the user agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department at the project cost:
 - (i) Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be prepared and implemented.
 - (ii) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.
 - (iii) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated



material along the contour.

5. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake by involving local community, the afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
6. The User Agency shall pay the additional NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
7. The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, or Rules framed there under, subject to a maximum period of 30 years.
8. The User Agency has paid Rs. 33.79 lakh on *pro rata* basis, the cost of implementation of Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan prepared by the State Government in collaboration with M/s SAIL. The user agency shall pay the difference of the proportionate cost that may be decided by the State Government after finalization of the Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan.
9. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure compliance of the following conditions as recommended by Dr. R.K. Singh in his report dated 12.10.2012 titled "Wildlife Occupancy around a Mining Lease - A rapid assessment on the impact forest diversion of proposed iron ore mining lease on wildlife in the Saranda Forest Division, Jharkhand:
 - i. The user agency shall set up a full-fledged forest and wildlife management team at mining site for environmental/ecological conservation of area as corporate environmental responsibility in accordance with guidelines of MOEF.
 - ii. The State Forest Department with the support of user agency shall further undertake an intensive survey through suitable scientific method such as camera trapping to ascertain the presence of *Four-horned antelope* outside their mining lease under the supervision of a wildlife expert. If the presence of *Four-horned antelope* is confirmed then the compartment no. 26, 28 and 29 of Ghatkuri Reserve Forest should be fenced by chain link. Availability of clean water throughout the year and adequate fire control measures in fenced area must be ensured till the sizable population of animal is achieved. Regular patrol must be ensured through community participation.
 - iii. The user agency shall provide a four wheel drive vehicle to Gua Range to facilitate the frontline field staff for regular patrolling of area. The monthly running cost needs to be met on proportionate basis by all three mines i.e. M/s Usha Martin Ltd, M/s Devkibhai Vheljee and M/s M.L. Jain and Sons.
 - iv. The user agency shall support in-situ capacity building program for forest officials and local community on topics like wildlife monitoring, crime prevention, habitat management, law enforcement etc.
 - v. The user agency and other lessee will celebrate wildlife week to create awareness programme amongst their staff and transporters for ecological and wildlife conservation of Saranda like Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation week which is celebrated every year by every mines under the aegis of Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Kolkata Region.
 - vi. The user agency and others will up skill the knowledge of their mines manager, environmental consultants and local forest officials towards best practices in mining like

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- progressive mining and successive reclamation through exposure visits and training.
- vii. Only working mining pits will be properly fenced instead of creating a linear barrier for wildlife movement through fencing of safety zone around the whole mining leases.
 - viii. GIS tool will be used to implement mining and reclamation plan. Progressive mine closure plan shall be prepared so that reclamation should progress along with mining. In reclamation process, the pioneer succession species will be identified from abandoned area and the same species shall be considered for restoration.
 - ix. Adequate water sprinkling will be ensured along the entire haul road within the mines. Proper dust suppression chemicals will be used while sprinkling the water to minimize the dust load in ambient air.
 - x. Lessee should ensure plying of only Pollution under Control (PUC) vehicles in their lease area without the use of pressure horn.
 - xi. To prevent the silt and fines flow into river Koina and Karo, the user agency shall construct suitable civil structure and the harvested rain water needs to be utilized in mines.
 - xii. Blasting in night at mines and night transportation of ore through public roads will not be allowed. Transportation of ore by trucks/dumpers within the forest limit shall be replaced with aerial mode in phased manner.
 - xiii. Proper lighting system in the mine will be used to reduce the glare to open sky to facilitate the migration path of avifauna.
 - xiv. Insulated power transmission cable will be used in stretches passing through forests and the transmission line will be aligned along the roads only.
 - xv. The user agency will be responsible to control fire in and around mining leases under
 - xvi. the supervision of state forest department
 - xvii. The earthen flank shall be made available to facilitate the movement of wild animals by reducing the width of blacktop road from Chotanagra to Saddle forest check post.
 - xviii. Paramilitary forces must be advised to consult local forest officials to put fires in forest area for making the visibility during combining operation and other purposes. Supply of LPG cylinder must be ensured by the local administration to discontinue the practice of large scale fire wood collection for cooking in the camp of paramilitary forces.
10. The State Government shall ensure that various mines are worked in such a way that the required elephant corridor / intermittent vegetation zones are always maintained without any long gap / disturbances.
 11. The user agency shall ensure reclamation and rehabilitation the mined out area with gentle negotiable slope of sufficient width so that connectivity is maintained beyond the ridge to allow animals to cross easily.
 12. The user agency shall design the mine trenches in such a manner to bring zero pollution to Karo & Koena rivers.
 13. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area.
 14. The user agency shall provide alternate fuel to the labourers working at the site to avoid damage / felling of trees in the adjoining areas.

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15. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
16. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
17. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person.
18. The evacuation of iron ore will be either through closed conveyer or aerial ropeway.
19. The user agency will surrender equal extent of area duly reclaimed and afforested from the already diverted forest areas after completion of mining activity.
20. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
21. The user agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government and to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry regularly.
22. Any other condition that the Addl. CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, may impose from time to time for the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area.
23. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully


(Shiv Pal Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi for information.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Jharkhand for information.
3. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Govt. of Jharkhand for information.
5. The User Agency for information.
6. Monitoring Cell.
7. Guard File.


(Shiv Pal Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of forests