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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 14th September, 2022

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Extension of Forest Clearance co-terminus with the extended mining lease period for Belakundi Iron & Manganese Mining Lease of M/ s OMDC Ltd. - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. 10 F (Cons)-46/18/24739/E&F dated 17.12.2019 requesting for extension of validity of lease granted under the FC Act co-terminus with the mining lease granted under the MMDR Act, 1980 and letter no. 21133/9F (MG)-105/2010 dated 3.12.2020 and letter no. 21515/9F (MG)-105/2010 dated 14.12.2021 forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry and to say that the above proposal was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 1.08.2022. The detailed minutes of the FAC's aforesaid meeting may be seen at *www.parivesh.nic.in*.

Based on the recommendation of the FAC and approval of the same by the competent authority of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted for extension of validity of approval granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following:

i. The State Government shall ensure that afforestation work related to penal compensatory afforestation is completed within the current financial year.
ii. The State Government shall ensure that proper protection measures are implemented in the area afforested in lieu of forest land diverted to check felling of trees and local biotic pressure.
iii. Considering that total area of the Forest Division is 6267 sq. km and good quality sal forest is found in the Division, additional Forest Ranges in the Division shall be created by the State and all the vacant posts of RFOs and forest Guards should be filled up on urgent basis.
iv. An approved plan for appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of drains shall be implemented. At present, the drains are not operational due to mine closure.
v. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease area to arrest soil erosion.
vi. Construction of check dam, retention wall / toe walls to arrest sliding down of excavated materials along the contours.
vii. Afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area

shall be taken up at project cost.

viii. Creation and maintenance of alternate habitat for avifauna whose nesting trees have been cleared are to be taken up by User agency.

ix. The project authority needs to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion.

x. Plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the OB dumps and Fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps.

xi. Prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area to be ensured.

xii. The angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety.

xiii. Vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneshwar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.