Minutes of the 3rd meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar held on 09.06.2015 (Odisha State).

The 3rd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar was held on 09.06.2015 in the Conference Hall of Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The following members/special invitees were present during the meeting.

1. Dr. Tejinder Singh,

Addl. PCCF (Central),

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,

Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar

2. Shri P.R. Mohanty,

House No.2, HIG-1, B.D.A. Colony,

Kapila Prasad, Old Town,

Bhubanenswar-751002, Odisha

3. Shri R.K. Zutshi,

224, Phase, Vasant Vihar,

Dehradun-248006, Uttarkhand

4. Dr. Bhagirathi Behera,

Annapurna Bhawan, New Lingraj Colony,

Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002, Odisha

5. Ms. P. Mekro,

CCF (FC),

Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha,

Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur,

Bhubaneswar - 751016, Odisha

6. Shri A.K. Nayak,

Joint Secretary,

Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Govt. of Odisha.

Bhubaneswar - 751 001

7. Shri S. Mohapatra,

Conservator of Forests (Central)

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,

Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar

Chairperson

Non-Official Member

Non-Official Member

Non-Official Member

Special Invitee

Special Invitee

Member Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of REC and special invitees representing the State Govt. of Odisha. The proposals in the agenda were examined by the Committee. The representative of the project proponents made power point presentations of the proposals before the Committee. The recommendations/decisions of the Committee, based on the deliberations, are as under:-

AGENDA NO.1

Diversion of 19.70 ha of forest land in villages Darlipali, Raidihi, Chuabahal and Kalamegha in Sundargarh district, Odisha for construction of MGR-Rail Corridor by M/s NTPC Ltd. for transportation of coal from their Dulanga Coal Mines to Darlipali Super Thermal Power Plant in Sundargarh district, Odisha.

- 1. The proposal envisages diversion of 19.70 ha of forest land in villages Darlipali, Raidihi, Chuabahal and Kalamegha in Sundargarh district, Odisha for construction of MGR-Rail Corridor by M/s NTPC Ltd. for transportation of coal from their Dulanga Coal Mines to Darlipali Super Thermal Power Plant in Sundargarh district, Odisha.
- 2. The instant proposal for diversion of 19.70 ha of forest land is within requirement of land to the extent of 50.23 ha for construction of 6.7 Km. long MGR-Rail Corridor for transportation of coal

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- from the above referred Dulanga Coal Mine to Darlipali Super Thermal Power Project of M/s NTPC Ltd.
- 3. NTPC Ltd. intends to use coal based resources to be produced from Dulanga coal Block in part in their Darlipali Thermal Power Station in Sundargarh district of Odisha. It has got Stage-I approval of Govt. of India, MoEF vide letter No.8-23/2013-FC dated 10.01.2014 for diversion of 304.75 ha (including 4.94 ha for safety zone) forest land for Dulanga Coal Mining Project. Final forest clearance for this coal mining project is now under consideration of MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
- 4. Further, NTPC Ltd. has got final approval of Govt. of India, MoEF vide letter No.5-ORC158/2013-BHU dated 13.10.2014 for diversion of 13.95 ha of forest land for setting up of Darlipali Super Thermal Power Project at Darlipali and Raidihi village in Sundargarh district.
- 5. Total land requirement for the proposed MGR Rail corridor is 50.23 ha which comprises of 23.77 ha of private land, 6.76 ha of Govt. non-forest land and 19.70 ha of forest land and is spread over four villages like Darlipali & Raidihi under Lephripara tehsil and Chuabahal & Kalamegha under Hemgir tehsil of Sundargarh district. The forest land of 19.70 ha proposed for diversion comprises Revenue forest land of 18.24 ha and DLC forest land of 1.46 ha covering four villages in Sundargarh district.
- 6. The legal status of forest land is Revenue Forest and DLC Forest as reported by DFO, Sundargarh.
- 7. The density of vegetation is reported to be 0.6.
- 8. Tree enumeration has been carried out over the applied forest area of 19.70 ha as well as in the non-forest area of 30.53 ha. State Govt. has reported that a total 1966 nos. of tree above 30 cm girth over forest land comprising of 551 no. in Chuabahal village, 1077 no. in Kalamegha village, 109 no. in Raidihi village and 229 no. in Darlipali village. Further, 984 nos. of trees in private land and 253 nos. of trees in non-forest Govt. land have been enumerated. Hence, in all 3203 number of trees above 30 cm girth may be required to be felled during the execution of this project.
- 9. The area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve. It also does not come under any wild life corridor.
- 10. The user agency has submitted SOI topo-sheet, DGPS map of proposed forest land and map for identified degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation.
- 11. No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been reported by the DFO, Sundargarh for this project.
- 12. The Collector, Sundargarh has issued FRA certificate for the entire forest land of 19.70 ha proposed for diversion.
- 13. In lieu of 19.70 ha of forest land proposed for this project, State Govt. has identified 41.62 ha of degraded forest land in two villages for compensatory afforestation. Land schedule of degraded forests land duly authenticated by the Tehsildar, Lephripara and DFO, Sundargarh is furnished with the proposal.
- 14. The DFO, Sundargarh has submitted a site specific Compensatory Afforestation Scheme in Block Plantation model at an estimated cost of Rs.1,18,53,000/- including cost of maintenance for 10 years with the proposal.
- 15. The DFO, PCCF & State Govt. have recommended the proposal for diversion.
- 16. After scrutiny of the proposal, the following additional information/clarification was sought from State Govt, vide this office letter dated 26.03.2015.
 - i) The status of allocation of Dulanga Coal Mine of NTPC may be furnished in view of the de-allocation of coal block by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
 - ii) It is observed that this proposal is for transportation of coal from Dulanga Coal Mine of NTPC to the power plant. It may be clarified why this proposal was not considered as part of the original mining lease of the proposal.
 - The proposal has not been uploaded in the Ministry Website. The same may be uploaded and the acknowledgement slip generated by the Website may be submitted to this office.
- 17. The State Govt. vide letter dated 12.05.2015 has submitted the point wise compliance of the observation made by this office letter dated 26.03.2015 which is as follows:

- i) Dulanga coal mine has been re-allocated to NTPC Ltd. pursuant to order No.13016/35/2015/CA-III dated 24.03.2015 issued by GoI under Rule 11 (9) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rule, 2014.
- As intimated by the user agency, the coal transportation system in NTPC generally forms a part of Power Plant. Hence, the land acquisition for MGR rail corridor comes under the purview of the Darlipali STPP and is not associated with the Dulanga Coal mining project. The Forest Diversion proposal for main Plant was submitted to DFO, Sundargarh after part-I compliance on 17.01.2012. By this time, the feasibility study for MGR Rail corridor was not completed since it involved consent from MCL and OPGC for crossing their railway lines, finalization of point of connection within Dulanga mines as well. Further, Administrative approval for the corridor was issued by the Deptt. of Energy, Govt. of Odisha on 16.04.2013. Therefore the forest diversion proposal for MGR corridor was not included in the forest diversion proposal for main plant in order to expedite the execution of main plant activities.
- The proposal has been uploaded in the website of Ministry and copy of acknowledgement slip generated by the website of MoEF&CC has been submitted by the State Govt.

Decision/Advice of REC:

The Committee approved the grant of in-principle approval with usual standard conditions of MoEF&CC and the State Govt.

AGENDA NO.2

Diversion of 6.682 ha of forest land for laying of infrastructural facilities like integrated pipe conveyor (including power transmission line, underground water pipeline, service road) and railway line for transportation of coal to their Coal Washery located inside their integrated Steel Plant premises located in Angul district, Odisha and outward movement of finished steel and other by-products there from by M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

- 1. The proposal envisages diversion of 6.682 ha of forest land for laying of infrastructural facilities like integrated pipe conveyor (including power transmission line, underground water pipeline, service road) and railway line for transportation of coal to their Coal Washery located inside their integrated Steel Plant premises located in Angul district, Odisha and outward movement of finished steel and other by-products therefrom by M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.
- 2. The user agency has obtained Stage-II forest clearance from GoI, MoEF vide letter No.8-75/2008-FC dated 28.10.2010 for diversion of 168.232 ha of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Complex and Captive Power Plant.
- 3. Further, the user agency has also obtained Stage-II forest clearance from GoI, MoEF vide letter No.5-ORC074/2008-FCE dated 01.09.2010 for diversion of 33.722 ha of forest land for Utkal-B1 Coal Block (excluding safety zone).
- 4. Total land requirement for this project is 52.698 ha, which includes 11.592 ha of Govt. non-forest land, 34.424 ha of private land and 6.682 ha of forest land.
- 5. Legal status of forest land involved is Reserved Forest and Revenue Forest.

6. The DFO, Angul has intimated the density of vegetation as given table below:

Name of Forest	Area in ha.	Donaita	F1
	Alea III IIa.	Density	Eco value class
Durgapur R.F.	3.666	0.55	I
Kaliakata R.F.	1.804	0.3	II
Revenue Forest	1.212	0.15	II

7. As per abstract of enumeration of trees over Reserve Forest land, 874 no. of trees are existing over 45 cm girth. Similarly, another 88 no. of trees above 45 cm girth have been enumerated over revenue forest land in different villages of railway alignment.

8. The area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve, Elephant corridor, Tiger Reserve etc.

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- 9. No protected archaeological /heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
- 10. No rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna are found in the project area.
- 11. No violation of F (C) Act, 1980 has been reported by DFO, Angul for this project.
- 12. The user agency has submitted SOI topo-sheet, DGPS map of proposed forest land and map for identified non-forest land for compensatory afforestation.
- 13. The user agency has furnished necessary certificate under FRA, 2006 issued by Collector, Angul.
- 14. In lieu of 6.682 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, the State Govt. has indentified 16.510 Acres (6.681 ha) of non-forest land in Angul tehsil of Angul district for compensatory afforestation.
- 15. The DFO, Angul has submitted a site specific compensatory afforestation scheme in Block plantation model at a financial out lay of Rs.22,18,000/- including the cost of maintenance for 10 years.
- 16. The DFO, PCCF & State Govt. have recommended the proposal for diversion.

Decision/Advice of REC:

The Committee approved the grant of in-principle approval with usual standard conditions of MoEF&CC and the State Govt.

(P.R. Mohanty) 9.6.15

Non-Official Member

(P. Mekro)

(Special Invitee)

Govt. of Odisha,

Forest Department,

CCF (FC)

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Non-Official Member

(A. K. Nayak)

Joint Secretary, (Special Invitee)

R&DM Department,

Govt. of Odisha,

(Dr. Bhagirathi Behera) Non-Official Member

(S. Mohapatra)

CF (Central) and

Member Secretary-REC

(Dr. Tejinder Singh)

Addl. PCCF (Central) & Chairperson - REC MoEF&CC, Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar