# GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
# FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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**ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR**
**NOTIFICATION**

**No. FOR.72/2007/Pt-I/Vol-II/2284 Dated Shillong, the 2nd January, 2025**

**Sub : Diversion of 116.589 ha. of forest land for limestone mining and other ancillary activities in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) in Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division of Meghalaya.**

WHEREAS, Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests (F.C. Division), New Delhi – 110003 in their letter F. No. 8 – 64/2007 – FC, dated 22.04.2010 have communicated the In-principle/Stage-I approval order in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) for diversion of 116.589 Ha. of forest land for limestone mining and other ancillary activities in Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division of Meghalaya subject to fulfillment of conditions stipulated in the said approval.

And whereas, in consideration of the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the In-principle Approval, the Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Shillong in their letter F. No. 8 – 64/2007 – FC, dated 29.02.2012 have accorded final approval for diversion of 116.589 Ha. of forest land for limestone mining and other ancillary activities in Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division of Meghalaya in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) subject to fulfillment of the conditions which are listed there-in.

Further whereas, considering the State Government request vide letter No. FOR.72/2007/Pt.I/Vol-II/2165, dated 13.05.2021 to change the condition of the approval for raising Compensatory Afforestation over non-forest land instead of degraded forest land and based on the recommendation of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests (F.C. Division), New Delhi, the Advisory Committee has approved to change the condition No.2 of the Stage-II approval dated 29.02.2012

for the diversion of 116.589 Ha of forest land in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) vide letter No.8-64/ 2007 FC dated 21.12.2023, has modified as:-

*Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over 116.589 Ha. non-forest land provided by the user agency to the State. Cost of Afforestation on this land will be deposited by user agency as per current rates of afforestation in State of Meghalaya. This will be adjusted against the money already deposited by user agency for compensatory afforestation if any. Moreover, if any excess amount is found to have been paid by user agency for compensatory afforestation that will not be refunded and will be used by Meghalaya Forest Department for plantation in any degraded forest land.*

Now therefore, as per the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 24.01.2014 in the case of O.A. No.123 of 2013, Government of Meghalaya do hereby permit for diversion of 116.589 Ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) for limestone mining and other ancillary activities in Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division, Meghalaya.

The transfer of land measuring 116.589 Ha. at Nongumiang village, West Khasi Hills District Nongstoin from Shri. Sailen Nongrum to M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL) represented by Shri. George Chacko, Director Corporate Affairs for Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of diversion of forest land for limestone mining was allowed by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Meghalaya, Shillong vide letter No. RDS. 34/2023/56, dated 23.07.2024. and handed over to Forest & Environment Department on 01.08.2024.

The Divisional Forest Officer, East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi (T) Division, Shillong and the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Khasi Hills (SF & T) Division, Nongstoin are directed to monitor compliance of the conditions stipulated for such diversion in the respective forest/wildlife clearance order and to report violations, if any, to the Nodal Officer, FC Act, the PCCF & HoFF, Meghalaya and to the Forest & Environment Department.

Execution of project activities will be subject to having valid mining lease and availability of all other clearances required under relevant Act/Rules for this mining project, deposit of requisite fees and compliance with Court order if any.

The User Agency shall comply with the following conditions for the purpose of instant diversion of forest land:

(i) The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.

(ii) Compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintain by the State Forest Department over 116.589 Ha. In single patch equivalent non-forest land located to Nongumiang in West Khasi Hills District adjacent to Nongumiang Reserved Forest as per the fund deposited by the User Agency and scheme furnished by the State Government. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species shall be avoided.

(iii) The boundary of the divers forest land, 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 co-ordinates before handing over the forest land to the User Agency.

(iv) The approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 if required.

(v) The forest land shall not be of used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

(vi) The forest proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of Central Government.

(vii) The mining lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be coterminous with the current lease granted under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulating) Act, 1957 or Rules framed thereunder or any other Act or for 20 years, whichever is earlier.

(viii) Reclamation plan shall be implemented as per the Mining Plan approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines. The progress of the implementation of the Reclamation Plan shall be monitored regularly by the State Forest Department and the MoEF & CC, Integrated Regional Office, Shillong.

(ix) Demarcation of mining lease area shall be done on the ground at project cost using four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars with serial numbers, forward and back bearings and distance from pillar to pillar at every 20 meters.

(x) The User Agency shall maintain a strip of at least 100 meters of forest area on the boundary of mining area as a green belt.

(xi) Top soil shall be protected at the project cost.

(xii) Other standard condition as applicable to proposals related to mining shall be applicable in this instant case.

(xiii) The User Agency shall take all possible precautions and care all the time not to impact adversely to surrounding forest and forest land by their actions/activities.

(xiv) Tree felling shall be done only when absolutely unavoidable and such removal, if any, shall be done under the supervision of the Forest Department.

(xv) The layout plan shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.

(xvi) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to the flora and fauna in the surrounding. Any damage done in this regard shall be compensated by the User Agency from the project cost as per assessment of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

(xvii) The proposal will be implemented under the overall supervision of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

(xviii) No labour camp shall be established on forest land. In order to avoid pressure on neighbouring forests, the User Agency should arrange for fuel preferably alternate fuel to the labourers working at site.

(xix) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of Comprehensive Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No 5-2/ 2017-FC, dated 28.03.2019.

(xx) The User Agency shall comply with all the provisions of the 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.

(xxi) All other clearance/NOCs under applicable Rules/Regulations/Local Laws and Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as required vide MoEF & CC, New Delhi Guideline No 11-9/1998-FC (pt), dated 03.08.2009 shall be complied with.

(xxii) The User Agency shall submit an annual self-monitoring report indication status of the implementation of the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded for diversion of said forest land to the State Government and the MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Shillong.

(xxiii) This approval may be revoked if the above conditions of approval are not complied to the satisfaction of the MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Shillong and the State Forest & Environment Department.

(xxiv) Any other condition that the MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Shillong and the State Government may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forest and wildlife.

**Sd/-**

***Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,***
***Forest & Environment Department***

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**M.No. FOR.72/2007/Pt-I/Vol-II/2284-A** **Dated Shillong, the 2nd January, 2025**
**Copy forwarded:-**

1. The Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya I/c Forest & Environment Department for kind information of Hon'ble Minister.

2. The Private Secretary to the Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for kind information of the Hon'ble Speaker.

3. The Private Secretary to the Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for kind information of the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.

4. The P.A. to the Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department for kind information of the Principal Secretary.

5. The P.A. to the Commissioner & Secretary , Forest & Environment Department for kind information of the Commissioner & Secretary.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya for kind information and necessary action.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Meghalaya for information and necessary follow up action.

   Appropriate instruction to the Divisional Divisional Forest Officer, East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi (T) Division, Shillong and the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Khasi Hills (SF & T) Division, Nongstoin and the user agency may be imparted for required follow up action at their end. It shall be ensured by the Divisional Forest Officer that compensatory levies including NPV, as due, in this project of User Agency, is deposited by them in appropriate head of account in full, at applicable rates. The User Agency may also be instructed to furnish compliance to the conditions of forest/wildlife clearance pertaining to the project in every quarter to the Divisional Forest Officer of Khasi Hills Territorial Division for facilitating monitoring of compliances.

8. The Deputy Director General of Forests, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Shillong for kind information and necessary follow up action in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) dated 07/11/2012 in appeal no. 7 of 2012 and 24/01/2014 in OA number 123 of 2013.

9. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya for information and necessary action.

10. The Chief Conservator of Forests (SF & Env.) cum Secretary, SEIAA, Meghalaya for information and necessary action.

11. The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District/ West Khasi Hills District/ Ri-Bhoi District for information and necessary action.

12. The Divisional Forest Officer, East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi (T) Division, Shillong and the Divisional Forest Officer, West & South-West Khasi Hills (SF & T) Division, Nongstoin for information and necessary action.

13. The Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Shillong for information and necessary action.

14. The Director, Mineral Resources Department for information and necessary action.

15. The Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Shillong for information and necessary action.

16. The Officer in-charge, State Portal, NIC, I. T. Department, Meghalaya, Shillong information and necessary action. They are requested to upload this letter with enclosed forest clearance order of Government of India, Integrated Office, MoEF & CC, Shillong in the website of Forest & Environment Department for information of all concerned. This is required in compliance to order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 07/1 1/2012 in appeal no. 7 of 2012 and 24/01/2014 in OA number 123 of 2013.

17. The M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL), Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division for information and immediate necessary action.

18. The Director, Printing & Stationery for publication in the Official Gazette.

19. Guard file/ Office copy.

***By Orders etc.,***

***Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,***
***Forest & Environment Department***
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