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J-11015/478/2006- IA. II (M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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Paryavaran Bhavan,  
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003.  
Dated: June 09, 2009

To

M/s Gopani Iron & Power (India) Pvt. Ltd.  
Uttam House, Office No.2  
Ground Floor. P.D' Mello Road  
Carnac Bunder  
Mumbai – 400 009.

**Sub: Surjagad-Wooria-Hill Iron Ore Mine (ML area 153.09 ha and production of 0.40 MTPA of Iron Ore) at Surjagad Wooria Hill, in South Etapalli Taluk, in Gadchiroli Distt., in Maharashtra - reg. Environmental Clearance.**

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your letters dated 3.10.2008, 20.12.2008 and 23.04.2009 on the above mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application.

2. It has been noted that the proposal is for Iron ore mining at production capacity 0.40 MTPA. The lease area is 153.09 ha, which is protected forest land. The study area forms predominantly areas under Bande and Jambla rivers basin. The population of Gadchiroli District consists mostly of tribal. Out of 153.09 ha, mining will be carried out in 142.488 ha. An area of 0.672 ha will be kept for waste dump; 1.30 ha for mineral storage; 0.504 ha for roads; and others 5.707 ha. The lease area has undulating terrain having average altitudes of 510 m above MSL. The iron ore is for captive consumption for the Sponge Iron plant located about 170 km away from the lease in Chandrapur Distt. The total mineable reserve of the ores are 5.11 MT. Life of the mine at proposed rate of production will be 15 years. Method of mining will be open cast semi mechanised. Many numerous small streams passes through the study area. Lease is located in Gatta reserve forest. There are no wild life sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves, heritage sites etc. within 10.0 km of the lease area. Ultimate depth of mining will be at 3 m (bgl). Ground water table is at 30 m (bgl). Mining will not intersect water table. Peak water requirement at the mine will be 13 KLD, which will be met from Bande river. Solid waste of around 0.50 MT will be generated. These will be used for back-filling of the worked out pits. No relocation and rehabilitation of population will be involved. Mining plan has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines on 15.12.2006. Public hearing was held on 23.04.2008. Forest clearance is under process. Cost of the project will be Rs 24.78 Crores.

3. The project has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the EIA notification issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests vide S.O. 1533 (E), dated September 14, 2006.

4. Based on the information submitted by you, as at Para 2 above and others, the Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above project under the provisions of EIA notification dated September 14, 2006, subject to the compliance of the following Specific and General conditions:

**A. Specific conditions**

- i) Environmental clearance is subject to obtaining clearance under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forests land for mining activity.
- ii) **Environmental clearance is subject to obtaining permission / clearance from the State Tribal Advisory Committee/Council (STAC) for mining in the subject lease. No work shall be initiated without obtaining permission from the STAC.**
- iii) Prior permission from the Competent Authority for drawing surface water from Bande River (if applicable) shall be obtained.
- iv) The following shall be implemented viz. (a) dump run-off should be diverted into settling ponds until it is clear and then allowed to flow into the rivers; (c) adequate rain water harvesting and ground water recharging facilities should be developed in the core zone; (d) attempt should be made to achieve zero water balance.
- v) Silt load shall be assessed and silt management plan prepared to prevent any siltation arising due to proposed mining flowing to Bande and Jambla River (or its tributaries).
- vi) Nearest two villages shall be adopted as reported by the company and civic amenities such as potable drinking water, sanitation, roads, primary health centre etc. shall be taken care of at the company's financial expenses.
- vii) Primary survey of flora and fauna in the study area shall be carried out and data shall be submitted to the Ministry **within six months**.
- viii) Conservation plan for wildlife shall be implemented in consultation with the office of the Chief Wild Life Warden during the mine development stage (before start of production). The plan shall include fire management plan in fire prone areas and also consist of an in-built monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Necessary fund for implementation of the same shall be separately allocated and shall not be diverted for any other activity. Status of implementation shall be reported to the Ministry as well as the concerned agency **every six months**.
- ix) No two pits shall be simultaneously worked i.e before the first pit is exhausted and reclamation work completed, no mineral bearing area shall be worked.
- x) After exhausting the first mine pit and before starting mining operations in the next pit, reclamation and plantation works in the exhausted pit shall be completed so as to ensure that reclamation, forest cover and vegetation are visible during the first year of mining operations in the next pit. This process will follow till the last pit is exhausted. **Adequate rehabilitation of mined pit shall be completed before any ore bearing area is worked.**

- xi) Adequate buffer zone shall be maintained between two consecutive mineral bearing deposits.
- vii) Zero waste mining concept shall be implemented either by putting up pelletisation plant or dispose off 100% low grade ores/fines to prospective buyers.
- viii) A 50 m width barrier of no mining zone (inside the lease) all along the side(s) facing nallhs / streams flowing within the lease or adjacent shall be demarcated and thick vegetation of native species raised. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry on half yearly basis.
- ix) Need based assessment for the near by villages shall be conducted to study economic measures which can help in upliftment of poor section of society. Income generating projects/tools such as development of fodder farm, fruit bearing orchards, vocational training etc. can form a part of such programme. Company shall provide separate budget for community development activities and income generating programmes. This will be in addition to vocational training for individuals imparted to take up self employment and jobs. Status of implementation shall be reported to the Ministry.

**Local employable youth shall be trained in skills relevant to the project for eventual employment in the project itself to the extent feasible. Status of action plan for employment of local shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry and the concerned Dept. in the state.**

- x) Land-use pattern of the nearby villages shall be studied and action plan for abatement and compensation for damage to agricultural land/ common property land (if any) in the nearby villages, due to mining activity shall be submitted to the Regional office of the Ministry within six months. Annual status of implementation of the plan and expenditure thereon shall be reported to the Regional Office of the Ministry from time to time.
- xi) Maintenance of village roads through which transportation of ores are undertaken shall be carried out by the company regularly at its own expenses. The roads shall be black topped.
- xii) Rain water harvesting shall be undertaken to recharge the ground water source. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry **within six months** and thereafter every year from the next consequent year.
- xiii) Measures for prevention and control of soil erosion and management of silt shall be undertaken. Protection of dumps against erosion shall be carried out with geo textile matting or other suitable material, and thick plantations of native trees and shrubs shall be carried out at the dump slopes. Dumps shall be protected by retaining walls. It shall be ensured that no silt originating due to mining activity is transported to any surface water course flowing in and around the mine
- xiv) Trenches / garland drains shall be constructed at foot of dumps and coco filters installed at regular intervals to arrest silt from being carried to water bodies. Adequate number of Check Dams and Gully Plugs shall be constructed across

seasonal/perennial nallahs (if any) flowing through the ML area and silts arrested. De-silting at regular intervals shall be carried out.

Garland drain of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed for both mine pit and for waste dump and sump capacity shall be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above peak sudden rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity shall also provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. Sedimentation pits shall be constructed at the corners of the garland drains and de-silted at regular intervals.

xv) Ground water in the core zone shall be regularly monitored for contamination and depletion due to mining activity and records maintained. The monitoring data shall be submitted to the regional office of the Ministry regularly. Further, monitoring points shall be located between the mine and drainage in the direction of flow of ground water shall be set up and records maintained.

xvi) Cultivable waste land (within 5 km of the lease) shall be identified and fodder farming or other suitable productive use of waste land shall be taken up in phased manner. Status of implementation shall be submitted to the Regional office of the Ministry

xvii) Shelter belt i.e Wind Break of 30 m width and consisting of at least 5 tiers around lease facing the schools / agricultural fields / human habitations (if located within 0.5 km of the boundary of the lease) **shall be raised** and the status of implementation shall be reported to the Ministry.

xviii) **Fugitive dust generation shall be controlled. Fugitive dust emission shall be regularly monitored at locations of nearest human habitation (including schools and other public amenities located nearest to sources of dust generation as applicable) and records submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry.**

xix) Monitoring of soil samples for assessment of transformation to acidic state or contamination due to mining activity (as applicable) shall be regularly conducted and records maintained.

xx) Transportation of ore shall be done by covering the trucks with tarpaulin or other suitable mechanism so that no spillage of ore / dust takes place. Transportation shall be done only during day time.

xxi) Occupational health and safety measures for the workers including identification of work related health hazards, training on malaria eradication, HIV, and health effects or exposure to mineral dust etc. shall be carried out. The company shall engage a full time qualified doctor who is trained in occupational health. Periodic monitoring for exposure to respirable mineral dust on the workers shall be conducted and records maintained including health records of the workers. Awareness programme for workers on impact of mining on their health and precautionary measures like use of personal equipments etc. shall be carried out periodically. Review of impact of various health measures undertaken (at interval of five years or less) shall be conducted followed by follow up action wherever required.

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- xxii) Top soil / solid waste shall be stacked properly with proper slope and adequate safeguards and shall be utilized for backfilling (wherever applicable) for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area. Top soil shall be separately stacked for utilization later for reclamation and shall not be stacked along with over burden.
- xxiii) Over burden (OB) shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and shall not be kept active for long period. The maximum height of the dump shall not exceed 30 m, each stage shall preferably be of 10 m and overall slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. The OB dump shall be backfilled. The OB dumps shall be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off.

Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on six monthly basis.

- xxiv) Slope of the mining bench and ultimate pit limit shall be as per the mining scheme approved by Indian Bureau of Mines.
- xxv) Adequate plantation shall be raised in the ML area, haul roads, OB dump sites etc. Green belt development shall be carried out considering CPCB guidelines including selection of plant species and in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. Herbs and shrubs shall also form a part of afforestation programme besides tree plantation. The density of the trees shall not be less than 2500 plants per ha. The company shall involve local people with the help of self help group for plantation programme. Details of year wise afforestation programme including rehabilitation of mined out area shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry every year.
- xxvi) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The monitoring shall be carried out four times in a year – pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the data thus collected shall be regularly sent to MoEF, Central Ground Water Authority and Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board.
- xxvii) Adequate air monitoring stations shall be installed in areas of human habitations near the mine and the Beneficiation Plant and the results of ambient air quality shall be maintained and regularly submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry. **The monitored data for criteria pollutants shall be regularly uploaded on the company's website and also displayed at project site.**
- xxviii) The waste water from the mine shall be treated to conform to the prescribe standards before discharging in to the natural stream. The discharged water from the Tailing Dam (if any) shall be regularly monitored and report submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board.
- xxix) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transportation of ores and others shall have valid permissions as prescribed under Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and its amendments. Transportation of ore shall be

done only during day time. The vehicles transporting ores shall be covered with a tarpaulin or other suitable enclosures so that no dust particles / fine matters escape during the course of transportation. No overloading of ores for transportation shall be committed. The trucks transporting ore shall not pass through wild life sanctuary.

- xxx) Prior permission from the Competent Authority shall be obtained for extraction of ground water (if applicable).
- xxxii) Action plan with respect to suggestions/improvements and recommendations made during public consultation/hearing shall be submitted to the Ministry and the State Govt within six months.
- xxxiii) A final mine closure plan, along with details of Corpus Fund, shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

#### **B. General conditions**

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working shall be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral and waste shall be made.
- (iii) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources shall be controlled regularly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, loading and unloading and at transfer points shall be provided and properly maintained.
- (iv) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations shall be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets and frequency of monitoring should be undertaken in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (RPM, SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office located at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (v) Measures shall be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. shall be provided with ear plugs / muffs.
- (vi) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1993 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap shall be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (vii) Personnel working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices and they shall also be imparted adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

- (viii) Provision shall be made for the housing the labourers within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile STP, safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
- (ix) A separate Environmental Management Cell with suitable qualified personnel shall be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.
- (x) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bhopal regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xi) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and shall not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure shall be reported to the Ministry and its Regional Office located at Bhopal.
- (xii) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office located at Bhopal regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xiii) The Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
- (xiv) **The project proponent shall submit six monthly reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, its Regional Office, Bhopal, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board. The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the environmental clearance conditions on their website and update the same periodically and simultaneously send the same by e-mail to the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bhopal.**
- (xv) A copy of clearance letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO, if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal. **The clearance letter shall also be put on the website of the company.**
- (xvi) State Pollution Control Board shall display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and Collector's office / Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xvii) The project authorities shall advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and also at web site of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in> and a copy of the same shall be forwarded to the Regional Office of the Ministry located in Bhopal.

5. The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.
6. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
7. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Environment Appellate Authority, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 11 of the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.
8. The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

Yours faithfully,

  
(W. Bharat Singh)  
Deputy Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
3. Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
4. Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Arera Colony, Bhopal -462016.
6. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-Cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi-110 032.
7. Chairman, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, 3<sup>rd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup> Floors, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.6, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion Circle (E), Mumbai - 400 022.
8. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, A2, W- 3 Curzon Road Barracks, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001.
9. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440 001.
10. District Collector, Gadchiroli Distt., Government of Maharashtra.
11. EI Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
12. Monitoring File.
13. Guard File.
14. Record File.

  
(W. Bharat Singh)  
Deputy Director