

Day 1: 20th March, 2014 (Thursday)

Reconsideration of Environmental Clearance Proposals

(2.7). Ankua Iron Ore Mine with production capacity of 10 million TPA of Iron Ore (ROM) by M/s JSW Steel Limited, located in village Ankua-Hatnaburu, Tehsil-Manoharpura, District-West Singhbhum, Jharkhand (999.90ha)-Reconsideration of EC.

The proposal of M/s JSW Steel Limited is for Iron Ore Mining with production capacity of 10 million TPA of Iron Ore (ROM). The mine is located in village Ankua-Hatnaburu, Tehsil Manoharpura, District West Singhbhum, Jharkhand. The mine lease area lies between latitude 22°13'44.34" N to 22°17' 20.50"N and longitude 85°14'35.08" E to 85°17' 16.66"E within the Survey of India Toposheet No.73F/3, 73F/7 and 73F/8.

The proposal was earlier considered in EAC meeting held during August 25-27, 2010 wherein it was pointed out by the Committee that being a green field project to be located in forest area for which prior forestry clearance was made a pre requisite at the stage of TOR itself and accordingly proposal was deferred. The Project Proponent obtained Stage-I Forest clearance dated 10.05.2013 for an area of 998.07ha covering mining and allied activities (excluding safety zone), conveyor and corridor and road widening/strengthening. The proposal was further considered in the EAC meeting held during 31.10.2013 to 01.11.2013 wherein the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on therevised questionnaire, air pollution modeling, occupational health study report, land use plan and action plan on the issues, which were raised during public hearing. Based on the information submitted by the Proponent, the proposal reconsidered in the EAC meeting held during January 27-28, 2014, was deferred again on the basis of incomplete information. Once again the PP submitted the revised species specific wildlife conservation plan, water allocation, agreement for the Plant, details of occupational health, CSR activities alongwith budget provision and other details.

The proposal was earlier considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Mining) in its meeting held during 22-24 July, 2008 to determine the Terms of Reference (TOR) for undertaking detailed EIA study. The TORs were issued by the Ministry vide letter no. J-11015/1230/2007.IA.II (M) dated 04.09.2008. The Proponent submitted the EIA/EMP report to the Ministry for seeking environmental clearance after conducting public hearing.

The mining plan along with the mine closure plan for an area of 999.90 ha has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines, MCCM, Central Zone vide letter No. 314 (3)/2008 - MCCM(CZ)/MP - 30, dated 27th January 2009. Proponent reported that total mine lease

area is 999.90ha. Out of this, 988.25ha is forest land and 11.65ha is waste land. Proponent reported that 673.53ha area will be used for excavation, 100.54ha for overburden/dumps, 28.93ha for storage, 56.37ha for infrastructure development, 32.56ha for road, 20.43ha for Green belt development, 9.39ha for water treatment plant, 34.04ha for iron ore handling plant and 44.11ha is for sub-grade mineral stacking.

The total forest land involved for the project is 1018.50 ha (mining lease area 999.90 ha, Conveyor Corridor 10.60ha and Road widening/ strengthening of existing road 8 ha). The Project Proponent has obtained Stage-I Forest Clearance by the MoEF vide letter no. 8-46/2010-FC, dated 10.05.2013 and amended on 05.11.2013 for an area of 998.07ha covering mining and allied activities (excluding safety zone), conveyor and corridor and road widening/strengthening.

Proponent reported that transportation of iron ore will be done by 9 km long conveyor corridor from mine to Railway siding involving 10.60 ha Forest land and 4.4 ha Non-forest land, Road widening/ strengthening involved 8 ha Forest land and 1.2 ha Non-forest land, Loading complex, Railway line & HT line involves 48.71 ha Non-forest land and Township involves 82.64 ha non-forest land.

Mining for Iron ore is by fully mechanized opencast method. The mining process involves drilling & blasting, loading & transportation of excavated material, crushing and screening and transportation of iron ore. The proposed working will be by putting 115mm dia DTH holes by wagon drills machine, Tractor mounted short hole drill and blasting by slurry explosives and Booster charge with Raydet detonator. Overall pit slope will be 45°. The blasted material will be loaded by excavator in dumper and transported to crushing plant for sizing and screening situated within the lease area. The crushed material will be transported to Railway siding by trucks/ conveyor belt. At the end of the life of mine, the area will be rehabilitated as per the approved Mining plan and Mine closure plan. It was reported by the Project Proponent that ground water will not be intersected during the scheme period. The total water requirement for the project will be 1.95 MGD or 370 m³ per hour (3.24 MCM on annual basis). The source of the water is Kolna River. The water withdrawal concurrence for 1.95 MGD or 370 m³ per hour (3.24 MCM on annual basis) has been obtained from the Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter No. 2/PMC/Jalaparty-698/2005-42, dated 15th January 2013. The PP has signed the agreement with State Govt.

There is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserve, Wildlife Corridor, Tiger/ Elephant Reserves etc. within the study area. Location map of 10 km of mining lease boundary has been approved by Chief Wild Life Warden, Jharkhand vide letter No. 172 yr 08-09, dated 06.08.2009. The Project Proponent have mentioned that the Government of Jharkhand proposed a Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan (CWMP) for the entire Saranda Forest Division, which is prepared by the constituted Expert Committee and submitted to Government of Jharkhand and the same has been approved by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and the Chief Wild Life Warden, Jharkhand (CWLW). Project

Proponent has submitted an undertaking to the CWLW vide letter dated 20.08.2010 to bear the proportionate cost of implementation of the CWMP for Saranda.

Ambient Air Quality from November 2013 to December 2013 has been carried out. The parameters for water and air quality were within permissible limits. The Committee deliberated on the baseline data and found that the principle environment parameters are well within the permissible limits.

The Public Hearing was held on 9.06.2009 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Punal Oraon, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chaibasa, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand. The representative of the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board was present. Major issues raised during the public hearing were related to employment, community development, drinking water, measures to control water pollution, hospital, school, road and transport facilities. The issues raised and budgetary provision during the public hearing was discussed during the meeting.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 1700 Crores. The Project Proponent has earmarked Rs. 113.32 Crores towards environmental protection measures of which 91.79 Crores is the NPV to be paid in lieu of diversion of forest land. The Project Proponent reported that there is no Court Case/ litigation pending against the project.

The Committee noted in the EAC meeting during 31.10.2013 to 01.11.2013 that the EIA/EMP report has not been prepared in-line with the Annexure-III of EIA Notification, 2006. The Committee observed that Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is no longer accredited by NABET/QCI. However, ICFRE has conducted the baseline studies and prepared the EIA-EMP report during the period prior to the requirement of the accreditation by QCI came into force. Therefore, it was decided by the Committee that report is acceptable but needs to be augmented by collecting one month AAQ data (during November-December, 2013) incorporating the National Ambient Air Quality, 2009 parameters. After deliberations in the EAC meeting held during 31.10.2013 to 01.11.2013, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought the following information:

- (i) The EIA/EMP report submitted need to revised in line with the Annexure-III of the EIA Notification, 2006 and be prepared by QCI/NABET accredited consultant;
- (ii) TORs issued were for Iron ore mining and thus the Reports should be limited to iron ore mining. Further, as per the report submitted by PP it mentions that manganese ore is intermittently present along with iron ore. The PP need to ensure safety measures to be adopted while handling manganese and these be mentioned in the EIA/EMP report ;
- (iii) Questionnaire needs to be revised and shall be duly filled;
- (iv) Air Quality modeling results in the form of isopleths should be drawn on contour map;

- (v) The land use plan given in the EIA report is at variance with that projected in the mine plan and therefore needs to be reconciled;
- (vi) Details of public consultation/public hearing and action plan with budgetary provisions should be given and
- (vii) Details of Occupational health status and action plans should be furnished.

The Proponent vide letter No. JSWJH/02/01/177 dated 04.01.2014 had submitted the above mentioned information to the Ministry. The Committee deliberated on the additional information submitted by the PP in the EAC meeting held during January 27-28, 2014 and based on the presentation made and discussions held, the Committee again noted the following deficiencies and decided to defer the proposal to be brought back to the Committee after the following information is submitted:-

- (i) Revised species specific wild life conservation plan to protect the scheduled species should have information on allocation of budget, time frame and agencies to be responsible for the implementation for each of the target species. The conservation plan should be duly authenticated by Wildlife specialist;
- (ii) Water allocation agreement for the plant;
- (iii) Details of occupational health; and
- (iv) CSR budget to be increased to at least 2-3 % of the total project cost and project specific CSR plan prepared on the basis of assessment study of village needs by reputed institute may be submitted.

Project Proponent vide letter dated 31.01.2014 submitted the revised species specific wildlife conservation plan, water allocation agreement, details of occupational health and CSR budget. PP has allocated the budget equivalent to 2.6% of the project cost and allocated Rs. 43.8 Crores towards the CSR budget. Further Rs 3.43 Crores has been allocated for implementation of wildlife conservation plan as decided by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand Government and Rs 2.76 Crores is allocated towards occupational health. The Committee deliberated these issues and sought clarification from Project during discussion on above mentioned four points.

Based on the information submitted by the Proponent and discussion held in the meeting, the Committee **recommended** the proposal for environmental clearance for Iron Ore Mining with production capacity of 10 Million TPA of Iron Ore (ROM). In addition, the Proponent shall also ensure satisfactory implementation of the following specific conditions during the time of undertaking this project and the progress reports furnished accordingly:-

- (i) Site specific conservation plan for the core & buffer zone and Integrated Wildlife Conservation Plan;
 - (ii) The endangered and other local tree & shrub, flora from the mine having pole girth size may be translocated in designated locations of the mine lease area including safety zones to the extent possible and a nursery should be developed for different species of endangered and endemic category, under the guidance of forest Department and experts of flora and the plants raised in the Nursery may be planted in the impact area including villages and community lands to help enrich the biodiversity. An Action Plan on above points may be submitted within 01 years to the Regional Office/MoEF;
 - (iii) Action Plan on the issues raised during the Public Hearing;
 - (iv) Regular and periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the project shall be carried out and records maintained; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smokers, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly;
 - (v) Environment Policy of the Company w.r.t. judicious use of Mineral resources for growth & development synchronizing mining & environment with prosperity;
 - (vi) Specific programmes be initiated especially covering education, health care, livelihood generation, infrastructure development & promotion of sports & culture for SC/ST population;
 - (vii) Regular monitoring of ground water table to be carried out, as also the depth of water available in the network of existing wells, by constructing new piezometers as required; and
 - (viii) Effective safeguard measures, such as regular water sprinkling, shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution and having high levels of SPM and RSPM such as haul roads, loading and unloading points and transfer points. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board in this regard.
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