



EMIL/Bunder/HO/2022/18

18 July 2022

The PCCF (Land Management) & Nodal Officer
Department of Forest, GOMP
Satpura Bhawan,
Bhopal, (M P)

Subject: Proposal of Forest diversion bearing number FP/MP/MIN/45299/2020 with respect to Bunder Diamond Block for opencast mining of Diamonds in 382.131 Ha at forest compartment numbers 280, 284, 285, 286, 287, 296 & 302 in Buxwaha Range of Chhatarpur Forest Division.

Reference: Letter from your office bearing number F-1/822/2021/10-11/1649 dated 10-May-2022 with respect to the subject matter.

Dear Sir,

This is with reference to the referred letter from your office responses to point 3, 5 & 6 of the EDS queries sought by MoEF&CC, New Delhi. As requested point wise responses are tabulated as under:

EDS	Response
Point No. 3 The project involves 215875 trees. However, out of the total forest land involved, an area of 138.31 ha is proposed for side burden and waste dump and another 66.34 ha is to be used as Tailing Dump. The State Govt. has not provided enough justification for using large chunk of forest area for dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clause 9.1 of Standard Mine Development Agreement of tender document of Bunder Project issued by the Government of MP, mandates that the successful bidder shall be entitled to conduct mining operations only in the lease area and shall not be entitled to conduct the mining operations in any other area outside the lease area. The rights granted to successful bidder herein to conduct mining operations are exclusive within the lease area. Accordingly, dumping of kimberlite, waste and tailings is proposed within mining lease area and the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has approved the same in compliance to Clause 9.1 of Standard Mine Development Agreement.Further, the Mining plan of the project is prepared as per provisions of MMDR Amendment Act 2015, MCR 2016, MCDR 2017 and subsequent guidelines pursuant to these Acts and Regulations. Guidelines stipulated in IBM manual on Appraisal of Mining Plan 2014 state that "In view of the Hon'ble Judgement dated 21 April 2014 in writ petition (Civil) no. 435 of

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	<p>2012 filed by Goa Foundation Vs Union of India & Others all activities like waste dumping, staking ore, mineral rejects, depositing tailings are to be within the mining lease area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use has been optimally proposed to cater the requirement of waste and tail dump and related infrastructure and the same has been approved by the Regional Controller, Indian Bureau of Mines in exercise of power conferred by the clause (b) of sub section 2 of section 5 of the MMDR Amendment Act 2015. Bunder diamond block containing 54 Mt of Kimberlite ore with incidence rate of 0.63 carat/ton of rough diamonds is a Greenfield integrated mining project with mining, crushing, processing, diamond recovery, sorting facility proposed within lease area. In order to recover rough diamonds mining and processing of 54 Mt of Kimberlite and excavation of about 122.78 Mt of waste will be required. Processing of Kimberlite (54 MT) will yield around 34 Million carats of rough diamond, resulting in 99% (~54 Mt) combined generation of waste and tailings. Thus total waste of 176.78 Mt is proposed to dumped over designate area of 204.65 Ha within the lease as per approved mine plan.
<p>Point No. 5</p> <p>The project involves diversion of the course of a stream and creation of a waterbody, which may adversely affect the watershed and the flow of water downstream thereby affecting the biodiversity as well as the effectiveness of Ken-Betwa link project. The State Govt. shall examine whether the ecological impact of diversion of stream and creation of water body has been taken into account or not? A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A seasonal nalla (Kandahar) passes over the lease area and bisects the ore body which is the proposed mine area. For undertaking mining, the nalla will be rerouted outside the mining lease over course of 1.6 kms and will be connected to its natural course downstream. The rainwater flowing through the nalla will be taped in the rainwater harvesting structure (which is referred as water body) proposed within lease area. The structure will help recharge groundwater and cater process water requirement of the project. Due to proposed rerouting of the Kandahar seasonal nalla and water harvesting structure, there will be no adverse impact on downstream competitive users nor on the larger watershed of the area. Further Bunder diamond block is part of Dhasan River Basin. Water from this area after flowing through several streams of Dhasan River finally joins the Betwa River. The creating of water harvesting

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	structure and rerouting of nalla will have no impact on the competitive users, watershed and biodiversity of the area.
Point No. 6 The State Government shall submit the latest status of the Original Application pending in the Hon'ble NGT in this regard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three cases (OA34/2021; OA35/2021 and OA40/2021) are filed before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Central Zone, Bhopal (MP).• As on date no stay has been granted by the Hon'ble NGT in any of the cases.• Hon'ble NGT last heard cases on 19th May 2022 and Next hearing scheduled on 2 August 2022.

We hope you find the above in order.

Thanking You

Yours Faithfully

For Essel Mining & Industries Limited



Rakesh Paliwal
President
Project Head Bunder Diamond Project
(Authorized Signatory)

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