

**No. J-11015/85/2010-IA.II(M)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Impact Assessment Division  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> <sup>JUNE</sup> April, 2020

To,

Chairman and Managing Director,  
M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd,  
W B P & Environment Department,  
Seepat Road, P B. No.60  
**Bilaspur** - 495 006 (Chhattisgarh) Email: [gmenvtsecl@gmail.com](mailto:gmenvtsecl@gmail.com);

**Sub: Expansion/Continuation of Gevra Opencast Coal Mine from 41 MTPA to 45 MTPA in ML area of 4184.486 ha of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited at district Korba (Chhattisgarh) – Continuation of Environmental Clearance -reg.**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/CG/CMIN/19281/2013 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for extension/continuation of environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 to the Expansion of Gevra Opencast Coal Mine from 41 MTPA to 45 MTPA in ML area of 4184.486 ha of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited at district Korba (Chhattisgarh), for a period of one year and subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following and other conditions:-

*“Subject to the review of the compliance status of the conditions by the EAC to consider continuance of the project after one year”.*

3. In line with the above condition, Project Proponent submitted the compliance of all the specifics conditions. Site inspection was carried out by Regional Office, Nagpur on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 to monitor the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 and certified compliance report was submitted vide its letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. Action Taken Report over Certified Compliance Report submitted to RO, MoEF&CC (Nagpur) on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020. Action Taken Report over Certified Compliance Report forwarded by RO to MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter No:3-28/2014(ENV)Pt/6174 Dtd: 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

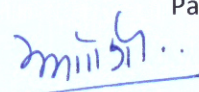
4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 and recommended for continuance of the project and validity of environmental clearance dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier subject to the terms and conditions stipulated therein remaining the same and with additional conditions. Further regarding proposal of expansion from 45 MTPA to 49 MTPA, EAC observed that the decision on further expansion upto 49

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MTPA may be taken later based on the final outcome of the proposed studies and other compliance etc. Also, PP needs to focus more on the compliance of partially compliant EC conditions. Based on the recommendation of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for the **continuance of the Environment Clearance(EC) for expansion of Gevra Opencast Coal Mine from 41 to 45 MTPA in ML area of 4184.486 ha of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited at district Korba (Chhattisgarh)**, for a period of 30 years or life of the mine, whichever is earlier, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of additional as under:-

- (i) EAC desired that the MoC may direct CIL subsidiaries to comply the EC/FC/CTO conditions strictly within certain time bound manner so that the mining operations will be environmentally sustainable/viable etc.
- (ii) Also, EAC asked project proponent to plant 50,000 nos. of native trees (excluding other conditions of plantation given by this Ministry) with broad leaves along the villages and transportation route to prevent the effect of air pollution in three years. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Office.
- (iii) All Partially and non-complied conditions (if any) reported by Ministry's Regional Office in its certified compliance report dated 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 shall be completed in 2 years from the date of issue of this letter.
- (iv) Final recommendation/outcome of the study on ecosystem carrying capacity by IIT-BHU and the study on catchment area treatment plan within 5 KM from mine lease boundary by CCOST shall be implemented in certain timeframe. PP shall submit action plan with timelines to the Ministry's Regional Office for implementation of the recommendations.
- (v) Fixed water sprinklers shall be installed on haul roads for suppression of dust.
- (vi) The activities and fund provisions for CER shall be made as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry regarding CER on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018
- (vii) Active OB dump should not be kept barren/open and should be covered by temporary grass to avoid air born of particles.
- (viii) The Project Proponent shall comply with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114





of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors. State Government shall ensure that the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department in strict compliance of judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.

- (ix) Project Proponent shall obtain the necessary prior permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in case of intersecting the Ground water table. The intersecting ground water table can only be commencing after conducting detailed hydrogeological study and necessary permission from the CGWA. The Report on six monthly bases on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Pollution Control Board.
- (x) Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and maintain records accordingly; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. The Recommendations of National Institute for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers shall be implemented; The prevention measure for burns, malaria and provision of antisnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.
- (xi) Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".
- (xii) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours.
- (xiii) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna, if any, spotted in the study area.

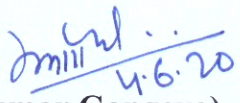
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Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office.

(xiv) Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to Regional Office of the Ministry. Further, the outcomes of various court cases pending in various courts shall also be applicable/enforceable along with the conditions of this EC.

5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the Environment Clearance (EC) dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 shall also be applicable.

  
(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The APCCF, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur (Maharashtra)
3. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Secretariat, Raipur
4. The Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 32
6. The Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Environment Conservation Board, 1-Tilak Nagar, Shiv Mandir Chowk, Main Road, Avanti Vihar, Raipur - 492001 (Chhattisgarh)
7. The District Collector, Korba, Government of Chhattisgarh.
8. Monitoring File                      9. Guard File                      10. Record File                      11. Notice Board

  
(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)  
Director