

2.0 MARKETABILITY

Dudhichua Opencast Project (10 Mtpa) has been sanctioned as a Basket linkage mine. Presently, Dudhichua project is narrowing the gap between demand and availability for the existing pit-head thermal power stations and also supplying coal to Western India Power Stations. The demand projection consumer-wise and coal production programme of NCL is given in Table No.-1 and Table No.-2 respectively.

Since, NTPC has planned to interlink the MGR system in Singrauli Coalfield and they are also providing a link between the MGRs and the railway siding at Dudhichua Project, this project will also serve as a Basket linkage mine for pit head power stations of NTPC in Singrauli Coalfield to meet any shortfall from respective linked mines.

To meet the demand of coal on NCL due to proposed power plants near Singrauli Coalfield, Expansion Project Report for Dudhichua OCP for incremental coal production of 5 Mtpa has been planned. Considering the existing fleet of equipment and proposed upgradation in size of equipment, the planned ultimate production of 15 Mtpa is the optimum production for the existing geometry of the mine.

3.0 PROJECT SITE INFORMATION

3.1 LOCATION & COMMUNICATION

Dudhichua Opencast Project is located on the east of Jayant Opencast Mine (10 Mtpa) and on the west of Khadia Opencast Mine (10 Mtpa) in Singrauli Coalfield. The inter-state boundary between MP and UP passes through the existing project area and thus project is partly in the district of Sidhi in MP and partly in the district of Sonbhadra in UP. The expansion proposal is totally in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh. The nearest railway station, Shaktinagar is at a distance of about 6 km and approachable by all weather metalled road. The project is at a distance of 63 km by road from Renukut in UP and 18 km from Waidhan in MP.

3.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY

Dudhichua Opencast Block stands out on a plateau above plains on its south-west side. The average elevation at the foot of the plateau is 325 m above MSL.

The plateau is pronounced by a steep escarpment (facing south-west), rising from the elevation of 320-430m. The escarpment is characterized by thick growth of vegetation rolled-boulders and is dissected by numerous small seasonal streams. The area on the top of the plateau is undulating with elevation varying from 375-430 m with occasional high hills rising to 504m.

The most important stream around the area is Ballia Naila. The drainage of the area is controlled by seasonal streams which discharge into Ballia Naila, which ultimately drains into Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar in the south. Similarly, towards north, the drainage is through seasonal streams which ultimately join Bijul Naila.