



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Impact Assessment Division)**

To,

The General Manager  
NIGAHİ PROJECT NORTHERN COALFIELDS LIMITED  
Office of the General Manager, Nigahi Project, PO- Nigahi, Distt.-  
Singrauli, Singrouli, Madhya Pradesh-486884

**Subject:** Grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Project Activity under the provision of EIA Notification 2006-regarding

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application for Environmental Clearance (EC) in respect of project submitted to the Ministry vide proposal number IA/MP/CMIN/413291/2023 dated 03 May 2023. The particulars of the environmental clearance granted to the project are as below.

1. EC Identification No.	<b>EC23A001MP170130</b>
2. File No.	J-11015/79/2013-IA-II(M)
3. Project Type	Expansion
4. Category	A
5. Project/Activity including Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
6. Name of Project	Nigahi Opencast Project
7. Name of Company/Organization	NIGAHİ PROJECT NORTHERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
8. Location of Project	Madhya Pradesh
9. TOR Date	N/A

The project details along with terms and conditions are appended herewith from page no 2 onwards.

Date: 20/07/2023

**(e-signed)**  
**Lalit Bokolia**  
**Scientist F**  
**IA - (Coal Mining sector)**

*Note: A valid environmental clearance shall be one that has EC identification number & E-Sign generated from PARIVESH. Please quote identification number in all future correspondence.*

*This is a computer generated cover page.*



**File No. J-11015/79/2013-IA-II (M)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi – 3  
Email: [lk.bokolia@nic.in](mailto:lk.bokolia@nic.in) ; Tel: 011-20819417

**Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

**To,**

The General Manager,  
M/s Northern Coalfields Limited  
Nigahi Project, District Singrauli -486884  
(Madhya Pradesh)  
**Email:** [nigahi.environment@gmail.com](mailto:nigahi.environment@gmail.com)

**Sub: Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018.4 Ha by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) – For Environmental Clearance under OM vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification].**

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MP/CMIN/413291/2023 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023 for grant of Environmental Clearance to the above project.

2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the application. It is noted that the proposal is for validation of existing EC granted on 26.07.2022 for the Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018.4 Ha by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) under OM dated 07.05.2022.

The project/activity is covered under category 'A' of item I(a) 'Mining of Minerals' the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

3. PP has obtained the following Environmental Clearance and their amendment such as:

EC Capacity (MTPA)	EC Reference No & dates
10.00	J-11015/292/94-IA.II(M) dated 28.02.1996
15.00	J-11015/235/2006-IA.II(M) dated 08.05.2007 with Public Hearing

18.75	J-11015/79/2013-IA.II(M) dated 19.03.2015 under Clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006 (25% increase w.r.t 15 MTPA)
21.00	J-11015/79/2013-IA.II (M), dated 03.02.2020 under Clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006 (40% increase w.r.t. 15 MTPA)
22.50	Vide identification no. EC22A042MP180012 dated 26.07.2022 as per OM dated 07.05.2022 under Clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification, 2006 (50% increase w.r.t. 15 MTPA)

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its 45<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 through Video Conferencing. The details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meetings, are given as under:

- (i) The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo Sheet No 63/L /12 and is bounded by Latitude 24°06'3.29" North to 24°11'16.37" North and Longitude 82°35'28.23" East to 82°39'50.12" East.
- (ii) Coal linkage of the project is proposed for transportation of coal to NTPC, Vindhyannagar through MGR system and it will also serve as Basket Linkage mine to meet the overall demand of power grade coal on NCL.
- (iii) Joint venture cartel has NOT been formed.
- (iv) Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA), where the MoEF&CC's vide its OM dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 has imposed moratorium on grant of environment clearance. However, The Singrauli area is under Severely Polluted Area (SPA) specified by CPCB.
- (v) Employment generation, 2827 nos. (As per EIA/ EMP 22.50 MTPA) persons will be provided from the project.
- (vi) The project is reported to be beneficial in terms of (i) Environmental: Post mining enhancement of green cover; (ii) Economic: Providing energy security to the nation and serving largest thermal plant of the nation i.e. NTPC VSTPS, Increase in employment potential and contribution to the exchequer of the adjoining area; (iii) Social: Improvement in social infrastructure of the adjoining area.
- (vii) Earlier, the environment clearance to the project was obtained under EIA Notification, 2006 vide Ministry's letter No J-11015/79/2013-IA. II (M) dated 03.02.2020 for 21.00 MTPA in mine lease area of 3018.40 Ha. Subsequently, Environment Clearance has also been obtained by Nigahi OCP for production of 22.50 MTPA Coal (Expansion from 21.00 MTPA to 22.50 MTPA) in same leasehold area of 3018.400 Ha, vide MoEF&CC's vide F.No. J-11015/79/2013-IA-II(M) dated 25.07.2022.
- (viii) Terms of Reference granted on – (for EC proposals)- Not Applicable
- (ix) Total mining lease area as per block allotment is 3018.4 Ha. Mining Plan including Mine Closure Plan for capacity expansion of Nigahi OCP (22.50 Mtpa) has been approved by NCL Board in 276<sup>th</sup> meeting on 30.05.2022.
- (x) The land usage pattern of the project is as follows:

Pre-mining land use details			(Area in Ha)	
S. No.	LANDUSE	Within ML Area (Ha)	Outside ML Area (Ha)	Total

1.	Agricultural land (Tenancy Land)	1523.883	Nil	1523.883
2.	Forest Land	1280.517	Nil	1280.517
3.	Wasteland	0	Nil	0
4.	Grazing land	0	Nil	0
5.	Surface water bodies	0	Nil	0
6.	Settlements	5.000	Nil	5.000
7.	Others (Government land)	209.000	Nil	209.000
8.	Old Excavation Area (East Quarry)	0	0	0
9.	Old OB Dumps	0	0	0
10.	Roads & Mine Infrastructure	0	0	0
11.	Staff colony	0	0	0
12.	Green belt	0	0	0
13.	Balance area	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>3018.4</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>3018.4</b>

**Post-Mining:**

S. No.	Land use during Mining	Land Use (ha)				
		Plantation	Water Body	Public Use	Undisturbed	TOTAL
1	External OB dump	418	0	0	0	418
2	Top soil dump	Topsoil will be completely used in reclamation of dumps.				
3	Excavation	1405	60	0	0	1465
4	Roads (Including Railways)	0	0	74	0	74
5	Built up area	0	0	379.40	0	379.40
6	Green Belt	335	0	0	0	335
7	Undisturbed Area (Safety Zone & Others)	147	0	129.40	70.60	347
<b>Total</b>		<b>2305</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>582.8</b>	<b>70.60</b>	<b>3018.40</b>

- (xi) Total geological reserve reported in the mine lease area 140.33 MT (Balance Reserve as on 01.04.2023) with 140.33 MT (Balance Reserve as on 01.04.2023) mineable reserve. Out of total geological reserve of 504.61 MT, 483.01 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 95.71 %.
- (xii) Three number of seams (namely Purewa Top, Purewa Bottom, Turra; Purewa Top and Purewa Bottom Seams merge to form a thick composite seam, named Purewa Merged Seam, in Western section of Nigahi OCP) seams with thickness ranging from 4.00 m to 27.50 m are

workable. Grade of coal is G-9 (Average Grade), stripping ratio 4.26m<sup>3</sup>/t, while gradient is 2 to 3 degree.

- (xiii) Method of mining operations envisages by 'combined mining system deploying dragline and shovel dumper combination and Surface Miner method
- (xiv) Life of mine is 08 years from 01.04.2023.
- (xv) The project has 2 number of external OB dumps in an area of 418.00 ha with 150 m height and 231.00 Mm<sup>3</sup> of OB, 3 number of internal OB dumps in an area of 630.57 ha with 853.10 Mm<sup>3</sup> of OB is envisaged in the project.
- (xvi) Total quarry area is 1465.00 ha out of which backfilling will be done in 1405.00 ha while final mine void will be created in an area of 60.00 ha with a depth of 30-40 m. Backfilled quarry area of 1405.00 ha shall be reclaimed with plantation. Final mine void will be converted into a water body.
- (xvii) Transportation of coal has been proposed by dumpers in mine pit head, from surface to SILO by Closed Conveyor Belt System and from SILO by MGR through automatic RLS (Rapid Loading System). Nigahi OCP also serves as a basket mine and depending upon the demand supply scenario of NCL, a small quantity of coal is proposed to be transported through road mode.
- (xviii) Reclamation Plan in an area of 2305.00 ha, comprising of 418.00 ha of external dump, 1405.00 ha of internal dump and 335.00ha of green belt. In addition to this, an area 147.00 ha included in the safety zone/rationalization area has also been proposed for green belt development.
- (xix) 1280.517 ha of forest land has been reported to be involved in the project. Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1280.517 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes has been obtained in two stages, i.e., for 874 Ha {Original forest clearance was granted vide F.No. 8-62/86-FC dated 18.06.1987 and Forest Clearance (Stage-II) for renewal of lease, was granted vide F. No. 8-62/ 1986-FC (Pt.) dt. 16.10.2020} and 406.517 Ha {Forest Clearance(Stage-II) was granted vide F.No. 8-26/2015-FC, dated 12.04.2018, for 424.517 ha Forest Area, out of which 18.00 ha Forest Area has been carved out from Nigahi OCP to Jayant OCP of same owner, i.e., NCL, vide EC amendment letter no. J-11015/79/2013-IA. II dated 12.10.2018}.
- (xx) No National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-Sensitive Zones fall within 10 km boundary of the project
- (xxi) No Wildlife conservation plan has been submitted for schedule- I species since there is no schedule I species.
- (xxii) The ground water level has been reported to be varying between 0.95m to 17.01 m during pre-monsoon and between 0.84 m to 16.20 m during post-monsoon. Total water requirement for the project is 7,638 m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- (xxiii) Application for obtaining the approval of the Central Ground Water Authority for ground water clearance for Nigahi OCP, has been submitted on 07.09.2021, and CGWA NOC has been obtained, vide NOC no. CGWA/NOC/ MIN/ORIG/2021/ 12799 dated 07.09.2021, which is valid up to 06.09.2023.
- (xxiv) Public hearing for the project of 15.00 MTPA capacity in an area of 3036.40 ha was conducted on 18.12.2005 at Community Hall, Waidhan, Singrauli, MP, under the Chairmanship of District Collector- Sidhi. Major issues raised in the public hearing include issues involves employment, community development works and infrastructure etc., Appropriate action to address the issues raised in the Public Hearing have already been taken.

- (xxv) Commitment made by the Project Proponent to address the Public Hearing concerns in lieu of Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) to be mentioned in the following table: There was no issue in the public hearing regarding CER, since there was no concept of CER at the time of public hearing. However, various works related CER have been conducted in the nearby villages i.e. Plantation, distribution of fruit bearing plants, construction of ponds etc.
- (xxvi) No River/nalla is flowing near boundary of lease.
- (xxvii) Regular monitoring of ambient air quality is being carried out on fortnightly basis. The documented report is submitted to MPPCB, CPCB and also to MoEF&CC along with half yearly EC compliance report. In general, the results of ambient air quality monitoring data were found within prescribed limits except few aberrations which can be attributed to the specific local conditions during the day of sampling.
- (xxviii) No court cases, violation cases are pending against the project of the PP.
- (xxix) The project does not involve violation of the EIA Notification, 2006 and amendment issued thereunder. The coal production from the mine was started from the year 1990-91 onwards.
- (xxx) The project involves 1391 project affected families. R&R of the PAPs has been done as per R&R Policy of Coal India Limited. (Note: Current proposal is under clause 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006, which involves no new to be displaced. All PAFs displaced earlier have been settled.
- (xxxi) Total cost of the project is Rs. 2197.31 Crore (There is no additional capital investment in the proposed expansion). Cost of production is Rs. 847.28 per tonne, CSR cost is 2% of the average net profit of the company for the three immediately preceding financial years, R&R cost is 20.13 Crore (there is no PAFs involved in this proposal), Environment Management Cost is Rs. 35.00 crore (as per EPR 15 MTPA).
- (xxxii) Consent to Operate (CTO) was obtained from the State PCB on 28.12.2022 and is valid till 31.12.2023.

5. In the instant project, earlier Environmental Clearance for expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project was granted in advance under OM vide No. IA 3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07.05.2022 [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification] in view of shortage of coal. The EC was granted subject to certain condition such as submission of EIA-EMP report within six months for appraisal of EAC along with other statutory requirement mentioned therein.

6. The Expert Appraisal Committee in its 45<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 through Video Conferencing has recommended the project for grant of Environment Clearance (EC). Based on recommendations of the EAC, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval and revalidation for Environment Clearance (EC) dated 25.07.2022 under OM vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification] to **Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018.4 Ha by M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh)**, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the following terms & conditions / specific conditions in addition to the standard environmental conditions notified by the Ministry as under :-

**Specific conditions: -**

- i. As proposed, PP shall construct and complete the work for installation of CHP for 10 MTPA capacity on or before 31.03.2024. SPCB to grant the CTO accordingly.
- ii. PP shall fulfil the water requirement for agricultural purpose by creating artificial ponds and shall also fulfil the drinking water requirement after treatment through dedicated well or alternate sources for villagers.
- iii. PP shall complete activities proposed upto to 1.5% of project cost to address the issues arising from public hearing against provision of 9 crores and implement the works withing 3 years. Status of implementation shall be submitted in six monthly report to IRO, MoEF&CC.
- iv. PP shall install continuous effluent quality system for ETP within six months and the monitoring results shall be submitted to the IRO, MoEF&CC.
- v. PP shall start reclamation of the mine with combination of top soil and Fly ash with the development of grazing facility and other activities to be considered from the progressive mine closure plan.
- vi. PP shall immediately submit the status of the closure of the mine as per the approved progressive mine closure plan.
- vii. PP shall submit the recommendation of the ongoing carrying capacity study by ISM Dhanbad.
- viii. PP shall engage the electric vehicle or small vehicles for internal roads within mine using green fuel. No vehicle shall be used based fossil fuel.
- ix. PP shall submit the report upon the status of the training session already conducted in order to provide livelihood and skill development to near-by villagers to make them employable.
- x. PP shall complete the dense plantation along mine roads, on OB dumps and non-dump areas with local species particularly of Sal tree/species. PP shall develop 5 ha of Sal nursery in the project area and use it for plantation and distribute freely to the nearby areas.
- xi. PP to shall complete the tree plantation particularly fruit bearing tree along the village road within six months from date of issue of EC to IRO, MoEF&CC. The plantation shall also be planted along the Mine boundary and Mine pit. A detailed report with GIS images of every six months subsequently be submitted in every six monthly report to justify the adequate tree plantation.
- xii. PP shall make the pucca roads within the mine lease area and same should be maintained time to time.
- xiii. PP needs to submit the compliance of SoP issued by CPCB for dumping of mine void by fly ash.
- xiv. PP needs to submit the physical and financial target for the implementation of the action plan for conservation and protection of endangered flora and fauna.
- xv. PP needs to submit the detail report upon the steps already taken or to be taken towards medical health check-ups for Mine workers.
- xvi. The project proponent shall include development of solar parks, eco-friendly-parks, fish farming pond, picnic spot and sports compound in its Mine Closure Report. Further if possible, maximum possible area of quarry shall be brought upto original ground level and handover the land to Project affected Families.
- xvii. Proper garland drain and retaining wall should be made (if required) and same should be revived from time to time.

- xviii. The PP shall not use the ground water for any type of mine closure activity. PP shall maintain one permanent Piezometer for monitoring of ground water level.
- xix. No village road shall be used as well as no road transport route shall be adopted, which is passing through any sensitive location such as schools, hospitals etc.
- xx. The project proponent shall install effective dust suppression system at the suitable location in the other parts of the mining lease to arrest the fugitive dust emission.
- xxi. The project proponent shall arrange Periodical health check-up camp and in long term PP shall arrange permanent health facility near village area.
- xxii. Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 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 the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
- xxiii. All the other terms and condition of earlier EC dated 08.05.2007, 19.03.2015, 03.02.2020 and 26.07.2022 shall remain same.

5.1 The grant of environmental clearance is further subject to compliance of the Standard EC conditions as under:

**(a) Statutory compliance**

- (i) The project proponent shall obtain forest clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986, in case of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose involved in the project.
- (ii) The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
- (iii) The project proponent shall prepare a Site-Specific Conservation Plan / Wildlife Management Plan and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The recommendations of the approved Site-Specific Conservation Plan/Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. The implementation report shall be furnished along with the six-monthly compliance report (in case of the presence of schedule-I species in the study area).
- (iv) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish/Operate under the provisions of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State pollution Control Board/ Committee.
- (v) The project proponent shall obtain the necessary permission from the Central Ground Water Authority.
- (vi) Solid/hazardous waste generated in the mines needs to addressed in accordance to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016/Hazardous & Other Waste Management Rules, 2016.

**(b) Air quality monitoring and preservation**

(i) Continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations as prescribed in the statute be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for monitoring of pollutants, namely PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. Location of the stations shall be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board. Online ambient air quality monitoring stations may also be installed in addition to the regular monitoring stations as per the requirement and/or in consultation with the SPCB. Monitoring of heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr, etc to be carried out at least once in six months.

(ii) The Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the core zone shall be carried out to ensure the Coal Industry Standards notified vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Data on ambient air quality and heavy metals such as Hg, As, Ni, Cd, Cr and other monitoring data shall be regularly reported to the Ministry/Regional Office and to the CPCB/SPCB.

(iii) Transportation of coal, to the extent permitted by road, shall be carried out by covered trucks/conveyors. Effective control measures such as regular water/mist sprinkling/rain gun etc shall be carried out in critical areas prone to air pollution (with higher values of PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>) such as haul road, loading/unloading and transfer points. Fugitive dust emissions from all sources shall be controlled regularly. It shall be ensured that the Ambient Air Quality parameters conform to the norms prescribed by the Central/State Pollution Control Board.

(iv) The transportation of coal shall be carried out as per the provisions and route envisaged in the approved Mining Plan or environment monitoring plan. Transportation of the coal through the existing road passing through any village shall be avoided. In case, it is proposed to construct a 'bypass' road, it should be so constructed so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be appropriately mitigated.

(v) Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. All the vehicles engaged in mining and allied activities shall operate only after obtaining 'PUC' certificate from the authorized pollution testing centres.

(vi) Coal stock pile/crusher/feeder and breaker material transfer points shall invariably be provided with dust suppression system. Belt-conveyors shall be fully covered to avoid air borne dust. Side cladding all along the conveyor gantry should be made to avoid air borne dust. Drills shall be wet operated or fitted with dust extractors.

(vii) Coal handling plant shall be operated with effective control measures w.r.t. various environmental parameters. Environmental friendly sustainable technology should be implemented for mitigating such parameters.

**(c) Water quality monitoring and preservation**

(i) The effluent discharge (mine waste water, workshop effluent) shall be monitored in terms of the parameters notified under the Water Act, 1974 Coal Industry Standards vide GSR 742 (E) dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2000 and as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board.

- (ii) The monitoring data shall be uploaded on the company's website and displayed at the project site at a suitable location. The circular No.J-20012/1/2006-IA.11 (M) dated 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall also be referred in this regard for its compliance.
- (iii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality shall be carried out in and around the mine lease area by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operations. The monitoring of ground water levels shall be carried out four times a year i.e. pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. The ground water quality shall be monitored once a year, and the data thus collected shall be sent regularly to MOEFCC/RO.
- (iv) Monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies shall be carried out once in six months and record of monitoring data shall be maintained and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/Regional Office.
- (v) Ground water, excluding mine water, shall not be used for mining operations. Rainwater harvesting shall be implemented for conservation and augmentation of ground water resources.
- (vi) Catch and/or garland drains and siltation ponds in adequate numbers and appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, coal heaps & OB dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the river and water bodies. Further, dump material shall be properly consolidated/ compacted and accumulation of water over dumps shall be avoided by providing adequate channels for flow of silt into the drains. The drains/ ponds so constructed shall be regularly de-silted particularly before onset of monsoon and maintained properly. Sump capacity should provide adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. The water so collected in the sump shall be utilised for dust suppression and green belt development and other industrial use. Dimension of the retaining wall constructed, if any, at the toe of the OB dumps within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data. The plantation of native species to be made between toe of the dump and adjacent field/habitation/water bodies.
- (vii) Adequate groundwater recharge measures shall be taken up for augmentation of ground water. The project authorities shall meet water requirement of nearby village(s) after due treatment conforming to the specific requirement (standards).
- (viii) Industrial waste water generated from CHP, workshop and other waste water, shall be properly collected and treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under the standards prescribed under Water Act 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made there under, and as amended from time to time. Adequate ETP /STP needs to be provided.
- (ix) The water pumped out from the mine, after siltation, shall be utilized for industrial purpose viz. watering the mine area, roads, green belt development etc. The drains shall be regularly desilted particularly after monsoon and maintained properly.
- (x) The surface drainage plan including surface water conservation plan for the area of influence affected by the said mining operations, considering the presence of river/rivulet/pond/lake etc, shall be prepared and implemented by the project proponent. The surface drainage plan and/or any diversion of natural water courses shall be as per the approved Mining Plan/EIA/EMP report and

with due approval of the concerned State/Gol Authority. The construction of embankment to prevent any danger against inrush of surface water into the mine should be as per the approved Mining Plan and as per the permission of DGMS or any other authority as prescribed by the law.

(xi) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures to ensure riverine/riparian ecosystem in and around the coal mine up to a distance of 5 km. A riverine/riparian ecosystem conservation and management plan should be prepared and implemented in consultation with the irrigation / water resource department in the state government.

**(d) Noise and Vibration monitoring and prevention**

(i) Adequate measures shall be taken for control of noise levels as per Noise Pollution Rules, 2016 in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc shall be provided with personal protective equipments (PPE) like ear plugs/muffs in conformity with the prescribed norms and guidelines in this regard. Adequate awareness programme for users to be conducted. Progress in usage of such accessories to be monitored.

(ii) Controlled blasting techniques shall be practiced in order to mitigate ground vibrations, fly rocks, noise and air blast etc., as per the guidelines prescribed by the DGMS.

(iii) The noise level survey shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines to assess noise exposure of the workmen at vulnerable points in the mine premises, and report in this regard shall be submitted to the Ministry/RO on six-monthly basis.

**(e) Mining Plan**

(i) Mining shall be carried out under strict adherence to provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and subordinate legislations made there-under as applicable.

(ii) Mining shall be carried out as per the approved mining plan (including Mine Closure Plan) abiding by mining laws related to coal mining and the relevant circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS).

(iii) No mining shall be carried out in forest land without obtaining Forestry Clearance as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(iv) Efforts should be made to reduce energy and fuel consumption by conservation, efficiency improvements and use of renewable energy.

**(f) Land reclamation**

(i) Digital Survey of entire lease hold area/core zone using Satellite Remote Sensing survey shall be carried out at least once in three years for monitoring land use pattern and report in 1:50,000 scale or as notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MOEFCC) from time to time shall be submitted to MOEFCC/Regional Office (RO).

(ii) The final mine void depth should preferably be as per the approved Mine Closure Plan, and in case it exceeds 40 m, adequate engineering interventions shall be provided for sustenance of aquatic life therein. The remaining area shall be backfilled and covered with thick and alive top soil.

Post-mining land be rendered usable for agricultural/forestry purposes and shall be diverted. Further action will be treated as specified in the guidelines for Preparation of Mine Closure Plan issued by the Ministry of Coal dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 and subsequent amendments.

(iii) The entire excavated area, backfilling, external OB dumping (including top soil) and afforestation plan shall be in conformity with the “during mining”/”post mining” land-use pattern, which is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan and the EIA/EMP submitted to this Ministry. Progressive compliance status vis-a-vis the post mining land use pattern shall be submitted to the MOEFCC/RO.

(iv) Fly ash shall be used for external dump of overburden, backfilling or stowing of mine as per provisions contained in clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (8) of fly ash notification issued vide SO 2804 (E) dated 3rd November, 2009 as amended from time to time. Efforts shall be made to utilize gypsum generated from Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), if any, along with fly ash for external dump of overburden, backfilling of mines. Compliance report shall be submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC, CPCB and SPCB.

(v) Further, it may be ensured that as per the time schedule specified in mine closure plan it should remain live till the point of utilization. The topsoil shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and shall not be kept unutilized. The top soil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation purposes. Active OB dumps shall be stabilised with native grass species to prevent erosion and surface run off. The other overburden dumps shall be vegetated with native flora species. The excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested in line with the approved Mine Closure Plan. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas shall continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change/ Regional Office.

(vi) The project proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements, if grazing land is involved in core zone, in consultation with the State government to provide alternate areas for livestock grazing, if any. In this context, the project proponent shall implement the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquiring grazing land.

**(g) Green Belt**

(i) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered/endemic flora/fauna, if any, spotted/reported in the study area. The Action plan in this regard, if any, shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department.

(ii) Greenbelt consisting of 3-tier plantation of width not less than 7.5 m shall be developed all along the mine lease area as soon as possible. The green belt comprising a mix of native species (endemic species should be given priority) shall be developed all along the major approach/ coal transportation roads.

**(h) Public hearing and Human health issues**



- (i) Adequate illumination shall be ensured in all mine locations (as per DGMS standards) and monitored weekly. The report on the same shall be submitted to this ministry & its RO on six-monthly basis.
- (ii) The project proponent shall undertake occupational health survey for initial and periodical medical examination of the personnel engaged in the project and maintain records accordingly as per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955 and DGMS circulars. Besides regular periodic health check-up, 20% of the personnel identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check-up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, as amended time to time.
- (iii) Personnel (including outsourced employees) working in core zone shall wear protective respiratory devices and shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
- (iv) Implementation of the action plan on the issues raised during the public hearing shall be ensured. The project proponent shall undertake all the tasks/measures as per the action plan submitted with budgetary provisions during the public hearing. Land oustees shall be compensated as per the norms laid down in the R&R policy of the company/State Government/Central Government, as applicable.
- (v) The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29<sup>th</sup> 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'.

**(i) Corporate Environment Responsibility**

- (i) The company shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental/forest/wildlife norms/conditions and/or shareholders/stake holders.
- (ii) A separate Environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly report to the head of the organization.
- (iii) Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the company shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report.
- (iv) Self environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.

**(j) Miscellaneous**

- (i) The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- (ii) The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
- (iii) The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
- (iv) The project proponent shall monitor the criteria pollutants level namely; PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> (ambient levels) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects and display the same at a convenient location for disclosure to the public and put on the website of the company.
- (v) The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the website of the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at environment clearance portal.
- (vi) The project proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in this Ministry's OM No.Z-11013/5712014-IA.II (M) dated 29<sup>th</sup> 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'.
- (vii) The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form-V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.
- (viii) The project authorities shall inform to the Regional Office of the MOEFCC regarding commencement of mining operations.
- (ix) The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
- (x) The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
- (xi) No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

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(xii) Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(xiii) The Ministry may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.

(xiv) The Ministry reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.

(xv) The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.

(xvi) The above conditions shall 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, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.

**5.2** The proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report and also that during presentation to the EAC. All the commitments made on the issues raised during public hearing shall also be implemented in letter and spirit.

**6.** The proponent shall obtain all necessary clearances/approvals that may be required before the start of the project. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.

**7.** Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

**8.** The coal company/project proponent shall be liable to pay the compensation against the illegal mining, if any, and as raised by the respective State Governments at any point of time, in terms of the orders dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.114/2014 in the matter of 'Common Cause Vs Union of India & others.

**9.** The concerned State Government shall ensure no mining operations to commence till the entire compensation for illegal mining, if any, is paid by the project proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology, in strict compliance of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**10.** This environmental clearance shall not be operational till such time the project proponent complies with the above said judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, as applicable, and other statutory requirements.

11. All other terms and conditions as prescribed in Ministry's letter dated 08.05.2007, 19.03.2015 03.02.2020 and 25.07.2022 shall remain the same and need to be complied by PP.

This issues with the approval of the competent Authority

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Additional PCCF (Central), Regional office (EZ), E-5 Arera Colony, Bhopal – 462016
3. The Chairman, Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal -462 016
4. The Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
5. The District Collector, Singrauli, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
6. Monitoring File
7. PARIVESH

  
(Lalit Bokolia)

**F. No. J-11015/79/2013-IA-II(M).**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Impact Assessment Division)

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2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Vayu Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, N Delhi – 3  
Email: [lk.bokolia@nic.in](mailto:lk.bokolia@nic.in) Tel: 011-20819417

**Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**

**To**

The General Manager (Nigahi Project),  
M/s Northern Coalfields Ltd,  
Project, PO- Nigahi, Distt-Singrauli-486884,  
Madhya Pradesh  
Email: [gmenv@ncl.gov.in](mailto:gmenv@ncl.gov.in) ; [gmenv\\_ncl@coalindia.in](mailto:gmenv_ncl@coalindia.in),  
[nigahi.environment@gmail.com](mailto:nigahi.environment@gmail.com)

**Sub: Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018.4 Ha by Northern Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (M.P.)- Environmental Clearance under OM vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022- [Availing total 50% relaxation of OM dealing with exemption of public hearing under clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification].**

**Sir,**

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/MP/CMIN/271744/2022 dated 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 submitted to this Ministry for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) in terms of the provisions with MoEF & CC's Office Memorandum vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III (E 177258) dated 07.05.2022 and as per EIA Notification, 2006) of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018 Ha by Northern Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh).

2. The proposal was granted EC for production capacity of 15 MTPA in ML area of 3036.4 Ha dated 08.05.2007. Further EC was granted for expansion under Clause 7 (ii) of EIA notification, 2006 on 19.03.2015 as per the O. M. dated 19.12.2012 for 25 % expansion i.e. 18.75 MTPA production capacity in ML area of 2675 Ha and EC was granted on 03.02.2020 as per O.M. dated 15.09.2017 for 12% expansion (total 40%) i.e. 22.5 MTPA in an area of 3018.4 Ha. Presently the proposal is considered by the Ministry at central level in view of the exigency, as per the provisions of O.M. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III dated 07.05.2022. Abeyance vide MoEF&CC's OM dated 28.01.2022 on OM no. 22-23/2018-IA.III(Pt.) dated 31.10.2019 on mechanism for consideration of proposal of critically/ severally polluted area. Abeyance on above OM has been lifted vide OM dated 05.07.2022.

3. Based on the submission of Project Proponent, Ministry hereby grants approval to Expansion of Nigahi opencast coal mining project for increase in production capacity from 21 MTPA to 22.5 MTPA (increase of 10% w.r.t 1.5 MTPA) in land area of 3018 Ha by Northern

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Coalfields Ltd, located in the village Nigahi, Tehsil Singrauli, District Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh) under the provisions of OM vide no. F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III 07.05.2022, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto subject to the compliance of the following terms & conditions / specific conditions for environmental safeguards as stated below:-

- i. PP shall submit Certified Compliance Report of the EC vide No. F. No. J- J- 11015/79/2013-IA-II(M) dated 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 granted for total 40% expansion, along with EIA/EMP report, prepared based on standard ToRs for the additional capacity of 10% on PARIVESH portal within six months of enhancement of production beyond 40%.
- ii. In view of above (i), Ministry shall ascertain the adequacy of the proposed environmental safeguards and stipulate necessary conditions, if required, which shall be monitored as a part of the EC compliance monitoring.
- iii. PP shall obtain necessary prior consent for enhanced capacity from State Pollution Control Board under Air and Water Act.
- iv. Environmental quality parameters arising out of proposed expansion shall be within the prescribed norms and the same shall be maintained as per prescribed norms.
- v. Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th 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".
- vi. All other terms and conditions as prescribed in Ministry's letter dated 08.05.2007, 19.03.2015 and 03.02.2020 shall remain the same and need to be complied by PP.

Additional Specific conditions as the area falls under Severely Polluted Areas (SPAs)

- (i) Transportation of materials by rail/conveyor belt shall be implemented
- (ii) Encourage use of cleaner fuels for trucks, If the roads required to be widened upto nearest railway siding, the same be constructed to avoid traffic congestion.
- (iii) Increase green belt cover by 40% of the total land area beyond the permissible requirement of 33%, wherever feasible.
- (iv) Greenbelt outside the project premises such as avenue plantation, plantation in vacant areas, social forestry, etc. shall be implemented.
- (v) Assessment of carrying capacity of mine & road transportation shall be done as per the State Plan/instructions.
- (vi) Reuse/recycle of treated wastewater shall be implemented as feasible with latest technology. Zero liquid discharge concept may be adopted.
- (vii) PP to install Continuous monitoring station for ambient air quality and also continuous effluent quality in ETP shall be installed. Data so generated shall be linked with respective SPCB and CPCB websites.

(viii) A detailed water harvesting plan may be prepared by the project proponent for water augmentation and submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC.

(x) The project proponent shall install STP for generated domestic wastewater and should meet for discharge standards.

(xi) More stringent norms for management of hazardous waste like oil container, ETP sludge etc shall be adopted. The waste generated should be preferably utilized in co-processing.

(xii) Monitoring of compliance of EC conditions may be submitted with third party audit every year.

(xiii) Fund allocation for Corporate Environment Responsibility (CER) which is atleast 1.5 times as per OM of 1st May, 2018 may now be considered as 1.5 times of fund allocated on commitment made during public consultation process for incorporating in EIA-EMP for deliberation of EAC and item-wise details along with time bound action plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry's Regional Office.

This issues with the approval of the competent Authority

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The APCCF, MOEF&CC, Regional Office(EZ), E-5 Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462 016
3. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Secretariat, Bhopal
4. The Member Secretary, Jamnagar House, 18/11, Man Singh Road Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
5. The Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462 016
6. The District Collector, Singrauli, Government of Madhya Pradesh
8. Monitoring File/Guard File/Record File
9. PARIVESH Portal

  
(Lalit Bokolia)  
Director