



J-11015/176/2014-IA-II (M)

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Vayu Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 10th January, 2020

To,

The General Manager (W B P & Environment)
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

Sub: Expansion of Kusmunda Opencast Coal Mining Project from 40 MTPA to 50 (Normative) / 62.5 (Peak) MPTA of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd in area of 1655.825 ha located in District Korba (Chhattisgarh) - Environmental Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/CG/CMIN/95257/2016 dated 3rd May, 2019 on the above mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the proposal for extension and amendment/expansion in environmental clearance to the expansion of Kusmunda Opencast Coal Mining project, beyond the presently approved capacity of 40 MTPA to 50 (Normative) / 62.5 (Peak) MPTA, of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd in mine lease area of 1655.825 ha located in District Korba (Chhattisgarh).

3. The Ministry, vide letter dated 3rd July, 2018, has granted environmental clearance to the expansion of Kusmunda Opencast Coal Mining Project from 26 to 36 MTPA in an area of 1655.825 ha for a period up to 31st March, 2019, subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions. Further expansion from 36 MTPA to 40 MTPA for a period of one year, subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in environmental clearance dated 3rd July, 2018, along with additional conditions as under:-

- (i) The sub-committee of the EAC shall make a site visit to assess adequacy and efficacy of pollution control measures and its impact on ambient air quality.
- (ii) Third party monitoring (by NEERI/CIMFR/IIT) for air quality shall be carried out at identified locations, both ambient and the process area, to arrive at the impact of the proposed expansions in phases (26-36 MTPA and then up to 40 MTPA). The monitoring results along with the recommendations shall be presented before the EAC to assess the efficacy and adequacy of pollution control measures.
- (iii) An undertaking duly endorsed by NEERI/CIMFR/ISM, shall be submitted regarding mitigating measures and the infrastructure available for the proposed coal production capacity of 40 MTPA.

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(iv) Coal production shall be consistent with that given in the approved Mining Plan.

4. To assess adequacy and efficacy of pollution control measures and its impact on ambient air quality on 10-11 September, 2019. Third party monitoring by IIT Kharagpur has submitted an Interim Report on 14th November, 2019. Final report along with undertaking duly endorsed by CIMFR will be submitted regarding mitigating measures and the infrastructure available for the proposed coal production capacity of 40 MTPA.

5. The sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry for Thermal & Coal Mining Projects in its meeting held on 5th December, 2018 has **recommended** for extension for 30 years or life of mine whichever is earlier and amendment for EC dated 22nd January, 2019 for Expansion of Kusmunda Opencast Coal Mine Project from 40 MTPA to 50 MTPA (Normative)/ 62.5 (Peak) in an area of 1655.825 ha (Phase I) of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd located in District Korba (Chhattisgarh) with all terms and conditions remaining the same in EC dated 3rd July, 2018 along with additional conditions as under:-

- (i) No mining activity shall be conducted in 43.942 ha of forest land till Project proponents obtain Forest Clearance.
- (ii) Compliance of recommendation of EAC sub-committee dated 10-11th September, 2019.
- (iii) Mitigation measures to be proposed by IIT Kharagpur after air quality monitoring shall be strictly complied.
- (iv) Project proponent to plant 100,000 nos. of native trees with broad leaves along the villages and transportation route to prevent the effect of air pollution. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Officer
- (v) The project proponent shall obtain Consent to establish from the State Pollution Control Boards for the proposed peak capacity of 50 MTPA (Normative) / 62.5 MTPA (Peak) prior to commencement of the increased production.
- (vi) The company shall obtain approval of CGWA for use of groundwater for mining operations at its enhanced capacity of 50 MTPA (Normative) / 62.5 MTPA (Peak).
- (vii) Thick green belt of adequate width at the final boundary in the down wind direction of the project site shall be developed to mitigate/check the dust pollution. No shrubs/bushes shall be planted and only trees of native species shall be planted
- (viii) The activities and fund provisions for CER shall be made as per the guidelines issued by the ministry regarding CER on 1st May, 2018.
- (ix) Compliance of all the non-compliances and partially complied conditions by Regional Office of MoEFCC, Nagpur for the project of EC dated 2nd January, 2019. The PP shall take all the mitigation measures and the Action taken report shall be submit the Regional Office of the MoEFCC.

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- (x) 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 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.
- (xi) 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 commenced after conducting detailed hydrogeological study and necessary permission from the CGWA. The Report on six monthly basis on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Pollution Control Board.
- (xii) 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 antsnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.
- (xiii) 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".
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) 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. 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.
- (xvi) 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

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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 Ministry's Regional Office for site inspection/verification.

6. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords **extension and amendment/expansion** in environmental clearance for extension for 30 years or life of mine whichever is earlier and amendment for EC dated 22nd January, 2019 for **Expansion of Kusmunda Opencast Coal Mine Project from 40 MTPA to 50 MTPA (Normative)/ 62.5 (Peak)** in an area of 1655.825 ha (Phase I) of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd, located in District Korba (Chhattisgarh), under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars thereto, **as stated in para 5 above.**

7. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance dated 3rd July, 2018 shall remain unchanged.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-1
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-1
3. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Secretariat, Raipur
4. The Member Secretary, CPCB, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 32
5. The Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
6. The Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Environment Conservation Board, 1-Blak Nagar, Shiv Mandir Chowk, Main Road, Avanti Vihar, Raipur - 492001
7. The District Collector, Korba, Government of Chhattisgarh
8. Monitoring File 9. Guard File 10. Record File

(Dr. R.B.Lal)
Scientist E
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Govt. of India, New Delhi

(Dr. R.B.Lal)
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Signed Before me

Manoj Kumar Agrawal
Notary
Distt. - KORBA (C. G.)