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No. J-11015/34/99 - IA II (M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

29 MAY 2000

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Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi - 110 003

May 19, 2000

Shri S. K. Mittra
Chief General Manager (WBP),
Western Coalfields Limited,
Coal Estate, Civil Lines,
Nagpur - 440 001.

Sub: Conversion of Kamptee Underground coal project to Opencast of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) near village Kamptee town, Tehsil Kamptee, District Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Sir,

This has reference to your letter No. WCL/C-1(E)/CGM(WBP)/RN/65 and 203/3830 dated 12.10.99 and subsequent communications dated 27.11.99 and 16.02.2000. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application. It has been noted that the total lease area of the mine is 290 ha. No forest land is involved. The Pench Tiger Reserve is 33 km away from the mine. Targeted production capacity of the mine is 0.65 million tonnes / annum. There are 2861 residential units, which shall be relocated and 70 land oustees from whom the agricultural land will be acquired. Compensation for relocation of residential units as well as land oustees will be provided as per the CIL norms. NOC from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has been obtained on 06.12.99. Public hearing was held on 08.01.99, 29.07.99 and 05.08.99. The suggestions of the public hearing panel to follow the recommendations of Central Mine Research Institute, Dhanbad and Central Ground Water Board have been agreed by the WCL.

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2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above conversion of Kamptee underground to opencast coal mining project, (capacity 0.65 million tonnes / annum) of M/s Western Coalfields Limited involving lease area of 290 ha. under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 as amended on 04.05.1997 and 10.04.1997 subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific conditions

- (i) OB dumps should be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and should not be kept active for long period. Plantation of external OB dumps should start the moment first layer is completed and not after 10 years as suggested in the green belt development plan. Management and monitoring of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on yearly basis.

- (ii) Garland drains of appropriate size should be constructed, to collect surface run-off from the OB and waste dump site(s) and taken to settling pond before discharge into any water body.
- (iii) The stage-wise reclamation programme in the lease hold area should be implemented. The land reclamation and back-filling should be carried out from the 15th year of mining operation. In the back-filled area, the peripheral plantation should start concurrently. A detailed mine decommissioning plan should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance for approval.
- (iv) A green belt of adequate width should be raised by planting the native species around the ML area, roads, OB dump sites etc. should be raised in consultation with the local DFO / Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2000-2500 plants per ha.
- (v) The project authorities should study the impact of the development of the mine on water table in consultation with, Regional Institute of Central Ground Water Board, Nagpur and submit a report to the Ministry within six months.
- (vi) Sample community health survey should be undertaken in the nearby villages with in 1 km around Kamptee mine in consultation with NIOH, Calcutta. WCL may depute their officers and doctors to the National Institute of Occupational Health, Calcutta for getting proper training on occupational and community health studies.
- (vii) Mine water discharge after proper treatment should be discharged in streams/percolation tanks. Check dams should be constructed to increase retention time and infiltration.
- (viii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality by establishing monitoring stations and around the mine area should be started even before implementation of the project.
- (ix) The old and big trees from the mining site should be transplanted wherever possible instead of felling them.
- (x) Nature Education Centre should be established for people around the project. Environmental awareness should be created among the people by organizing training camps and holding workshops.
- (xi) Old CHP should be phased out. The new coal handling plant should be provided with dust collector and automatic water sprinkler. Water should be sprayed on all working areas, dump area and coal stock piles.
- (xii) Coal should be properly covered with tarpaulin during transportation to prevent spillage of coal and reduce dust emission.
- (xiii) Black topped metalled roads should be constructed and well maintained to prevent dust emission.

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- (xiv) Drills should be operated with dust extractor or wet drilling should be adopted.
- (xv) WCL should follow all the recommendations given by CMRI, Dhanbad in the study carried out on "controlling blast induced environmental hazards in nearby villages of Kemptee opencast mine".
- (xvi) Muffling of the blast face in top benches should be continued to control fly rocks. Continuous monitoring of vibrations due to blasting should be carried out. Threshold values for the peak particle velocity should be as per the DGMS (Tech) / (S&T) circular No. & dated 29.08.1997.
- (xvii) The WCL should reuse / recycle maximum quantity of mine discharge and the balance should be provided for irrigation by the local people after proper treatment.

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B. General conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral coal and waste should be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality-monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as the buffer zone for RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x and CO monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features, and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (iv) Data on ambient air quality should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional office at Bhopal and the State Pollution Control Board / Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (v) Drills should be wet operated or with dust extractors.
- (vi) Fugitive dust emissions from all the sources should be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, wagon loading, dump trucks (loading & unloading) should be provided and properly maintained.
- (vii) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dB in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operations of HEMM, etc should be provided with earplugs / muffs.
- (viii) Industrial waste water (workshop and waste water from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May, 1993 and 31st December, 1993 or as amended from time to time. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents into the pond.

(ix) ✓ Acid mine water, if any, has to be treated and disposed of after conforming to the standard prescribed by the competent authority.

→ (x) Ground water quality and water table should be regularly monitored and the data recorded should be furnished to this Ministry and its Regional Office at Bhopal including the state Pollution Control Board/Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.

(xi) Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

(xii) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.

Occupational health surveillance program of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to coal dust and take corrective measures, if needed.

(xiii) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the Organization.

(xiv) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year wise expenditure should be reported to the Ministry.

→ (xv) The Regional office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the conditions. The project authorities should provide a set of filled-in questionnaire, Environmental Impact Assessment /Environmental Management Plan to them and extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional office by furnishing the requisite data/information/monitoring reports.

(xvi) Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional office, District Industry Centre and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.

(xvii) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned informing that the project has been according environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at web site of the Ministry of Environment & Forests at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>.

3. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.

4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance.

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5. The above conditions will 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 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules.

(K. K. JAIN)
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests, Govt. of Maharashtra.
2. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, E - 2 / 240 Arera Colony Bhopal - 462 016.
3. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhavan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar New Delhi - 110 032.
4. Chairman Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Municipal Market Building, 4th Floor, Mata Ramabal Ambedaker Road, Mumbai- 400 001.
5. Director, Central Ground Water Board, Jamnagar House, New Delhi.
6. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
7. Monitoring file.
8. Guard file.
9. Record file.

(K. K. JAIN)
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR