

No.J-11015/26/2000-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests



Parayavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O.Complex,
New Delhi-110 003.

27th November 2002

To

The General Manager (Environment)

M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.,
(Gayatri Underground Project),
Seepat Road, P.B.No.60,
BILASPUR-495006,
Chhattisgarh.

Subject: Gayatri underground coal mine project of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., located at Getra Village, Tehsil Ambikapur in Surguja Distt., Chattisgarh, – environmental clearance –reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the Ministry of Coal letter No.43011/32/2000-CPAM dated 08.11.2000 and your letters dated 15.01.2001, 03.05.2001, 29.10.2001, 28.12.2001, 10.01.2002, 25.02.2002, 25.04.2002, 29.06.2002, 13.09.2002, 23.10.2002 and 06.11.2002 on the above-mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has examined the application. It has been noted that the project involves a total mining lease area of 507.472 ha which consists of 249.762 ha forestland, 41.0 ha Government land and 8.55 ha tenancy land. In addition, tenancy land has been acquired for infrastructure(7.45 ha.) and township (8.55 ha.) under Coal Bearing Act, outside the mining lease area. The area proposed for mining is 507.472 ha. Combined forestry clearance has been obtained for Rehar and Gayatri Projects for 547.012 ha forestland, out of which 130.240 ha (70.390 ha for 1st phase and 59.850 ha for 2nd phase) is for Rehar UGP and 416.772 ha (249.762 for 1st phase and 167.010 ha for 2nd phase) is for Gayatri Project. Displacement of families is not involved. The annual targeted production capacity of the mine is 0.30 million tonnes. Working depth would vary between 40-160 metres. Bord & Pillar method of underground mining with caving is proposed. Mineral will be transported by road. Approval of the State Pollution Control Board has been obtained on 31.10.2000. Public hearing was held on 12.11.1999. Total water requirement is 409 m³/day, which will be met from groundwater. The approval of Central Ground Water Authority has been obtained. The Ministry of Coal has approved the project report on 16.04.1999. Capital cost of the project is Rs. 1958.50 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 58.59 lakhs has been earmarked for implementation of Environment Management Plan (EMP) which has a recurring expenditure of Rs. 22.33 per annum.

2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests hereby accords environmental clearance to the above-mentioned coal mine of M/s South Eastern Coal Fields Limited for 0.30 MTY production involving lease area of 507.472 ha under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification,1994 as amended on 04.05.1994 and 10.04.1997 subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

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A. Specific Conditions

- (i) Regular monitoring of subsidence movement on the surface over working area and impact on water bodies/vegetation/structures/surrounding should be continued till movement ceases completely. In case of observation of any high rate of subsidence movement, appropriate measures should be taken to avoid loss of life and material. Cracks should be effectively plugged with ballast and clayey soil/suitable material.
- (ii) The project authorities should check the possibility of existence of fault(s) before deciding about the thickness of safe barrier required to be maintained between the working face and the river in consultation with the Director General Mines & Safety (DGMS). De-pillaring should also be carried out after taking prior approval of the DGMS.
- (iii) Garland drains should be constructed around the mine to prevent ingress of surface run-off.
- (iv) Coal handling plant should be provided with adequate number of high efficiency dust extraction system. Loading and unloading area including all the transfer points should also have efficient dust control arrangements. These should be properly maintained and operated.
- (v) A green belt of adequate width should be raised by planting the local species along the mine boundary, waste rock dumps, ventilation fan, roads and in selected open areas in consultation with local DFC/Agriculture Department. Density of tree should be at least 2500 plants/ha.
- (vi) Study report on subsidence and stage wise development plan starting from 5th year of operation till the end of the mine at an interval of 5 years should be submitted to the Ministry within six months.
- (vii) The project authority should implement suitable conservation measures to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Chhattisgarh region.
- (viii) Regular monitoring of ground water level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and constructing new piezometers during the mining operation. The interval of monitoring should be four times in a year - pre-monsoon (April-May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) and the data thus collected may be sent regularly to MOEF and to the Central Ground Water Authority.
- (ix) Adequate measures for safety should be provided for storage, handling and use of explosives during the project period.
- (x) A detailed mine decommissioning plan should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and forests five years in advance for approval.
- (xi) Consent to operate should be obtained from SPCB before starting mining activities.
- (xii) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored.

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- (xiii) Land oustees should be compensated as per the State Government norms and Coal India Policy.

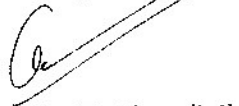
B. General Conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and 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 (RPM, SPM, SO₂, NO_x, and CO) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bhopal and to 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 arrangements on haul roads, wagon loading, dumps, loading & unloading points should be provided and properly maintained.
- (vii) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operations of HEMM, etc., should be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (viii) Industrial wastewater(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 effluents from workshop.
- (ix) Acid mine water, if any has to be treated and disposed of after conforming to the standard prescribed the competent authority.
- (x) 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 programme of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to coal dust and take corrective measures, if needed.
- (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.

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- (xii) 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.
- (xiii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purposes. Year-wise expenditure should be reported to the Regional Office (CZ), Bhopal of the MOEF and to the Ministry.
- (xiv) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bhopal shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The Project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing requisite data/information/monitoring reports.
- (xv) A copy of the clearance letter will be marked to the concerned Panchayat /local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestions/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xvi) The project authorities should inform to the Regional Office located at Bhopal regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
- (xvii) State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industry Centre and Collector's/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xviii) The project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned, within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded 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 and Forests at <http://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.
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.


(Dr. T. Chandini)
Additional Director

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