

Dated: 11th June 2007

To
Director (Projects & Planning),
M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.,
Kothagudam Collieries – 507 101,
Bhadrachalam Road Railway Station,
Khammam District, A.P.

Sub: Peddampet Shaft Underground Coal Mine Project (1.459 MTPA) of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL), located in village Peddampet, Tehsil Kamanpur, District Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh - environmental clearance – reg.
Sir,

This has reference to letter No. 43011/113/2006-CPAM dated 17.08.2006 enclosing your application dated 24.07.2006 and your letter dated 08.02.2007 on the above-mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has considered your application. It has been noted that the project is for opening a new mine - **Peddampet Shaft Coal Mine Project for production of coal at a rated capacity of 1.459 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The total lease area is 725 ha** of which 309.734 ha is agricultural land, 323,424 ha is Company land, 91.842 ha is Govt. land, and 5 small water tanks. No forestland is involved. Gunjepadugu RF is located at a distance of more than 8km in the buffer zone. There are no National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserves found in the 10 km buffer zone. The area has no reported endangered flora and fauna. The mine is drained by Jalaram Vagu flowing in the easterly direction at the southern end which ultimately joins River Godavari. The natural drainage will be modified and the Vagu flowing within the lease will be diverted along the mine lease boundary. The 5 water tanks which form part of the quarry would be acquired for mining operations. The total lease area would be used for underground mine working and would be acquired. Of the lease area, an area of 20ha ha would be for diversion of the Jalaram Vagu. Pit head infrastructure available at GDK11A Incline including office buildings, CHP, etc would be used for this project also. No township is proposed. Project involves R&R of 688 families 2 villages – Singaredipalli (590 families) and Chandanapur (98 families). Mining will be underground by mechanised method. **Rated capacity of the mine is 1.459 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of coal production.** Mineral transportation of **5800 TPD** of coal is by conveyors to CHP at a distance of 3 km. Ultimate working depth is 443 m below ground level (bgl). Water table is in the range of 5.35m – 8.75m I the core zone and 4.41m – 9.80m in the buffer zone. Mining will intersect water table. Approval of the State Ground Water Department has been obtained on 28.06.2006. Peak water requirement is 400 m³/d, which will be met from mine pit water. Public Hearing was held on 28.12.2005. NOC has been obtained on 11.03.2006. Life of the mine at the rated capacity is 32 years. Mining Plan approved by Ministry of Coal on 12.10.2006. Capital cost of the project is **Rs. 356.86 crores.**

2. The Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance for the above-mentioned **Peddampet Shaft Underground Coal Mine Project of M/s SCCL of a lease area of 725 ha for production of coal at 1.459 MTPA rated capacity** under the provisions of under Section 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments thereto and under Para 2.1.1 of MOEF Circular dated 13.10.2006 subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below

A. Specific Conditions

- (i) Mining shall be carried out as per statuette at a safe distance from the river flowing within the lease boundary after its diversion.
- (ii) Sufficient coal pillars shall be left unextracted around the air shaft (within the subsidence influence area) to protect from any damage from subsidence, if any.
- (iii) Solid barriers shall be left below the roads falling within the blocks to avoid any damage to the roads.
- (iv) No depillaring operation shall be carried out below the village area until R&R is complete.
- (v) Regular monitoring of subsidence movement on the surface over and around the working area and impact on natural drainage pattern, water bodies, vegetation, structure, roads, and surroundings should be continued till movement ceases completely. In case of observation of any high rate of subsidence movement, appropriate effective corrective measures should be taken to avoid loss of life and material. Cracks should be effectively plugged with ballast and clayey soil/suitable material.
- (vi) Garland/surface drains (size, gradient and length) around the safety areas such as mine shaft and low lying areas and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over an above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine sites. Sump capacity should also provided adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material. Sufficient number of pumps of adequate capacity shall be deployed to pump out mine water during peak rainfall.
- (vii) While extracting panels in the lower seam, all water bodies in the subsidence area shall be drained. Dewatering of the old goaves of the upper seam shall be continued as long as the lower seam is worked to prevent accumulation of large water bodies over working area.
- (viii) Crushers at the CHP should be operated with high efficiency bag filters, water sprinkling system should be provided to check fugitive emissions from crushing operations, overland conveyor system, haulage roads, transfer points, etc.
- (ix) Overland conveyor system shall be covered. Major approach road shall be metal topped.
- (x) Drills should be wet operated only.
- (xi) Controlled blasting should be practiced with use of delay detonators. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest the fly rocks and boulders should be implemented.
- (xii) A progressive afforestation plan shall be prepared and implemented for the undisturbed area over surface where mining is being done below and shall include area brought under green belt development, along ML boundary, etc, by planting native species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.
- (xiii) Regular monitoring of groundwater level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and construction of new piezometers. The monitoring for quantity should be done four times a year in pre-monsoon (May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) seasons and for quality in May. Data thus collected should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and to the Central Pollution Control Board quarterly within one month of monitoring.
- (xiv) The Company shall put up artificial groundwater recharge measures for augmentation of groundwater resource. The project authorities should meet water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to dewatering of mine.
- (xv) No groundwater shall be used for mining operations. The company shall obtain approval of CGWA/CGWB Regional Office for use of groundwater, if any, for mining operations.
- (xvi) ETP should also be provided for workshop and CHP wastewater to treat to prescribed norms.
- (xvii) Besides carrying out regular periodic health check up of their workers, 10% of the workers identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, through an agency such as NIOH, Ahmedabad within a period of one year and the results reported to this Ministry and to DGMS.

For monitoring land use pattern and for post mining land use, a time series of land use maps, based on satellite imagery (on a scale of 1: 5000) of the core zone and buffer zone, from the start of the project until end of mine life shall be prepared once every 3 years (for any one particular season which is consistent in the time series), and the report submitted to MOEF and its Regional office at Bangalore.

- (xx) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.
- (xxi) R&R involving 688 families of 2 villages - Singaredipalli (590 families) and Chandanapur (98 families) shall be implemented within an agreed time frame and shall be based not less than that prescribed by the State Government or the National R&R Policy whichever is higher.
- (xxii) Consent to Operate shall be obtained before starting mining operations with fulfilment of conditions imposed in NOC.

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 in the buffer zone for SPM, RPM, SO₂ and NO_x 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) Fugitive dust emissions (SPM and RPM) from all the sources should be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, wagon loading, dump trucks (loading and unloading) points should be provided and properly maintained.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (SPM, RPM, SO₂ and NO_x) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bangalore and to the State Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (vi) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc should be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (vii) Industrial wastewater (workshop and wastewater 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 before discharge. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (viii) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transporting the mineral should be covered with tarpaulins and optimally loaded.
- (ix) Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (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 dust and to take corrective measures, if needed.
- (xi) 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 company.
- (xii) 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 this Ministry and its Regional Office at Bangalore.
- (xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The Project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the office(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/ information/monitoring reports.
- (xiv) A copy of the clearance letter shall be marked to concerned Panchayat/ local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) 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 within seven days 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 the website of the ministry of Environment & 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 and attract the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

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)
Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat, Hyderabad.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (SZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, 4th Floor, F-Wing, Kenriya Sadan Block, Kormangala, Bangalore – 560034.
4. Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, 2nd Floor, HUDA Complex, Maitrivanam, S.R.Nagar, Ameerpet, Opp. Sarathi Studio, Hyderabad – 500038.
5. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi -110032.
6. Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
7. District Collector, Karimnagar, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
8. Monitoring File 9. Guard File 10. Record File

(Dr.T.Chandini)
Director