

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(IMPACT ASSESSMENT DIVISION)  
NON-COAL MINING SECTOR**

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF NON-COAL MINING PROJECTS CONSTITUTED UNDER THE EIA NOTIFICATION, 2006.**

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Re-constitution of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Environmental Appraisal of Mining Projects (Non-Coal) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was held during 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 through video conference. The list of participants is annexed herewith. After login of the Committee Members through video conference link provided by NIC, discussion on each of the Agenda Items was taken up ad-seriatim.

**(1.0) Deliberation & Circulation on the Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023:**

The minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 were placed before the members of the EAC. The Member Secretary informed the EAC regarding the following corrigendum: -

S. No	Reference as per Minutes of 9 <sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 17-18 January, 2023	Typographical error/ Corrigendum	Recommendation of EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023
1	Agenda 1.4, Point 2 (iii), Line 14, Pg. no: 42	The Project Proponent submitted the information on 28.12.2022 in Parivesh and accordingly the proposal was reconsidered in the 9 <sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 17-18 January, 2023 based on the Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022.	The Project Proponent submitted the information on 28.12.2022 in Parivesh and accordingly the proposal was reconsidered in the 9 <sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 17-18 January, 2023.
2	Agenda 1.5, Point 2 (iii), Line 14, Pg. no: 54	The Project Proponent submitted the information on 28.12.2022 in Parivesh and accordingly the	The Project Proponent submitted the information on 28.12.2022 in Parivesh and accordingly the

	proposal was reconsidered in the 9 <sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 17-18 January, 2023 based on the Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022.	proposal was reconsidered in the 9 <sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 17-18 January, 2023.
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**Day 1: 08.02.2023 (Wednesday)**

**1.1 Guma II Limestone Block of M/s. UltraTech Cement Ltd with Limestone Production Capacity: 1.50 Million TPA (ROM), Topsoil: 52,623 cu.m, Overburden: 3,23,257 cu.m, Subgrade/Mineral Reject: 0.105 MTPA along with installation of Crusher with Wobbler of 1500 TPH Capacity and Installation of a New Belt Conveyor (length 4.05 km) from Crusher to the Plant in the mine lease area of 249.03ha located at Villages: Guma, Sarseni, Khapradih, Tehsil: Palari&Simga, District: BalodaBazar-Bhata, Chhattisgarh - [File. No: J-11015/09/2019-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/CG/MIN/87280/2018, Consultant: J.M. EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.] -Environmental Clearance (EC)**

The instant proposal is for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) of M/s. UltraTech Cement Ltd for mining of Limestone in Guma II Limestone Block with Limestone Production Capacity: 1.50 Million TPA (ROM), Topsoil: 52,623 cu.m, Overburden: 3,23,257 cu.m, Subgrade/Mineral Reject: 0.105 MTPA along with installation of Crusher with Wobbler of 1500 TPH Capacity and Installation of a New Belt Conveyor (length 4.05 km) from Crusher to the Plant in the mine lease area of 249.03ha located at Villages: Guma, Sarseni, Khapradih, Tehsil: Palari & Simga, District: BalodaBazar-Bhata, Chhattisgarh.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude 21°34'50.98807"N to 21°36'07.75979"N and Longitude 82°02'35.10228"E to 82°03'37.91742"E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: F44Q2, F44P14, F44Q2 & F44Q3 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and 2(b) Mineral beneficiation.
- iii. The proposal was earlier considered in the 45<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) Meeting held during 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 wherein the Committee deferred the proposal for want of requisite information. The Project Proponent vide letter dated 30.09.2022 submitted the information on 04.10.2022 in Parivesh portal and accordingly the proposal was reconsidered in the 6<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 9-11 November, 2022 as per

Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022. During the EAC meeting, it was informed to the EAC that the Project Proponent vide email dated 10.11.2022 updated that the Letter of Intent (LoI) for the instant mine was expired on 30.04.2022 and consequently application for extension of Letter of Intent (LoI) was submitted to the State Department and the matter is still under consideration and hence requested to defer the proposal. Therefore, the EAC deferred the proposal based on the request of the Project Proponent and was of the view that the proposal may be considered only after the submission of the valid Letter of Intent (LoI). Now, the Project Proponent submitted the information on 14.01.2023 in Parivesh portal stating that the Mineral Resource Dept., Govt. of Chhattisgarh vide letter dated 13.01.2023 have extended the validity of Letter of Intent (LoI) for the period upto 30.04.2023 and accordingly the proposal was reconsidered in the 10<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 08.02.2023 based on Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022.

Based on observation of EAC in its 45<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) Meeting held during 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, compliance of observation of EAC made by the Project Proponent, are detailed below:

S. No	Observation of EAC	Reply by Project Proponent
1	Since the mine is going to operate at full capacity only after the 5th year, the Committee felt that the proposal to install the conveyor belt should be reworked and mine should start only with conveyor belt to avoid additional impacts over and above the already operating mine. The erection of crusher within the mine should be concurrent with conveyor belt.	The Project Proponent agreed for installation of crusher with start of mining operation & installation of covered conveyor belt will also concurrent with the erection of crusher. PP also submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 50 bearing no: Z 742700 stating that the limestone will not be transported to Rawan-Jhipan Limestone mines for crushing and taking back to Cement Plant. The crusher will be installed at Guma-II Limestone mine and material will be transported through covered conveyor belt to cement plant.  PP also submitted that initial 1 <sup>st</sup> year is the developmental stage and in 2 <sup>nd</sup> year there is only top soil & OB generation. In 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 0.5 million tonnes of limestone will be generated. Hence, in initial 2 years Crusher & Covered Conveyor Belt will be installed and mineral will be transported after crushing via covered conveyor belt from the start of the limestone production.
2	The Project Proponent	The Project Proponent submitted that the

	<p>needs to submit the detailed note on hydrogeological study and impact of drawl of water from the mine on canal, nearest pond as well as on the ground water since the ground water level exists at depth of 8- 14m bgl.</p>	<p>Mahanadi Canal flows adjacent to the mine site in East direction &amp; 50 m safety barrier has been left. It is a lined canal hence, possibility of interaction of canal water with groundwater is eliminated which in turn eliminates the effect of radius of influence to the canal water. Protective bund along the mine boundary towards the Canal (L*W*H = 5084m x 40m x 8m) will be prepared &amp; same will be stabilized by plantation. 2 water ponds exist one at ~50 m &amp; ~200 m distance in SE direction. Deepening, harvesting, desilting &amp; maintenance of ponds will be carried out in consultation with the Gram Panchayat. Besides this, one large village pond will be adopted and proposed for rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge proposal outside the mine area in village Sarseni at a distance of 0.50 km in SW direction. Budget proposed for the Rainwater Harvesting structures is Rs. 12 Lakh. The maximum seepage that may occur in the mine pit is 331 KLD. Based on same the radius of influence due to this groundwater dewatering will be up to 242 m. The water level being as low as 8 to 13 m the interaction of groundwater and surface water in the entire region is minimal therefore any effect of dewatering from the mine, effecting the groundwater levels will not affect the surface water sources in the study area. Detailed Hydrogeology study has been carried out &amp; NOC for ground water intersection has been obtained from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) dated 29.04.2021 &amp; valid upto 28.04.2023. Further, PP submitted the map showing the Garland Drains, Retaining Walls, Sedimentation Tank/Siltation Pond etc.</p>
3	<p>The Project Proponent needs to revise the air quality modeling by considering all the activity of the operating mines in the vicinity of the mine lease area and should indicate the</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that the Air Quality modeling has been carried out by considering all the activities of the operating mines in the vicinity of the mine lease area. PP submitted that there are six industries/mines located in the study area. Model simulations have been carried out for 5 mines i.e., Guma I,</p>

	<p>capacity of the each mine considered for predication of air quality modeling. The control case and worst case scenario needs to be demonstrated with controlling factor and GLCs values for all the pollutants needs to be clearly mentioned. The input parameters used for the modeling also needs to be submitted.</p>	<p>II, Paraswani Limestone Mine, Rawan Jhipan Mine and Karhi-Chandi Limestone Mine to obtain an optimum description of variations in concentration over the site in 10 km radius covering 16 directions. Emission rates are calculated from the activities including Drilling, Mineral Loading, Haul Road, Mineral Unloading, Crusher Plant, Stock Yard, Exposed Pit Surface, Exposed Waste Dump, Waste Loading and Unloading.</p> <p>PP reported that the cumulative concentration of the controlled case scenario observed to be PM<sub>10</sub>: 94.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>: 50.83 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>: 19.6 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub> 31.06 µg/m<sup>3</sup> which is well within the NAAQS Standards.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Since many mines are operating in the vicinity of the mine lease area and the background air quality is already in the saturation zone, PP needs to further strengthen the measures taken for controlling dust from the mining activity including transportation and more effective EMP be submitted.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that the transportation of limestone will be carried out via covered conveyor belt from the start of the mining operation. AAQ parameters in the study area have been found well within prescribed norms; though the values were found more at Plant location due to operational activities of plant &amp; minimum results were found at village-Saradih &amp; at proposed mine site as there is no major source of air pollution. However, the following mitigation measures will be adopted to mitigate air pollution generated due to the mining activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Drilling machines will be equipped with wet drilling arrangements by water injection system.</li> <li>ii. Optimum use of explosive energy help in reducing the air pollution.</li> <li>iii. Rock breaker is proposed to be used in place of secondary blasting for breaking over size boulders.</li> <li>iv. Water spray on blasted muck pile before loading.</li> <li>v. Permanent water sprinklers on main haulage road will be provided.</li> <li>vi. One water tanker (28 KL) will be provided for water sprinkling on haul roads &amp; mining areas.</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vii. All mines road from loading to destination place (dumping site) will be maintained properly with soil compactor/motor grader.</li> <li>viii. Crusher will be installed with bag filters and water sprinkling system.</li> <li>ix. Crusher hopper area will include flexible curtains.</li> <li>x. Mist fog system (Atomized water sprinkler) will be installed at crusher hopper.</li> <li>xi. All belt transfer points will be having bag filters for dust collection.</li> <li>xii. Regular Water sprinkling will be done on haulage roads &amp; loading &amp; unloading area to arrest dust from becoming air borne.</li> <li>xiii. Pollution under control (PUC) checking of mining equipment will be done with the help of Govt. approved agencies in every six months for periodical monitoring.</li> <li>xiv. Proper maintenance (preventive as well as scheduled maintenance), oiling and greasing of HEMMs will be done to minimize gaseous pollutants.</li> <li>xv. One Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station will be installed within the mine and 3 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations will be installed in nearby 3 villages viz. Guma, Sarseni, Khapradih.</li> <li>xvi. Monitoring Results will be displayed at Mines Main Gate.</li> <li>xvii. Development of greenbelt/plantation around mine boundary, roads, vicinity of the conveyor, crusher and transit points and other places will be carried out to trap fugitive dust.</li> <li>xviii. Personal protective equipment's i.e. Dust masks will be provided to mine workers</li> </ul>
5	The Project proponent needs to submit the cost benefit analysis comparing	The Project Proponent submitted that the Limestone production capacity of Guma II Block (MLA: 249.03 ha) is 3.5 Million TPA. PP

	<p>the current agricultural production and annual turnover including the cost and the benefits drawn by the local villages vis-a-vis the mineral cost and beneficiaries.</p>	<p>submitted that an amount of Rs. 247.785 Crore/Annum of income will be generated from limestone mining whereas Rs. 67.386 Lakh will be generated from agriculture crops considering 33 years life of mine. The limestone will be further utilized in the production of Cement Plant which will add up to the revenue generation. PP reported that the cost benefit analysis ratio as 1:121.</p> <p>PP also submitted that the employment opportunities will be provided as per eligibility and requirement which will ensure the stable and continuous income in the family. Generating income for the local Govt. thereby directly contribution to its economy. Beside this, nearby villagers will also be benefitted due to the CSR and direct &amp; indirect employment generation.</p>
6	<p>The Project Proponent should increase the capacity of the dumpers with a view to reduce the no. of trips and accordingly PP should revise the transportation plan and incorporate in the EIA/EMP report.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that as per the advice of the EAC, it is proposed to install the Crusher &amp; Covered Conveyor Belt from the start of the mining operation. Therefore, there will be no transportation via road outside the mine lease area.</p>
7	<p>The Committee not agreed with the project proponent proposal of transporting the excavated material from current mine to Rawan Jhipan mine and taking back to the Cement plant. Accordingly PP shall submit the Affidavit.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent agreed to transport the excavated material from the mine site to Cement Plant via covered conveyor belt. PP also submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 50 bearing no: Z-742700 stating that the limestone will not be transported to Rawan-Jhipan Limestone mines for crushing and taking back to Cement Plant. The crusher will be installed at Guma-II Limestone mine and material will be transported through covered conveyor belt to cement plant.</p>
8	<p>The Project Proponent needs to submit the map demarcating the mineralized and non-mineralized zone in the grazing land of</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted the map demarcating the mineralized &amp; non-mineralized zone in the grazing land of 27.722 ha. According to Govt. Land schedule Khasra no 6, 31/3, 2, 16 and 215 covers a total area of</p>

	<p>27.722ha. If grazing land is non-mineralized zone, PP should submit the plan for its protection and accessibility ensuring that no any activity will be carried out in the grazing land and if it's a mineralized zone, PP should showcase the plan for compensatory grazing land.</p>	<p>27.722 ha which comes under the grass land falling in villages Guma &amp; Sarseni. Out of the 27.722 ha area of grass land, 17.1 ha area comes under the ultimate pit limit and 10.7 ha falls under non-mining zone. According to Chhattisgarh Gazette Notification dated 05.05.2016, Collector has been empowered that the Company may divert such Govt. land allotted for mining purpose, when the equivalent land will be provided within the same village. Therefore, as per this Gazette Notification, the PP will provide the alternate land in against of total 27.722 ha of Grass land in the same villages. Process for the same is already started. The budget earmarked for the same is Rs 12.34 Cr. However, all Rules, Regulations &amp; Guideline of State will be followed strictly to purchase the land during the working on grass land.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>The Committee noted that Guma village is located about ~100m, SE. Hence, the PP needs to submit the mathematical modeling for anticipated ground vibration due to blasting. PP needs to provide the details of the nearest village/structure, nearest distance from the blasting zone, quantity of explosives used, kg and PPV, mm/s. The results are to be compared with the limiting values prescribed by Director General of Mine Safety (DGMS). PP also needs to submit the anticipated impact and mitigative measures to be taken from the viewpoint of protection of Mahanadi Canal from the blasting and other mining activity.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that the Blasting &amp; Vibration study has been conducted by the Department of Mining Engineering, National institute of Technology, Raipur (CG) to establish a ground vibration predictor equation for Guma II Limestone Mine. The study was conducted from 12.07.2022 to 23.08.2022. 14 blasts were monitored at different benches of the operating pit of the Guma I Limestone Mine &amp; 30 sets of ground vibration data were captured. The dominant excitement frequency of the vibration wave, as determined by software, is &gt;25 Hz. The ground vibration prediction equation developed for the Guma I mine is <math>V = 3881(D/\sqrt{Q})^{-1.82}</math>. Each blast will be monitored for ground vibration when the face reaches 200m from the houses in Village Guma/Canal, the monitoring will be done near the structure. If PPV exceeds the values, the charge per delay will be reduced. A safety barrier of at least 50 m will be left to protect the canal. Maximum safe charge/delay will be chosen so as to have PPV &lt;10/15 mm/sec (*) near village, structures, canal etc.</p>



		<p>PP also vide email and letter dated 08.02.2023 submitted the revised SOPs of blasting as per the recommendation of the National Institute of Technology, Raipur Blasting Study Report. Further, PP committed that compliance report of the same will also be submitted with the six-monthly EC Compliance Report.</p>
10	<p>The Project Proponent needs to submit the compensatory afforestation plan for removal of 585 no. of trees.</p>	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that there are approx 585 nos of trees are present within the mine which will be cut during the mining process. Before cutting down the trees, the PP will approach the Forest Department to visit the site for demarcation of trees with their type. PP will replant the same in consultation with the experts. Removal of tree will be done as per the governing law of the Chhattisgarh State.</p> <p>PP proposed to undertake the plantation along the road side in 3 Villages i.e. Guma, Sarseni &amp; Khapradih (Total nos of saplings 3000) and avenue plantation to be developed as per the availability along the road side land. Budget earmarked for the same is Rs. 12 Lakh.</p> <p>According to Plan, total area for the greenbelt is 5.4 ha, out of which greenbelt will be developed in 2.44 ha area of purchased land within 3 years of start of mining operation and in remaining area i.e. 2.96 ha greenbelt will be developed from 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> year after purchasing the land. Plantation will be carried out covering 20.33 ha area to stabilize the bund from 3<sup>rd</sup> year to 15<sup>th</sup> year and an area of 78.30 ha by backfilling during 16<sup>th</sup> year to 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the proposed plan. An amount of Rs. 4.03 Crore have been earmarked for greenbelt &amp; plantation till the end of life of mine @ Rs 155/sapling (including plantation and maintenance cost). Beside this, 1.96 ha area will be covered under bench plantation with 4900 nos of trees &amp; budget earmarked for the same is Rs. 7.59 Lakh. Greenbelt/plantation will be done @ 2500</p>

		trees/ha. Survival rate will be maintained at 90%. The budget includes the cost of Saplings, Watering facilities, Labour Charge, Organic manure, Bio-fertilizers, Maintenance, fencing etc., which may vary in due course of time.
11	The Project Proponent needs to submit the map clearly demarcating the mineralized, non-mineralized zone, agriculture land, grazing land, water bodies, settlements and other surface features in the vicinity of the mine lease area.	The Project Proponent submitted that the entire mine lease area is mineralized. PP submitted the map demarcating the agriculture land, grazing land, water bodies, settlements and other surface features in the vicinity of the mine lease area.
12	The EMP for public hearing concern w.r.t the health issue on animals to be addressed through engagement with the local bodies and the Veterinary Department. PP needs to provide the budget for the same.	The Project Proponent submitted that the EMP for public hearing concern w.r.t the health issue on animals will be addressed through engagement of the local bodies and the Veterinary Department and budget proposed for the same is Rs. 50,000/-. A letter has been already submitted to Veterinary Department on 23.09.2022 in this regard.
13	The Project Proponent needs to submit the EC compliance report of all operating mines owned by PP, as there was a concern raised during public hearing regarding plantation.	The Project Proponent submitted that the EC compliance for Guma I Mine and Rawan-Jhipian mine was last submitted to the Integrated Regional Office on 24.05.2022. Plantation has been already developed in Guma I mine covering an area of 3.6 ha with 10,000 no.s of trees & Rawan-Jhipian Mine covering an area of 101.67 ha with 2,25,290 no.s of trees.
14	The Project Proponent needs to submit the letter obtained from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) that there is no forest land involved in the mine lease area and there is no National Park,	The Project Proponent submitted that there is no forest land involved in the mine lease area and there is no National Park, Wild Life Sanctuary, Tiger Reserves and Wildlife Corridors etc. within 10 km radius of the study area and Letter has been obtained from the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life) Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, vide letter no./V.Pra/Steno/Prabandh-510/2449

	Wild Life Sanctuary, Tiger Reserves and Wildlife Corridors etc. within 10 km radius of the study area as shown in the slide no: 5 of the presentation during the meeting.	dated 24.06.2022.
15	The Project Proponent submitted the list of flora and fauna in the Wildlife Conservation Plan as Annexure 5 and not a separate letter authenticated by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) submitted. Hence, the PP needs to submit the separate letter for list of flora and fauna in the 10km study area authenticated by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF).	The Project Proponent submitted that the list of flora and fauna within the 10 km study area has been authenticated by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (APCCF) Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, vide letter no./V.Pra/Steno/Prabandh510/2449 dated 24.06.2022 and it has been informed that the Wildlife conservation plan is received for approval after being examined and recommended by the Wild Life Warden. After this, an order is issued by this office approving the complete booklet of Wildlife Conservation Scheme after thorough examination. The approved booklet contains almost all the information sought by the committee. Therefore, there is no need to issue a separate formal certificate. PP also vide email and letter dated 08.02.2023 submitted the copy of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.
16	The Project Proponent needs to submit the English translation of Public Hearing minutes and other documents in compliance to the ToR S. No: 49 (d).	The Project Proponent submitted the translation of the English version of public hearing. PP vide email and letter dated 08.02.2023 submitted the notarized copy of English translated Public Hearing Minutes of Meeting.
17	The Project Proponent needs to submit all the analysis/testing reports of water, air, soil, noise, etc. using the MoEF&CC/NABL accredited laboratories.	The Project Proponent submitted that the Baseline data was analyzed in the NABL approved laboratory "JM EnviroLab Pvt. Ltd." (Certificate no TC-6821). PP submitted the copies of the analysis report of ambient air quality monitoring, noise level monitoring, water quality and soil quality.

iv. The details of the Terms of References (TOR) are furnished as below:

Date of application	Proposal No	Consideration	Details	Date of accord
01.12.2018	IA/CG/MIN/	January 22-23,	For mining of Limestone	22.02.2019

	87280/2018	2019	block with Limestone Production Capacity: 3.5 Million TPA (ROM), Top Soil: 0.038 Million TPA, Over Burden: 0.690 Million TPA, Sub Grade: 0.320 Million TPA and Mineral Reject: 0.560 Million TPA with installation of Crusher with Wobbler of 1500 TPH Capacity and Installation of a new Conveyor (length 4.05 km) from Crusher to the Plant in the mine lease area of 249.03ha.	
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v. Details of Mine lease:

S.no	Letter of Intent/ Grant of mine lease order	Date of the grant	Name of the Mineral & (Major/ Minor)	Period of Grant	Granted by	Mine lease area in Ha
1	Letter of Intent (LOI) for grant of mining lease vide letter no F-3-09/2017/12	01.05.2018	Limestone (Major)	3 years	Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh	249.03
2	Amendment in LOI dated 01.05.2018, that the 6 months period is replaced by 3 years in the first line of Para-4 (d) and in the second line of section-6, twenty six crores thirty seven lakhs seventy six thousand is replaced by the words twenty one crores thirty seven lakhs seventy six	22.06.2018	Limestone (Major)	3 years	Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh	249.03

	thousand.					
3	Extension of Validity of LOI for another 1 year vide Lr No: F3-09/2017/12,	27.07.2021	Limestone (Major)	01.05.2021 to 30.04.2022	Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh	249.03
4	Extension of Validity of LOI vide Lr No: F3-09/2017/12,	13.01.2023	Limestone (Major)	Valid upto 30.04.2023	Mineral Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh	249.03

vi. Land use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private Agriculture land	215.874 ha
Government land	33.156 ha (27.722 ha Grazing land)
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	249.03 ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	Nil
Additional information (if any)	PP submitted that as per Chhattisgarh Gazette Notification dated 05.05.2016, Collector has been empowered that they may divert such Govt land allotted for mining purpose, when the equivalent land provided for the purpose within the same village. Therefore, as per this Gazette Notification, alternate land for 27.722 ha of Grass land will be provided to the same villages respectively and process for the same is already started. PP earmarked a budget of Rs 12.34 Cr for the same. However, all Rules, Regulations & Guidelines of the State will be followed to purchase the land during the working on Grass land.

vii. Mining Plan Details:

Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)	Letter No.	Balodabazar/Chup/Khyo-1167/2018-Raipur/ 1121
	Date	11.10.2018
	Mineral	Limestone
	Validity	5 years from the date of execution of mining lease deed
	Mine lease area	249.03 ha
Mining Parameter	Quantitative Description	
Method of Mining	Fully Mechanized Opencast Method by combination of shovel and dumper with drilling and blasting.	
Total Geological Resources	124 Million Tonnes	
Total Mineable	100.36 Million Tonnes (Includes 5.22 million Tonnes of	

Reserves	blocked reserves in transmission line)
Life of mine	33 Years
Mine Bench Height & Width	Bench Height: 3 & 4 m for OB and 8 m for Limestone Bench Width: 30 m
No. of Mine Benches	OB – 01 Limestone – 04 nos Total – 05 nos
Individual bench slope	80°
Overall pit slope	45°
Drilling/Blasting	PP reported that the drilling will be carried out by crawler mounted DTH hammer Drill machine with a dia of 115mm, depth of 8.8m and no. of holes per round will be 35-40. PP also reported that various types of explosives such as ANFO, SME etc. will be used for blasting.
Loading	Hydraulic excavator of 6.5 cu.m bucket capacity will be used for excavation and loading of blasted limestone into 55 tonnes capacity rear dumpers.
Transportation	As submitted earlier, transportation of limestone from the working faces to the crusher will be carried out by Dumpers/Tippers. Further crushed limestone will be transported to Rawan Cement Plant initially by Road and from 6 <sup>th</sup> year by proposed covered conveyor belt (4.05 kms) and to Hirmi Cement Plant via Road with 25 T capacity of covered tippers for 10.5 kms distance. As suggested by the Hon'ble EAC, limestone will be transported via covered conveyor belt (4.05 kms) to Rawan Cement Plant & to Hirmi Cement Plant via Road with 35 T capacity of covered tippers covering 10.5 kms distance.
RoM output size	1200mm
Crushing & Screening	PP reported that Crushing & Screening Plant proposed is a single rotary impact type with wobbler having capacity of 1500 TPH. Before crushing there will be a system to segregate R.O.M in (+) 50 mm and (-) 50 mm through wobbler. Only (+) 50 mm material will be fed to crusher and (-) 50 mm material after screening shall be brought to the product (-50mm and +10mm) site through separate conveyors discharging the crushed product to desired size finally to the crusher line conveyor (-10 mm fraction will form rejects). Crusher to be installed from 6 <sup>th</sup> year onwards.
Mineral beneficiation	PP submitted that the project neither involves any wet mineral beneficiation process nor any chemical mineral beneficiation process.
Generation of Topsoil/ OB & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	Top Soil: During the Plan Period, 0.253 Million Tonnes of Top Soil will be generated and at conceptual stage, 1.35 Million tonnes of top soil will be generated. Same will be used for Plantation/Green belt development. Over Burden: During the Plan Period, 1.775 Million Tonnes of OB will be

	generated and at conceptual stage, 24.04 Million Tonnes of OB will be generated. Out of the 24.04 Million Tonnes, 20.91 Million Tonnes will be used for backfilling & remaining 3.13 Million Tonnes OB will be used to make the bund (Length x Width x Height = 5084m x 40m x 8m) along the canal on 20.33 ha area. Later on, backfilled area and the bund will be stabilized by plantation. Slope for bund will be maintained at 34angle.
Generation of Mineral Rejects/ Waste & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	PP reported that during the plan period, 0.227 Million Tonnes of Subgrade & Mineral Reject will be generated and at conceptual stage, 10 Million Tonnes of Sub Grade & 19.03 Million Tonnes of Mineral Reject will be generated. Same will be used for backfilling & later on, backfilled area will be rehabilitated by plantation.
Conceptual Land use	PP reported that total excavated area will be 201 ha, out of which 78.30 ha will be backfilled and 122.70 ha will be converted into water reservoir. Greenbelt will be developed along the 7.5 m wide mine periphery on 5.40 ha. Plantation will be done on 98.63 ha (78.30 ha on backfilled area and 20.33 ha to stabilized the bund (40m width) along the mine boundary towards canal). An area of 22.3 ha area will remain undisturbed.
Ultimate Working Depth	233m AMSL (39m bgl)
Water Table	264 to 258m AMSL (8 -14m bgl)
Ground water intersection	Water table will be intersected due to mining activities. Ground water will be withdrawal & intersected after taking the permission from Central Ground Water Authority. NOC for ground water withdrawal (250 KLD) and dewatering (138 KLD) has been obtained from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), dated 29.04.2021 & valid upto 28.04.2023

viii. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	250.0 KLD (Fresh water: 237.0 KLD & Treated water: 13.0 KLD)	Dust Suppression	185.0 KLD
		HEMM Operation & Washing	15.0 KLD
		Green Belt/ Plantation	45.0 KLD
		Drinking/Domestic & Sanitation	5.0 KLD
Source	Mine pit & Bore wells		
Permission	NOC for ground water abstraction obtained from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) vide NOC No. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2021/11784 dated 29.04.2021 for ground water abstraction of fresh water of 250.0 KLD and dewatering of 138.0 KLD for the period ending upto 28.04.2023.		

ix. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies

Particulars	Villages	Distance & Direction
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Nearest Village	Guma	~0.1 km, SE
Nearest Town/ City	Baloda Bazar	~12 km, NE
Nearest Highway	SH-10	~9.5 km, NNE
Nearest Railway Station	Bhatapara Railway Station	~ 17.5 km, NW
Water Bodies	Mahanadi canal Chitwar Nala Khorsi Nala Jhorkhi Nala Ameri Diversion Canal Banjari Nala Kukardih Talav Risda Canal Tengna Nala Kauwa Nala	~ Adjacent, East ~0.5 km, East ~4.0 km, South ~4.5 km, SSE ~7.5 km, West ~5.0 km, WNW ~6.5 km, NE ~7.0 km, NE ~7.0 km, ESE ~9.0 km, ESE
Monument	None	-
Forest	Dhabadih RF	~4.0 km in NE direction

x. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/Protected Area/Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/ No	Details of Certificate/letter/ letter issued by the concerned Department mentioning the Lr no, date of grant and remarks
Forest Land within the mine lease area and (if yes) status of Forest Clearance	No	i. No forest land involved within the ML Area. ii. No National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant/Tiger Reserve, ESZ, ESA, CRZ in the study area. iii. Certificate along with authenticated location map has been obtained from Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wild Life Warden Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, vide letter no. V. Pra./Prabandh-510/3557 dated 28.09.2021. iv. As suggested by the Hon'ble EAC the PP approached to APCCF Office & obtained letter from the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life) Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh, vide letter no./V.Pra/Steno/Prabandh-510/2449 dated 24.06.2022.
National Park	No	
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Elephant/Tiger Reserve	No	
Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) /Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA)	No	There is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger Reserve falling within the 10 km study area. Hence, there is no ESZ/ESA in study area.
Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)	No	The proposed mine is located in District Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara of State Chhattisgarh, which is not a coastal zone. Therefore, the proposed mine does not come under purview of CRZ notification.
Schedule-I species (No.s and name of schedule-I species with authenticated letter)	Yes	As per the field survey of the area according to (IWPA) Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, there are two Schedule I faunal species i.e. Monitor Lizard ( <i>Varanus bengalensis</i> ) and Indian Python



		( <i>Python molurus</i> ) recorded in the study area.
Wildlife Conservation Plan	Yes	PP submitted the Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan prepared by Nova Nature Welfare Society, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and approved by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wild Life Warden, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, vide letter no. V. Pra./Prabandh-510/3557 dated 28.09.2021 with a budget of Rs 18.0 Lakh for a period of 2 years.

xi. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation and no. of saplings proposed	Proposed Area for Greenbelt/Plantation: 78.3 Ha, Nos of Saplings: 2,60,075
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs 4.03 Crore
Budget for nursery	Nursery is already existing in Plant. Same will be used for mine.
Details of existing plantation and its survival rate	Not Applicable, as it is proposed mine.
No. of tree cuts in the mine lease area and compensatory afforestation	There are approx 585 nos of trees will be cut during the mining process. It is proposed to undertake the plantation along the road side in 3 Villages i.e. Guma, Sarseni & Khapradih (Total nos of saplings 3000) and Avenue Plantation to be developed as per the availability along the road side land. Budget earmarked for the same is Rs. 12 Lakh. According to Plan, total area for the greenbelt/plantation is 78.30 ha. Rs. 4.03 Crore have been earmarked for greenbelt & plantation till the end of life of mine @ Rs 155/sapling (including plantation and maintenance cost). Beside this, 1.96 ha area will be covered under bench plantation with 4900 nos of trees & budget earmarked for the same is Rs. 7.59 Lakh. Greenbelt/plantation will be done @ 2500 trees/ha. Survival rate will be maintained at 90%.
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	5.4 Ha
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	There is no nallah, roads, electric lines falling within the ML Area. Mahanadi Canal flows adjacent to the mine site in east direction. Plantation will be carried out on 20.33 ha area.
500 m safety zones of nearest habitation villages	Habitation of Guma falling in SE direction of the mine site. Plantation will be carried

	out on 2.4 ha area within 600 m (length) safety zone of habitation of Guma. This area is included in above-mentioned 20.33 ha plantation.
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xii. Baseline details:

Period	December, 2018 to February, 2019 (Winter Season)				
AAQ parameters at 9 locations	Pollutant	Min, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Max, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	98 %le, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Standard, µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	PM2.5	26.1	48.5	48.0	60
	PM10	56.9	89.7	89.0	100
	SO2	5.5	14.6	14.4	80
	NOx	11.4	27.9	27.5	80
AAQ modelling (Incremental GLC) by AERMOD version 9.9.0 based on steady state Gaussian Plume Dispersion	Pollutant	Baseline Concentration, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Incremental Concentration, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Total GLC, µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Standard
	PM2.5	48.5	2.0	50.5	60
	PM10	89.7	4.3	94.0	100
	SO2	14.6	3.1	17.7	80
	NOx	27.9	4.7	32.6	80
Noise level at 10 locations	Day Time: 51.6 to 68.3 Leq dB (A) Night Time: 40.1 to 59.5 Leq dB (A)				
Ground water quality at 10 locations	PP submitted that pH varied from 7.11 to 8.21 indicating slightly alkaline to alkaline nature and maximum pH was recorded at mine site. The color and turbidity were within limits, and odour and taste were agreeable at all sampling locations. Total hardness (213.56 to 420.70 mg/l), alkalinity (213.65 to 387.65 mg/l) and total dissolved solids (406 to 666 mg/l) were medium; moreover, maximum hardness was found in the Village Semradih. The concentrations of other micro and macro nutrients were also at low level. The groundwater samples, including from plant (used RO Water) were observed to be good and complying to the drinking water standard (IS: 10500-2012).				
Surface water quality at 1 locations	PP submitted that the pH of collected water sample is 7.32 indicating slightly alkaline & productive to water body. Total hardness is 123.75 mg/l, Total dissolved solids 229 mg/l, total alkalinity is 91.85 mg/l and conductivity is 381 µs/cm. BOD is 3.7 mg/l, COD is 14.2 mg/l & DO is 6.3 mg/l indicating that mine sump water is clean. The analysis indicated that physical and chemical parameters are good and safe for aquatic biodiversity.				
Soil quality at 10 locations	PP submitted that the soil samples were greyish in colour indicating well drained soils. The texture of soil is silty loam and sandy loam. pH varied from 7.57 to 7.88 indicating slightly alkaline in nature. Water holding capacity (39.75% to 44.60%) and bulk density (1.30 to 1.44 g/cc) found to be ideal for the crops. Soil fertility found to be				

	average with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in average quantity in some samples in the study area.
Hydro geological study and results	PP submitted that the depth of mining is 233m AMSL. Water level is ranging from 264 to 258m AMSL (8 to 14m bgl). Annual average rainfall is 1254 mm. During 5 <sup>th</sup> year, water availability through rainfall is 453 KLD & through seepage is 331 KLD. Thus, total water availability after loss is 392 KLD. After 5 <sup>th</sup> year, water accumulated in mine pit will be sufficient to meet the overall water requirement. At conceptual stage, water availability through rainfall is 5617 KLD & through seepage is 1861 KLD. Thus, total water availability after loss is 3739 KLD. Out of which 1000 KLD will be utilized in Integrated Cement Plant & 250 KLD in Guma II Mine & surplus water will be supplied to nearby villagers. Ground water resources computation of the block in which the project falls by Ground Water Estimation Committee (GEC 2017). The radius of influence due to mining activities and ground water intersection up to present plan period is 200m.
Traffic study	PP reported that about 97% of Crushed Limestone will be transported from Guma Mine to Rawan Cement Plant via CCB covering 4.05 km distance whereas 3% of the crushed limestone will be transported from Rawan Cement Plant to Hirni Cement Plant covering 10.50 km distance via Road with 35 T capacity covered tippers. PP submitted that transportation will be done by using internal roads and there will be only 3 crossing points at public road between the Rawan Cement Plant to Hirni Cement Plant during the mineral transportation. Therefore, Traffic Study over public roads is not conducted.

xiii. Public Hearing (PH) Details

Advertisement for PH with date	Times of India Edition on 13.11.2020 Patrika Edition on 13.11.2020
Date of PH	16.12.2020
Venue	Courtyard in front of water tank, Village: Sarseni, Tehsil: Palari, District: Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh
Chaired by	Mr. Rajendra Gupta: Additional District Magistrate, Balodabazar-Bhatapara Mr. Manish Kashyap: Regional Officer, CECB, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Main issues raised during PH	i. Construction of cemented approach road ii. Construction of drains iii. Drinking water facilities iv. Infrastructure Development v. Employment vi. Land Compensation vii. Plantation Development
Budget proposed for addressing issues raised during PH	Rs 3.20 Crores

xiv. The Project Proponent reported that the total mine lease area is 249.03 ha, out of which 33.156 ha is Govt. land and 215.874 ha is Private land. Out of the total 215.874 ha Private land, 133.144 ha land has been purchased & remaining 82.73 ha land will be purchased. PP submitted that there is no habitation inside the mine lease area and there will be no displacement due to the proposed mining activities. PP also reported that there are 146 Project Affected Families (PAFs) having land only. The cost for the already purchased land is Rs. 59.90 crore & budget earmarked for the purchase of remaining land is Rs 37.046 crore. Thus, the total budget earmarked for the purchase of land is Rs. 96.946 crore. PP submitted that compensation will be paid directly to land owner. PP also submitted that the land for mining purpose is being/will be acquired through provisions of LARR Act, 2013 and Chhattisgarh LARR Act, 2019.

xv. Affidavit/Undertaking details:

Affidavit in a Non-Judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 bearing L 084298 dated 25.06.2019 as per Ministry's OM dated 30.05.2018	The company shall comply with all the statutory requirement & judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in writ Petition (civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India & Ors'.
Project Proponent submitted an Undertaking vide Letter dated 14.12.2021	PP submitted that we have reviewed the EIA report and take full responsibility and ownership of the contents presented in the EIA report by J.M. EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd. instructions as per MoEF&CC vide O.M. No. J-11013/41/2006-IA. II (I) dated 4 <sup>th</sup> August, 2009 has been followed in the preparation of this EIA Report.
Consultant submitted an Undertaking dated 14.12.2021	The Consultant submitted an undertaking to the effect that the conditions laid down in Terms of Reference prescribed by MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter no. J11015/09/2019-IA.II (M) dated 22.02.2019 have been complied as per data/details provided by Project Proponent & as per Approved Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by IBM and the data submitted are factually correct.
Plagiarism Certificate checked on 10.12.2021	The Head of the Accredited Consultant Organization/ Authorized person certified that this EIA Report has been evaluated by using online software viz., Plagiarism Checker X. The report produced has been analysed by the system and based on it, I certify that the EIA Report produce in accordance with good scientific practice.
Undertaking for no litigation vide letter dated 30.01.2023	The Project Proponent vide letter dated 30.01.2023 submitted an undertaking stating that there is no litigation pending against the project and/or any direction/order passed by any court of law against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed and that for any such litigation whatsoever, the sole

	responsibility will be borne by the company.
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xvi. Details of the EMP:

S. No.	Activities	Capital Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Recurring Cost (Rs. In Lakh)
<b>A. Mitigative Measures</b>			
1	Permanent water sprinkling arrangements for main haulage road (Length 0.5 km)	10.5	0.12
2	One water tanker (28KL) for water sprinkling in other roads and mining areas/activities.	80.0	10.5
3	Pollution Control Device (Bag filter at Crusher) Equipment and its installation Cost, Operation & Maintenance	20.0	3
4	Sprinkling system at crusher hopper and transfer point	2.0	0.1
5	Drip irrigation system for fruit orchard (Length of drip system is 1000 m X 3 lines)	3.0	0.05
6	Green belt around 7.5 m periphery covering an area of 5.40 ha within 10 years (No. of saplings: 13,500) (Considering Rs. 20.92 Lakh)	20.92	-
7	Plantation/Regrassing 78.30 ha on backfilled area from 16 <sup>th</sup> to 33 <sup>rd</sup> Year (No. of saplings: 195750) (Considering Rs. 294.63 Lakh)	-	16.86
8	Plantation on 20.33 ha on waste dump (40 m width) along with ML boundary towards canal) within initial 15 years (No. of saplings: 50,825) (Considering Rs. 78.778 Lakh) Top Bench Plantation nos of trees: 4900, Budget earmarked: Rs. 7.59 lakh	10.50 7.59	5.25 -
9	Rain Water Harvesting Plan	12	2
10	Construction of Garland Drain around working mining pits & along the bund (L*W*D = 4000 x 1.2 x 1)	2.0	1.65
11	Construction of retaining walls within the mine lease (L*W*D = 3900 x 0.6 x 1)	20	0.50
12	Construction of Channelized Catch Drains (L*W*H = 10 m x 5 m x 1 m)	0.5	0.2
13	Construction of 02 nos Settling Tank/Sedimentation Pond (Length x Width x Depth = 5 m x 5 m x3 m)	4	0.3
14	Construction of Protective Bunds along the water reservoir	0.6	0.20
15	Procurement of the Blast Vibration Measuring Instrument & Noise level meter	6	0.1
Sub Total		199.61	40.83
<b>B. Monitoring</b>			
1	One Online Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations at Mine Site and 3 Manually at villages: Guma, Sarseni &	50	4

	Khapradih		
2	Fugitive dust emission monitoring & Personal Dust Monitoring	1.0	1.5
3	Installation of 02 nos Piezometers in & around the mine area	3.4	0.1
4	Ground water quality analysis (08 locations * 04 times in a year)	-	1.2
5	Surface Water Quality Analysis (Upstream & downstream of Mahanadi Canal & Mine Sump) 2 samples * half yearly	-	0.2
6	Workshop Waste Water Quality Analysis (Monthly) as well as maintenance of oil-water separators	5	0.5
7	Peak Particle Velocity Monitoring for nearby habitation i.e. Guma, Kukurdih & Khapradih	3.0	0.5
8	Ambient Noise Monitoring (04 locations * quarterly frequency)	0.5	0.5
9	Providing Ear muffs/plus to workers working in high noise area & PPEs	2.0	1.0
Sub Total		64.9	9.5
Total (A + B)		264.51	50.33
C.	Estimated Budget for Conservation Plan	18	-
D.	Estimated budget for addressing the Public Hearing Issues (within 3 years)	320	20
E.	Others		-
1	Digital mapping of entire mine area once in three years (Rs. 4 .5 Lacs once in 3 years)	-	1.50
2	Occupational Health Check-up of Mines Employees	5.0	6.0
Grand Total (A + B + C + D + E)		607.51	77.83

xvii. Details of project cost and employment:

Particular	Budget (Rs. In Cr)
Total cost of EMP (Capital Cost of EMP + Capital cost of Public Hearing + Conservation plan)	6.07 crores (2.69 + 3.20 + 0.18)
Project Cost	180 crores
Employment	89 persons

### 3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -

The EAC noted that the instant proposal is for reconsideration of Environmental Clearance (EC) for mining of Limestone in Guma II Limestone Block with Limestone Production Capacity: 3.50 Million TPA (ROM) along with installation of Crusher with Wobbler of 1500 TPH Capacity and Installation of a New Belt Conveyor (length 4.05 km) from Crusher to the Plant in the mine lease area of

249.03ha. The EAC also noted that the instant proposal was reconsidered in the 10<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 as per Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022 and the OM mentioned that *“the proposals which have been considered/ appraised once by EAC either for TOR or EC, but final decision has not been taken, shall continue to be appraised at the Central level only, till final disposal for ToR/EC, even after the amendments in the EIA Notification are issued from to time regarding delegation of projects to SEIAAs”*. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the Government of Chhattisgarh have extended the validity of Letter of Intent (LoI) vide letter dated 13.01.2023 and is valid upto 30.04.2023.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the production will start in 3<sup>rd</sup> year as per approved mining plan and transportation will occur only through conveyor belt from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of starting of mining operations. There will be no transportation through road. In first two years only development work will take place. The EAC opined that the crusher along with conveyor should be installed / commissioned within two years from the date of issue of this EC and before start of mining operations.

The EAC observed that PP has submitted Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan and the same is approved by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wild Life Warden, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, vide letter dated 28.09.2021 with a budget of Rs 18.0 Lakhs for a period of 2 years. It was desired that the Project Proponent, after the execution of the mine lease deed and based on demand note by the Forest Dept. shall submit the approved amount, the same should be deposited within 3 months of the issuance of EC.

The EAC asked the Project Proponent whether the blasting study covered the impact on canal or not. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that Blasting & Vibration study has been conducted by the Department of Mining Engineering, National institute of Technology, Raipur (CG) to establish a ground vibration predictor equation for Guma II Limestone Mine and the study also covered the impact on the canal. The EAC opined that the Project Proponent needs to obtain the permission from the Irrigation Department for ensuring the safety of the canal. The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the Guma village is located about ~100m, SE. The experimental blasts are conducted in the adjoining mine since the instant mine is a proposed mine and accordingly study was carried out and recommendations were given by NIT. For this instant mine, blasting and vibration study will be conducted after the start of mining operations. The EAC asked about the distance of the nearest school from the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the School is located at a distance of 400m from the mine lease area and the strength of the school is 295 nos, A zone of 300m is kept as no mining zone and school falls outside the no mining zone. The EAC asked about the time of blasting. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the blasting will be conducted only once per day during lunch time. The EAC also asked the Project

Proponent to include the recommendations of NIT and accordingly to include in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for blasting. Further, the EAC opined that the direction of the blasting should not be towards the village, the orientation of the bench should be perpendicular to the village, PP should take adequate measures to prevent the fly rock falling onto the village and the Project Proponent needs to set up a permanent monitoring in the Guma village to monitor the blast vibration.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the alternate land of 27.722 ha of Grazing land will be provided in the same villages and the process for the same is already started. The budget earmarked for the same is Rs 12.34 Cr. The health issue on animals will be addressed through engagement of the local bodies and the Veterinary Department and budget proposed for the same is Rs. 50,000/-. The EAC asked the Proponent whether NTCA website was referred w.r.t Indravati Tiger Corridor. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that NTCA website was referred and Tiger Corridor is located more than 100km from the mine lease area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC the radius of the influence due to mining activities and ground water intersection is 200m based on the hydro geological study. Protective bund along the mine boundary towards the Canal (L\*W\*H = 5084m x 40m x 8m) will be prepared and the same will be stabilized by plantation. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that there are 146 Project Affected Families (PAFs) having land only. The total budget earmarked for the purchase of land is Rs. 96.946 crore. Preference will be given to the Project Affected Families for employment. The compensation will be given in phase wise to avoid the basic problems. Budget of Rs 3.20 Cr has been earmarked to address the public hearing concerns.

The EAC observed that as per 5 year approved Mining Plan, the maximum production capacity proposed in the 5<sup>th</sup> year is 1.50 MTPA only and the Environmental Clearance (EC) is sought for 3.5 MTPA. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the production of 3.50 MTPA will be achieved in the 6<sup>th</sup> year. The EAC also observed that no year wise calendar plan provided after the 5<sup>th</sup> year. Further, the EAC noted that the public hearing was conducted for 3.50 MTPA and EIA/EMP report was also prepared for 3.50 MTPA.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC (Non-Coal Mining) in its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 **recommended** the proposal under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to M/s. UltraTech Cement Ltd for mining of Limestone in Guma II Limestone Block with proposed production capacity of Limestone: 1.50 Million TPA, Topsoil: 52,623 cu.m, Overburden: 3,23,257 cu.m, Subgrade/Mineral Reject: 0.105 MTPA along with installation of Crusher with Wobbler of 1500 TPH Capacity and Installation of a New Belt Conveyor (length 4.05 km) from Crusher to the Plant in the mine lease area of 249.03ha, located at Villages: Guma, Sarseni, Khapradih, Tehsil: Palari & Simga, District: BalodaBazar-



Bhata, Chhattisgarh for subject to the following specific conditions in addition to the standard EC conditions applicable for non-coal mining projects: -

- i. The Project Proponent needs to execute the mine lease deed after obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC) and submit it to Ministry's IRO before expiry of Lol.
- ii. This Environmental Clearance will be valid upto 33 years as the life of the mine is 33 years.
- iii. The Project Proponent needs to install and commission the crusher and covered conveyor belt within two years from the date of issue of this EC. PP needs to ensure that the production, despatch/transportation of Limestone should begin only after the installation and commission of crusher and covered conveyor belt and shall intimate the same to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office. Accordingly, SPCB shall not grant Consent to Operate (CTO) till the commission of crusher and covered conveyor belt.
- iv. No road transportation of mineral is allowed. 100% of the mineral transportation shall be done only through covered conveyor belt to Rawan Cement Plant.
- v. This Environmental Clearance is accorded for production capacity of Limestone: 1.50 MTPA, Topsoil: 52,623 cu.m, Overburden: 3,23,257 cu.m, Subgrade/Mineral Reject: 0.105 MTPA as per approved Mine Plan by IBM.
- vi. No blasting activity shall be carried out within 500m radius of the school.
- vii. The Project Proponent shall carryout the blasting in such a way that the direction of the blasting should be perpendicular to the village and DGMS shall ensure the same.
- viii. The Project Proponent shall implement the recommendations of the Blasting & Vibration study conducted by the Department of Mining Engineering, National institute of Technology (NIT), Raipur to establish a ground vibration predictor equation for Guma II Limestone Mine. Revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for blasting in line with the recommendations of NIT shall be implemented. The implementation status of the same shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.
- ix. The Project Proponent shall monitor the ground induced blasting vibrations for every blast and the results are to be compared with the limiting values prescribed by Director General of Mine Safety (DGMS). PP shall ensure that

the values of “peak particle velocity” and “Air Over Pressure” shall be maintained below the permissible values prescribed by the DGMS, from time to time. The data needs to be maintained and submitted along with the six monthly compliance report.

- x. The Project Proponent shall not carry out the secondary blasting.
- xi. The Project Proponent needs to take adequate measures for protection of canal from the mine pit and vice versa and shall ensure the stability of the canal. No water shall be withdrawal from the canal or any other surface water.
- xii. Regular monitoring on surface water flow, turbidity & water quality shall be carried out and report shall be submitted quarterly to the Ministry’s Integrated Regional Office.
- xiii. The Project Proponent needs to obtain the prior permission from the Irrigation Department for ensuring the safety and stability of the Mahanadi canal.
- xiv. The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of utilizing the subgrade ore effectively.
- xv. The Project Proponent should take adequate measures to prevent the fly rock falling onto the village and also the Project Proponent needs to set up a permanent monitoring in the Guma village to monitor the blast vibration, as well as in Sarseni, Khapradih villages to monitor the health and environmental impacts.
- xvi. The Project Proponent should install the continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) as per the scientific study and in consultation with CPCB/SPCB. The real time data so generated should be displayed digitally at entry and exit gate of mine lease area for public display and shall be linked to server of CPCB/SPCB.
- xvii. The Project Proponent needs to use modern equipment’s such as Camera Traps for ensuring presence and movement of wild animals in the study area in consultation with Wildlife Wing of Forest Department. Appropriate interventions shall be taken to minimise stress conditions for wild animals and to avoid Man-Animal conflict.
- xviii. The Project Proponent shall deposit the approved amount of Rs 18.0 Lakhs towards Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan and the proof of payment shall be submitted to the Ministry’s Integrated Regional Office within three months of issue of EC.

- xix. The Project Proponent should follow-up the status of implementation on Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan from the Forest Officials and the same shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office in the six monthly compliance report.
- xx. The Project Proponent needs to install the permanent water sprinklers along the haul road and the approach road. Further, 10 nos. of fog canon/mist sprayer of atleast 40 m throw shall be installed at various locations in the mine area.
- xxi. The air pollution control equipment's like bag filters, vacuum suction hoods, dry fogging system etc. shall be installed at Crushers, and other areas prone to air pollution. PP shall take necessary measures to avoid generation of fugitive dust emissions. The dense plantation shall be carried out in the vicinity of the crusher. The Stack emission monitoring of the Crusher shall be carried out at periodic intervals. Continuous noise monitoring meters shall be established inside and outside of the crusher.
- xxii. As committed by the Project Proponent, an area of 27.722 ha of Grazing land in the same villages shall be developed for livestock grazing and for use of villagers. The Project Proponent shall fence the area of 27.722 ha for its protection and accessibility. Access to grazing land in the mine lease area shall not be disturbed and protected by way of developing plantation in such a way to minimize the risk to cattle and people. The maintenance shall be done at the company's cost.
- xxiii. The Project Proponent needs to obtain prior permission from the Forest Dept. for cutting down the trees. PP shall approach the Forest Department to visit the site for demarcation of trees with their type. PP shall explore the possibility of tree transplantation before cutting of trees. Trees cannot be transplanted needs to replant the same in consultation with the Forest Dept. Trees cannot be transplanted shall vetted by the Forest Dept. before cutting of trees.
- xxiv. The Project Proponent shall ensure the survival rate of 95% for planting the peripheral and safety barrier plantation. The project Proponent should plant quality sapling of appropriate height of native and fruit bearing species. In case of tall transplants (seedlings) the seedlings should have proper trained root stock with root biomass commensurate with seedling height to ensure good growth after out planting. Plantation shall be undertaken in consultation with the State Forest Department. The entire peripheral plantation and the safety barrier plantation shall be completed within 3 years from the issue of this EC.

- xxv. Protective bund along the mine boundary towards the Canal (L\*W = 5084m x 40m) shall be stabilized by fruit bearing plantation within two years from the issue of this EC. In between bund and plantation retaining wall should be constructed to arrest fine particles.
- xxvi. The Project Proponent shall develop a separate nursery for instant and adjacent mines owned by PP with fruit bearing species in consultation with the Forest Department and the same shall be completed within three years from the issue of this EC.
- xxvii. The Project Proponent shall undertake the avenue plantation along the 3 Villages i.e. Guma, Sarseni & Khapradih with atleast 10,000 no.s and the same shall be completed within 3 years from the issue of this EC.
- xxviii. The Project Proponent shall make the actual count on the saplings planted and its survival rate and in case of failure of achievement of 95% survival rate, action plan for achieving the target survival rate shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.
- xxix. The budget of Rs 3.20 Cr to address the concerns raised by the public in the public hearing to be completed within 3 years from the date of start of mining operations. PP shall comply with all action plans made for public hearing concerns and make regular maintenance and record the progressive activity outcomes. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing is different from the CSR activities.
- xxx. The Project Proponent should adopt the proper mitigation measures as proposed under EMP with budgetary provision of Rs 2.69 Cr. The adoption of mitigation measures and monitoring of the same as proposed in the EMP shall be done under the supervision of the qualified environmental personnel. The implementation status of the same shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.
- xxxi. The Project Proponent should establish in house (at project site) environment laboratory for measurement of environment parameter with respect to air quality and water (surface and ground). A dedicated team to oversee environment management shall be setup at mine site which should comprise of Environment Engineers, Laboratory chemist and staff for monitoring of air, water quality parameters on routine basis instead of engaging environment monitoring laboratories/consultants. Any non-compliance or infringement should be reported to the concerned authority.

- xxxii. The Project Proponent shall conduct third party audit of compliance of EC condition at an interval one year and its report shall be submitted to IRO, MoEF&CC.
- xxxiii. The Project Proponent shall also organize employment-based apprenticeship/ internship training program every year with appropriate stipend for the youth and other programs to enhance the skill of the local people. The data should be maintained for the training imparted to the persons and the outcome of the training, for the assessment of the training program should be analyzed periodically and improved accordingly.
- xxxiv. The Project Proponent needs to review any damage of the crops due to mining and crushing operations and accordingly the Project Proponent needs to undertake necessary steps to prevent any damage.
- xxxv. The preference shall be given to the Project Affected Families (PAFs) for the purpose of employment. PP shall ensure that atleast one person in the Project Affected Families (PAFs) shall get employment. PP shall maintain the data and records for the same.
- xxxvi. The Project Proponent needs to obtain the star rating as per the guidelines of Ministry of Mines within 3 years of commencement of mining operations.
- xxxvii. The Project Proponent needs to provide the RO drinking water supply and also by laying network of pipelines to the villages Guma, Khapardih, Sarseni etc.. within 1 km radius at free of cost.
- xxxviii. The health issue on animals shall be addressed through engagement with the local bodies and the Veterinary Department as committed by the Project Proponent.
- xxxix. The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of using atleast 20% of electric vehicles/LNG/CNG instead of diesel operation.
  - xl. The Project Proponent should implement the Rehabilitation of project affected families (PAFs) and payment of compensation to PAFs in line with the policy and guidelines of the Central/State Government, as provided under the law in such a way that the compensation should benefit the current and future generation.
  - xli. The Project Proponent should periodically monitor and maintain the health records of the mine workers digitally prior to mining operations, at the time of operation of mine and post mining operations. Regular surveillance on Silicosis shall be carried through regular occupational health check-up every

year for mine workers. PP shall also organize medical camp for the benefit of the local people and also the monitor the health impacts due to mining activity.

- xlii. The mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake regrassing 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. The implementation report of the above said condition shall be submitted to the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.

**1.2 Nandini Limestone Mine of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for production capacity of ROM: 7,50,000 Tonne, Topsoil-Nil, O/B-2,60,000 Tonne, SB-1,87,500 Tonne, Finished Product-5,62,500 Tonne (Total Handling- 10,10,000 Tonne) in the Mining Lease Area of 526.34 ha and acquired area for associated infrastructure in 22.69 ha area, located at Villages Nandini-Khundini, Ahiwara, Pithroa, Deorjhal and Khasadih, Tehsil: Dhamdha, Durg District, Chhattisgarh – [File No: J-11015/166/2015-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/CG/MIN/413992/2023] – Terms of Reference**

The instant proposal is for Terms of Reference of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for mining of Limestone in Nandini Limestone Mine with production capacity of ROM: 7,50,000 Tonne, Topsoil-Nil, O/B-2,60,000 Tonne, SB-1,87,500 Tonne, Finished Product-5,62,500 Tonne (Total Handling- 10,10,000 Tonne) in the Mining Lease Area of 526.34 ha and acquired area for associated infrastructure in 22.69 ha area, located at Villages Nandini-Khundini, Ahiwara, Pithroa, Deorjhal and Khasadih, Tehsil: Dhamdha, Durg District, Chhattisgarh.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 21°21'45" N to 21°23'00" N and Longitude: 81°22'30"E to 81°26'30" E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: 64G7(F44P7) and falls in Seismic Zone-II.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals and falls under Category 'A' as the mine lease area is greater than 250 ha and appraised at the Central level.
- iii. The Project Proponent submitted that earlier Terms of Reference (ToR) was obtained on 08.06.2015 and public hearing was conducted on 16.02.2018 and accordingly final EIA report was uploaded in Parivesh portal on 04.06.2018. The Ministry sought Essential Details Sought (EDS) on 13.07.2018 and due to delay in obtaining production certificate from the year 1993-94, the EDS reply was not submitted on time and the proposal was

delisted from the Parivesh portal. In view of the above, a fresh proposal has been submitted for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) with a request to exempt public hearing since the same was conducted for same lease with higher capacity.

iv. Details of Mine Lease:

Original Grant of Mine Lease							
S. No	Prospecting License/ Letter of Intent (LoI)/ Grant of Mine lease and Lr No	Date of the grant	Name of the Mineral & (Major/ Minor)	Period of Grant	Granted by	Mine lease area in Ha	Details of grant of Mine Lease deed execution
1	Lease No 1	01.01.1959	Limestone (Major)	1.1.1959 to 31.12.1978 (20 years)	Natural Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	174.45	07.05.1963
2	Lease No 2	Sep 1966	Limestone (Major)	31.03.67 to 30.03.87 (20 years)	Natural Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	446.0	31.03.1967
1st Renewal of Mine Lease							
1	Lease No 1 Renewal granted on 9.8.79 vide letter no 3-152/78/11 Bhopal 9.8.79)	09.08.1979	Limestone (Major)	01.01.1979 to 31.12.1998 (20 years)	Natural Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	174.45	17.01.1980
2	Lease No 2 Renewal granted on 17.03.1989 (3-684/86/12/3 Bhopal dated (17.3.89) & deed	17.03.1989	Limestone (Major)	31.03.1987 to 30.03.1997 (10 years)	Natural Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	446.0	16.10.1989
2 <sup>nd</sup> Renewal and Amalgamation of lease after surrendering 94.11 ha of 526.34 ha (174.45+446.0-94.11=526.34 ha)							
1	Amalgamated Lease i) LOI for amalgamation and renewal of lease were issued vide letter no 3-260/9712/2 Bhopal dated 11/02/2000 ii) Both the mining leases were	12.01.2005	Limestone (Major)	31.03.1997 to 30.03.2017 (20 years)	Mineral Resource Department, Govt of Chhattisgarh	526.34 ha	28.06.2005

	amalgamated) renewal granted by MRD, GoCG vide letter No एफ -3- 268/12/97 दिनांक - 12.01.2005 (First letter were issued by Government of Madhya Pradesh and thereafter by Government of Chhattisgarh after formation of new State)						
Extension of lease as per amendment in MMDR Act 1957 (26.03.2005) and Minerals (Mining by Government Company) Rule-2015							
1	Amalgamated Lease 462/ खनिज/ एम.एल. / 2016 दुर्ग दिनांक 25/05/2016	25.05.2016	Limestone (Major)	Extended upto 31.12.2028	Mineral Resource Department, Govt of Chhattisgarh	526.34 ha	22.03.2017

v. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	422.03 ha
Government land	104.31 ha
Forest land	-
Total Mining lease area (MLA), ha	526.34 ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	22.69 ha

vi. Details of Mining Plan: -

Review of Mining Plan including Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)	Letter No.	दुर्ग/चुप/खयो-1297/2021-रायपुर/ 450
	Date	07.01.2022
	Mineral & (Major/Minor)	Limestone (Major)
	Mine Lease Area, Ha	526.34
	Validity	2022-23 to 2026-27
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description	
Method of Mining	Mechanized Open Pit	
Drilling/Blasting	7.5 meter drill meterage, Non-electric initiation system with Site Mix Emulsion	
Geological Reserves	Proved Reserve 48.51 Million Tonne (111), Feasibility Mineral Resource 52.34 Million Tonne (211)	



Mineable Reserves	46.79 (Mineable Reserve)
Breakup of Total Excavation (Topsoil/OB/SB/IB/Mineral Rejects/ Waste, MTPA)	Total Handling- 1010000 Tonne (R.O.M.-7,50,000 Tonne, Topsoil-Nil, O/B-2,60,000 Tonne, SB-1,87,500 Tonne, Finished Product-5,62,500 Tonne)
Life of mine	62 Yrs 04 Months
Mine Bench Height & Bench Width	7.5 Meter (Max) Bench Height, 20 Mtr (Min) Bench Width
No. of Mine Benches	5
Existing Depth, m bgl	250 mRL, 35 m bgl
Ultimate Depth of Mining, m bgl	223 mRL , 60 m bgl
Ground Water Table, m bgl	18 m, bgl
Details of ground water intersection	NOC granted vide letter no CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2022/16422 dated 22.09.2022 for dewatering from mine pit of 350 m <sup>3</sup> /day and is valid upto 21.09.2024
Individual bench slope	70° in Ore and 60° in Waste
Overall pit slope	20° to 25° from the Horizontal
Details of existing/ proposed Crusher	Existing Primary Crusher: 2 nos, Jaw Crusher, 250 TPH and 350 TPH, Feed Size: 800 mm to 1000 mm Out Put Size 200 mm to 250 mm Secondary Crusher: 2 nos, Cone Crusher, 250 TPH and 350 TPH, Feed Size: 200 mm to 250 mm Output Size 25-50 mm and 12-75 mm
Mineral Beneficiation	No Beneficiation
RoM output size	Feed Size: 800 mm to 1000 mm Output Size 25-50 mm and 12-75 mm
Transportation details including capacity of dumper/tipper, mode of transport and distance	50 tonne dumper and 25 tonne tipper through internal mine road and 2.5 KM average lead
Generation of Topsoil/OB & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	No top soil, O/B Quantity 2,60,000 tonne (Max) loaded and transported through dumpers to designated and approved dump site. Management of dump as per approved mine plan in which construction of retaining wall at toe of dump and making of garland drains to keep water away from dumps.
Generation of Mineral Rejects/ Waste & its Management during plan period & conceptual period	Mineral Reject Generation, 187500 tonne. Loaded and transported through dumpers to designated approved reject site. Management of dumps as per approved mine plan.
Additional information(if any)	The mining operation is continuing since 1959.

vii. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	Fresh water	1410 KLD
	Treated water	762 KLD
Source	Rain Water collected in abandoned pits	

Permission for withdrawal/ intersection along with details of grant and its validity	NOC granted vide letter no CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2022/16422 dated 22.09.2022 for dewatering from mine pit of 350 m <sup>3</sup> /day and is valid upto 21.09.2024
Additional information (if any)	The Project Proponent submitted that the mined out pit and one natural pit shall be used for collection of rain water. There are three water bodies situated in the vicinity of the mine. Out of these three, one is natural (Khanti Talab) and two are abandoned/old mining pits (Rawley Quarry & OH Quarry). The total storage capacity of water is 1082700 cum. Water is being pumped from the active mining pit is being diverted to these three water bodies.

viii. Nearest village/town/ highway/interstate boundary/railway station/water bodies/monument/ forest

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Banbarad, Baghdumar, Ahiwara, Pittora, Nandini-Khundini, Deorjhal, Khasadih	All 2 km to 3 km
Town	Ahiwara	1 km
Highway	SH Bhilai Power House to Dhamadha	1 km
Interstate Boundary	-	
Railway Station/Railway line	Captive Siding	Within Lease
Water Bodies	Sheonath River	4.6 km
Forest	-	-

ix. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/ Protected Area/ Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/ No	Details of Certificate/letter issued by the concerned Department mentioning the Lr no, date of grant and remarks
Forest Land within the mine lease area and (if yes) status of Forest Clearance	No	---
National Park	No	
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Elephant/Tiger Reserve	No	
Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ) /Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA)	No	
Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)	No	
Schedule-I species (No.s and name of schedule-I species with authenticated letter)	No	
Wildlife Conservation Plan	NA	

x. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for green belt/plantation and	122.53 ha
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no. of saplings proposed	
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	2,00,000 Saplings, Rs 200 lakhs
Budget for nursery	
Details of existing plantation and its survival rate	6,31,894 and 72% (Certified by third party)
No. of tree cuts in the mine lease area and compensatory afforestation	Nil
Particulars for Green belt/plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	269.26
50 m safety zone of nallah, roads, electric lines	N.A.
500 m safety zones of nearest habitation villages	N.A.

- xi. Details of CTE/CTO, Certified Compliance Report, Certified Production Details from the inception of the mine:

Particulars	Details of Letter along with date of grant and validity
Consent to Establish (CTE)	The Project Proponent submitted that the CTE is available for production capacity 90,000 tonnes per month.
Consent to Operate (CTO)	The Project Proponent submitted the renewal of consent granted by the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board vide order no: 6729/TS/CECB/2020 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, dated 27/10/2020 for mining of Limestone of 90,000 tonnes per month and is valid upto 31.12.2023
Certified Compliance Report and Inspection date	N.A.
Certified Production Details from the inception of the mine (in tabular form against the EC capacity)	The Project Proponent submitted the past production details from the Office of the Collector (Mining Branch) District Durg, (Chhattisgarh) vide क्रमांक/ 1149 /खनि. लि.2/खनिज/2018 दुर्ग, दिनांक 19/12/18 for the period 1991-1992 to 2017-18.

- xii. Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R):

R & R details	No R & R and Mining Operation is in continuance since 1959
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- xiii. The Project Proponent has submitted the Affidavit in a non-judicial stamp duty amount of Rs 100 bearing certificate no: IN-CG37404743803743V dated 30.01.2023 stating that M/s SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant shall comply with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India & Ors.
- xiv. The Project Proponent has also submitted the undertaking vide letter dated 30.01.2023 stating that no court case is pending in any court w.r.t Nandini

Limestone mine (MLA: 526.34 ha and area of 22.69 ha for associated infrastructure) of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited, Bhilai Steel Plant.

xv. Details of project cost and employment:

Particulars	(Rs. In Crore)
Project Cost	12.06 Crore
Employment (No.s)	161 (Permanent)+158 (Contractual)

**3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -**

During the EAC meeting, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for grant of Terms of Reference under violation for mining of Limestone in Nandini Limestone mine over an area of 526.34 ha. The Project Proponent began with the KML file to indicate the surface features in the study area. The Project Proponent has shown the boundary of the mine lease area and an associated area of 22.69 ha outside the mine lease area in KML file. The instant mine is in operation since 1958 to till date. Further, the PP informed that there is no forest land involved in the mine lease area.

The Project Proponent briefed about the history of the project and informed the EAC that the earlier Terms of Reference (ToR) was obtained on 08.06.2015 and public hearing was conducted on 16.02.2018 and accordingly final EIA report was uploaded in Parivesh portal on 04.06.2018. The Ministry sought Essential Details Sought (EDS) on 13.07.2018 and due to delay in obtaining production certificate from the year 1993-94, the EDS reply was not submitted on time and the proposal was delisted from the Parivesh portal. In this regard, a fresh proposal has been submitted for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) with a request to exempt public hearing since the same was conducted for same lease with higher capacity. The EAC reiterated the Ministry's OM dated 08.06.2022 wherein it is mentioned that the baseline data and Public Hearing shall not be more than three years old at the time of submission of application for consideration of EC. In the instant proposal validity of the public hearing got expired in the year 2021 and hence the request of the Project Proponent is not accepted.

The Project Proponent also informed the EAC that the show cause notice was issued on 17/9/2018 for alleged violation of extraction of mineral during the period 2000-01 to 2017-18. On the said basis show cause notice has been issued as to "why an amount of ₹ 1,22,80,51,066/- (122 crore) not be recovered from SAIL". PP also informed the EAC that the reply to show cause notice was submitted to Collector, Durg on 05.11.2018. The hearing in this matter was heard before Hon'ble Collector, Durg on 26.03.2019 and written submission has been filed on 01.05.2019. The matter is pending. This show cause has not been converted in actual demand till date and no coercive action was taken till date.

The Project Proponent has shown the past production details certified from the Office of the Collector (Mining Branch) District Durg, (Chhattisgarh) vide dated 19/12/18 for the period 1991-1992 to 2017-18. The EAC noted that the base year (1993-94) production w.r.t CTO is 10,80,000 Tonnes. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent is showing five different columns such as excavation, opening stock, product, reject, despatch and cl-stock. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that there is no excess production against the production of the base year.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent, the EAC observed that as informed by the Project Proponent, the mine was in operation since 1958. The Project Proponent is operating the mine from the year 1993-94 to till date based on Consent to Operate (CTO) of production capacity of 10,80,000 Tonnes. A show cause notice was issued to the Project Proponent on 17.09.2018 for alleged violation of extraction of mineral during the period 2000-01 to 2017-18 and the matter related to show cause notice is still not settled. The EAC observed that the Project Proponent has not submitted the authenticated past production details from the year 2018-19 onwards till jan,2023. The EAC noted that the Project Proponent has not submitted the proposal under violation window of Ministry's Notification S.O 804 (E) dated 14.03.2017. Further, the EAC noted that in Common Application Form, the Project Proponent has wrongly submitted the total mine lease area is 549.03 ha including associated area of 22.69 ha which is outside the mine lease area whereas as per mine lease document and approved mining plan, the total mine lease area is 526.34 ha. The EAC also observed that breakup of the total handling of 10,10,000 Tonne is not tallying. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the copies of all Consent to Operate (CTO) from the year 1993-94 to till date along with its validity in chronological sequence in a tabular form by mentioning the CTO capacity and the achieved production capacity. Based on the above discussions held and shortcomings, the EAC asked the Project Proponent to fill the correct Common Application Form with factual data and information and to upload all relevant documents in Parivesh portal for further detailed examination of violation in the Ministry. Therefore, the EAC **returned the proposal in present form.**

**1.3 Amendment in EC w.r.t Condition No 22 in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 granted to M/s Harish Clays for Guda Clay mine with enhancement of production capacity from 60,000 TPA to 2,50,000 TPA (ROM) of Clay in the mine lease area of 284.20 ha, located at Village-Guda, Tehsil Kolayat, District Bikaner, Rajasthan - [File No: J11015/163/2014-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/RJ/MIN/125957/2014, Consultant: M/s. Enviro Green Consultants (I) Pvt. Ltd] - Amendment in EC**

The instant proposal is for amendment in EC w.r.t Condition No 22 in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 granted to M/s Harish Clays for Guda Clay mine with enhancement of production capacity from 60,000 TPA to 2,50,000 TPA (ROM) of

Clay in the mine lease area of 284.20 ha, located at Village-Guda, Tehsil Kolayat, District Bikaner, Rajasthan.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. Initially, the Project Proponent obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) vide EC letter dated 18.02.1998 for the production capacity of 60,000 TPA of clay.
- ii. Then, the Project Proponent obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) vide EC letter dated 17.07.2018 and requested for amendment in EC w.r.t Condition No 22 which is given below: -

*22) The top soil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and it should not be kept unutilized for long. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time. The maximum height of the dumps shall not exceed 8m and width 20 m and overall slope of the dumps shall be maintained to 45°. The OB dumps should be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. The entire excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested. Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office on six monthly basis.”* The Project Proponent requested for amendment in EC as mentioned below: -

S. No	As per EC letter dated 17.07.2018	Request for amendment in EC by the Project Proponent
1	<i>22) The top soil, if any, shall temporarily be stored at earmarked site(s) only and it should not be kept unutilized for long. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation. The over burden (OB) generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time. <b>The maximum height of the dumps shall not exceed 8m and width 20 m and overall slope of the dumps shall be maintained to 45°.</b> The OB</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Project Proponent submitted that the existing dump height is 38 meters which will reach approximately 60 meters. It would not be economical or feasible to maintain a height of 8 m as it will require a significant part of the lease area which will also cover the major part of mineralized zone and will degrade the surrounding environment to a greater extent. Hence the <b>dump height should be permitted to 60 meter instead of 8 meter.</b></li> <li>ii. In line with point no. 7 of EC, Change is sought in point 22 from “the entire excavated area shall be</li> </ol>

<p><i>dumps should be scientifically vegetated with suitable native species to prevent erosion and surface run off. In critical areas, use of geo textiles shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump. <b>The entire excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested.</b> Monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office on six monthly basis.”</i></p>	<p>backfilled and afforested”, to “<b>at the conceptual stage, out of 271 Ha of excavated pit, 100 ha will be converted in to rain water collection pond and remaining 171 ha will be back filled and ecologically restored by plantation which is similar to the conceptual planning given in the EMP report and approved Mining Plan”.</b></p>
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- iii. The proposal was earlier considered in the 18<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-coal Mining) held during 22-24 June, 2020 and after detailed deliberations, the Committee was of the view the study for slope study has already been conducted by CMPDI but to execute the same the PP is required to submit the modified mining plan. The Committee appreciate the effort of PP made towards backfilling and was of the view that while preparing the modified mining plan it should be kept in the mind the to the extent possible the backfilling is to be done and only in case where it is not feasible the dumping of the same in dump yard to be done. Therefore, PP shall submit a draft mining plan in the similar lines, so that, height of the dump, area of dump, area to be backfilled, time line for backfilling etc. may be appraised before consideration of amendment in EC. Therefore, the proposal is deferred. The Project Proponent submitted the information on 12.01.2023 in Parivesh Portal and accordingly the proposal was reconsidered in the EAC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

Based on observation of EAC in its meeting held during 22-24 June, 2020 compliance of observation of EAC made by the Project Proponent is detailed below:

S. No	Observation of EAC	Reply by Project Proponent
1	The Committee was of the view the study for slope study has already been conducted by CMPDI but to execute the same the PP is required to submit the modified mining plan. The Committee appreciate the effort of PP	The Project Proponent submitted that the Slope Stability Study was carried out by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.) for slope stability analysis for OB dump of height 60m which is proposed to be constructed in the earmarked area within the mine leasehold boundary. For attaining better stability

	<p>made towards backfilling and was of the view that while preparing the modified mining plan it should be kept in the mind the to the extent possible the backfilling is to be done and only in case where it is not feasible the dumping of the same in dump yard to be done. Therefore, PP shall submit a draft mining plan in the similar lines, so that, height of the dump, area of dump, area to be backfilled, time line for backfilling etc. may be appraised before consideration of amendment in EC.</p>	<p>multiple geometries were modelled and analyzed for stability. Though flat slopes gives better stability, keeping the balance of safety and economy the geometry of 60m height proposed by M/s Harish Clays is modified to have overall slope angle of 29° with individual benches having 45° with bench height of 10m and bench width of 10m. The stability of the modified dump geometry resulted in better stability than the proposed OB geometry and have FoS more than 1.20 for all the cases. Slope stability analysis was also carried out for the existing dump of the Guda Clay mine which is having overall height varying between 15-30m at different sections and bench heights vary from 7-10m, it is appeared safe for the existing given geometry and cross sections.</p> <p>Further, the Project Proponent submitted that in compliance to the direction given by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) during 18<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, draft modified mining scheme has been submitted after incorporating the recommendations of the CMPDI (Chapter-V, Page no. 39) along with the proposed time line structure for backfilling (year wise quantity to be backfilled) in plan and section for plan period (2019-20 to 21-23). Part of the mine pit (central quarry) which has already been backfilled (during 2019-20 to 2021-22) is shown in plan and section. Thereafter the process will be continued year wise till the life of the mine.</p>
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- iv. The Project Proponent submitted that the State Govt. vide Lr no. ME/Bika/ML/7/ 93/5181 dated 16.02.2015 have extended the validity of the mine lease period for a period of 50 years i.e., upto 04.08.2048. The rider agreement for the extension of the lease period and change in major to minor mineral of clay has been made on 16.02.2016. The total mine lease area is 284.20 ha, out of which Private land is 90.0 Ha and Govt. land is 194.20 ha.
- v. The Project Proponent has submitted that the Consent to Operate (CTO) issued by the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board vide Order No: 2021-2022/Mines/10390 dated 18.01.2022 for production of Clay of 2,50,000 tonnes / annum for the period from 01/02/2022 to 31/01/2027. PP also



submitted the Integrated Regional Office has conducted the site inspection on 21.04.2022.

- vi. The Project Proponent has submitted the certified production details from the Department of Mines & Geology vide letter dated 16.01.2020 for the period 05.08.1998 - 04.08.1999 to 01.04.2018 - 31.03.2019, vide letter dated 13.01.2021 for the period 2019-20 to 2020-21 (April 2020 – December 2020) and vide letter dated 01.02.2023 for the period 2020-21 to 2022-23 (April 2022 - December 2022). The Project Proponent has submitted an undertaking in a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 bearing no: AL 668434 dated 13.06.2020 stating that no violation made in the project under the provisions of the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 and as per Ministry's OM dated 14.03.2017 and there is no penalty imposed by the Dept. of Mines and Geology, Govt of Rajasthan.
- vii. The Project Proponent submitted an undertaking vide letter dated 30.01.2023 stating that there is no any litigation/court case pending against the project.

### **3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -**

The EAC noted that the instant proposal is for amendment in EC w.r.t Condition No 22 in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 regarding increase in dump height from 8m to 60m and backfilling. The EAC asked the Project Proponent when the first EC was obtained. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that 1<sup>st</sup> EC was obtained on 18.02.1998 for production capacity of 60,000 TPA of clay and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> EC for expansion in production capacity from 60,000 TPA to 2,50,000 TPA (ROM) was obtained on 17.07.2018 and the instant proposal is for amendment in EC w.r.t Condition No 22 in EC dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the total mine lease area is 284.20 ha, out of which Private land is 90.0 Ha and Govt. land is 194.20 ha and there is no forest land involved in the mine lease area. The mine lease is valid upto 04.08.2048. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to show the authenticated past production details. The Project Proponent has shown the authenticated past production details and informed the EAC that there is no excess production against the EC capacity.

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that in view of the amendment to increase in dump height from 8m to 60m, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.) has carried out the Slope Stability Study for slope stability analysis for OB dump of height 60m which is proposed to be constructed in the earmarked area within the mine leasehold boundary. CMPDI recommended that though flat slopes gives better stability, keeping the balance of safety and economy the geometry of 60m height proposed by M/s Harish Clays is modified to have overall slope angle of 29° with individual benches having 45° with bench height of 10m and bench width of 10m. The EAC asked about the status of

modified approved Scheme of mining. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the draft mining scheme is yet to be submitted for approval.

The EAC asked about the depth of the mining, no. of mine benches and whether there is any ground water intersection. The Project Proponent informed the EAC the depth of the mining is 48m, there are 7 no. of benches and each bench height is 6m and water table is more than 100m and there is no ground water intersection. The EAC asked the Proponent whether any pit slope stability has been carried out or not. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the slope stability study for dumps only carried out and no study for pit slope stability has been carried out.

Further, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that amendment regarding that the entire excavated area shall be backfilled and afforested it is inform that at the conceptual stage, excavated pit will be 271 Ha, out of which 100 ha will be converted into the rain water collection pond and remaining 171 ha will be backfilled and ecologically restored by plantation. No dump will be available at the conceptual stage. The EAC asked about the status of Certified Compliance Report. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the Integrated Regional Office inspected the site on 21.04.2022 and the report is awaited.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC noted that the draft mining scheme is yet to be submitted for approval, no study for pit slope stability has been carried out, environmental implications due to increase in dump height from 8m to 60m has not been addressed and the Certified Compliance Report is still awaited. Based on the above discussions held, the EAC **deferred** the proposal for want of following additional information: -

- i. The Project Proponent needs to address the environmental impacts due to increase in dump height from 8m to 60m.
- ii. The Project Proponent needs to carry out detailed study on stability of pit slope.
- iii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the approved modified scheme of mining w.r.t amendment sought.
- iv. The Project Proponent needs to submit the Certified Compliance Report to be issued by the Ministry's Integrated Regional Office.

**1.4 Amendment in EC dated 20.02.2009 granted to M/s National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) in the mine lease area of 1315.264 ha, located at Village: Damanjodi, Tehsil: Pottangi, District: Koraput, Odisha - [File. No: J-**

**11015/49/2008-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/OR/MIN/294341/2022; Consultant: M/s Global Tech Enviro Experts Pvt Ltd] - Amendment in EC**

The instant proposal is for Amendment in EC dated 20.02.2009 granted to M/s National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) in the mine lease area of 1315.264 ha, located at Village: Damanjodi, Tehsil: Pottangi, District: Koraput, Odisha.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The Project Proponent initially obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) vide EC letter dated 20.02.2009 for annual production of 6.825 million tonnes of bauxite by opencast mechanized method in the mine lease area of 2414.263 ha.
- ii. Now, the Project Proponent requested for amendment in EC dated 20.02.2009 for the following: -
  - a) Change in mine lease area from 2414.263 ha to 1315.264 ha and
  - b) To establish a new Crusher of capacity of 900TPH at Central Block Sector-2 with screening & conveying system to load ore at mid-point loading facilities to the existing 14.6 cable belt conveyor without change in production capacity.
- iii. The Project Proponent has given a following justification for amendment in EC stating that in view of the depletion of the reserve in North Block, it is planned to shift the operation from North Block to Central Block of same mine and transport the bauxite from mines to plant through the existing cable belt conveyor. Reserve of North block is coming to an end in near future. It is proposed to develop the Central Block & install a new crusher house of capacity of 3.825 MTPA and feed to the existing cable belt conveyor through a new mid-point loading facility. The rest 3.0 MTPA shall be crushed using existing semi-mobile crushing plant (SMCP) and existing crushers in the North Block, which will be fed to the existing Cable Belt Conveyor. Bauxite reserve in the north block will exhaust by 2025. Accordingly, it is also proposed to dismantle SMCP from North Block region and relocate to the Central Block. After complete shifting of SMCP, the total operation will be carried out in the new crushing system as well as relocated SMCP from the North Block through the existing Cable Belt Conveyor System. All other operations will be as per the prevailing system. The new crushing house will be within the existing lease and there will be no enhancement of production.
- iv. Details of Mine Lease:
  - a) The Project Proponent has submitted that initially mining lease was granted on 22.09.1982 for a period of 30 years over an area of 4692.05 ha.

- b) The Project Proponent has submitted that the mine lease of Panchpatmali Central & North Block over an area of 3403.281 ha was valid upto 16.11.2012. Prior to renewal of mine lease, it was planned to part surrender the non-bauxite bearing lease to the State Govt and accordingly an application was submitted to the State Govt. on 16.07.2010 to part surrender the lease area of 2087.919 ha out of 3403.281 ha.
- c) Then, the Project Proponent has submitted the application for renewal of mining lease to the State Govt. vide dated 30.10.2010 in the prescribed Form-J over an area of 1315.363 ha for a period of 20 years.
- d) Thereafter, the Govt. of Odisha, Dept. of Steel and Mines vide Lr No: 6730/III(K)SM-19/2000(Pt)/SM, Bhunabeswar vide dated 08.09.2014 have accepted the 2<sup>nd</sup> part surrender of ML for Bauxite over 2087.919 ha out of the balance ML area of 3403.183 ha.
- e) Further, the Project Proponent has submitted that the Govt. of Odisha, Dept. of Steel and Mines vide Lr No. 8903/IV (BX) SM-14/13/SM, Bhubaneswar vide dated 27.10.2016 have extended the period of the validity of the mining lease of M/s NALCO for Bauxite over an area of 1315.264 ha in Village Panchapatmali (Central and North Block) in the District of Koraput is extended upto 16.11.2032 from the date of last extension i.e, beyond 01.04.2020.
- f) Accordingly, the Project Proponent has executed the supplementary deed made on 26.09.2017 for extension of lease period upto 16.11.2032 over an area of 1315.264 ha.
- v. The Project Proponent has submitted that an application along with Form-I and Prefeasibility report was submitted to the MoEF&CC vide letter dated 30.09.2011 over an area of 1315.363 ha for Bauxite production of 6.825 MTPA for issuance of Terms of Reference (ToR). PP also submitted that the Terms of Reference (ToR) was issued by the Ministry vide letter dated 28.02.2012 and in the meantime the Ministry has issued a notification vide S.O 674(E) dated 13.03.2013 stating that no fresh environment clearance shall be required for a mining project or activity at the time of renewal of mining lease, which has already obtained environmental clearance under this notification. Hence, no EC was required as per this notification.
- vi. The Project Proponent has submitted that the Mining Plan including Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) vide Lr No: RMP/A/22-ORI/BHU/2020-21 dated 09.11.2021 for mining of Bauxite over an area of 1315.264 ha.
- vii. The Project Proponent has submitted that the total mine lease area is 1315.264 ha, out of which Govt. land is 20.981ha and Forest land is 1294.283 ha. The Project Proponent has submitted the Forest Clearance (FC) has been granted by the MoEF&CC vide F.No 8-40/1993-FC(pt-I) vide dated 15.09.2014 granted under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1294.283 ha of forest land (including 372.583 hectares of unbroken forest land proposed for fresh breaking and safety zone of 25.275 hectares) within the mining lease area of Panchpatmali Central & North Block

over an area of 1315.363 ha during first renewal of mining lease period for bauxite mining by M/s NALCO.

- viii. The Project Proponent has submitted the self certified production details from the inception of the mine i.e., from 1986-1987 to 2021-22.
- ix. The Project Proponent has submitted a declaration vide letter dated 07.12.2022 stating that no litigation is pending against the project or project proponent or land on which the project is proposed.

### **3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -**

The EAC noted that the Project Proponent informed the EAC that the instant proposal is for amendment in EC dated 20.02.2009 w.r.t. change in mine lease area from 2414.263 ha to 1315.264 ha and to establish a new Crusher of capacity of 900TPH at Central Block Sector-2 with screening & conveying system. The Project Proponent has informed the EAC that the total mine lease area is 1315.264 ha, out of which Govt. land is 20.981ha and Forest land is 1294.283 ha.

The EAC asked the Project Proponent when was the Forest Clearance obtained? The Project Proponent informed the EAC that the Forest Clearance (FC) was obtained on 15.09.2014 under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1294.283 ha of forest land (including 372.583 hectares of unbroken forest land proposed for fresh breaking and safety zone of 25.275 hectares) within the mining lease area of Panchpatmali Central & North Block over an area of 1315.363 ha during first renewal of mining lease period for bauxite mining by M/s NALCO. The EAC noted that as per EC dated 20.02.2009 specific condition (iii): *The environmental clearance is subject to grant of forestry clearance. The project proponent shall obtain requisite prior forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for working in the forest area.* The EAC asked the Project Proponent w.r.t above said condition when was the 1<sup>st</sup> Forest Clearance was obtained and for how much area. The Project Proponent informed the EAC that initially forest clearance was obtained over an area of 951 Ha in the year 2006. The EAC also noted that the Project Proponent has obtained the Temporary Working Permission vide letter dated 27.11.2009 in already broken area of 1130.30 ha in favour of M/s NALCO. The EAC was of the view that there is no clarity w.r.t forest clearance and the PP has not submitted the copies of earlier forest clearance and hence asked the Project Proponent to submit all the copies of Forest Clearance and its details in a chronological sequence in a tabular form (Details of letter, date of grant and the area granted) to ascertain the operation of the mine w.r.t Forest Clearance.

The EAC noted that the application for renewal of mining lease was submitted to the State Govt. on 30.10.2010 over an area of 1315.363 ha. The EAC asked the Project Proponent to show the certified production details from the year 1993-94 onwards. The Project Proponent has shown the self-certified production details from the inception of the mine i.e., from 1986-1987 to 2021-22. The EAC noted that in

annexure –III, the Project Proponent has mentioned that permission was obtained on 15.09.1986 for production capacity of 2.4 MTPA and EC was obtained on 11.05.1994 for production capacity of 4.8 MTPA under EIA Notification, 1994. However, the Project Proponent has not submitted the above said documents. The EAC also noted that Project Proponent has not submitted all the copies of Consent to Operate (CTO). The EAC asked the Project Proponent to submit all the above said relevant documents to the Ministry for further detailed examination of the proposal w.r.t Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 02.08.2017. The EAC asked the Project Proponent when was the last Certified Compliance Report was granted by the Integrated Regional Office. The information is not readily available with the Project Proponent. Based on the above discussions held and shortcomings, the EAC **deferred** the proposal for want of following additional information: -

- i. The Project Proponent needs to submit the copies of the letter obtained on 15.09.1986 for production capacity of 2.4 MTPA and the EC obtained on 11.05.1994 for production capacity of 4.8 MTPA under EIA Notification, 1994.
- ii. The Project Proponent needs to submit all the copies of Forest Clearance and its details in a chronological sequence in a tabular form (Details of letter, date of grant and the area granted) to ascertain the operation of the mine w.r.t Forest Clearance.
- iii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the Certified Compliance Report for the earlier EC dated 20.02.2009.
- iv. The Project Proponent needs to submit the authenticated production details from the Department of Geology and Mines from the year 1993-94 to 2022-23.
- v. The Project Proponent also needs to submit the copies of all Consent to Operate (CTO) from the year 1993-94 to till date along with its validity and its detail in chronological sequence in a tabular form.
- vi. Project Proponent should submit techno feasibility and impact on environment report due to addition of new crusher of 900TPH with screening and conveying system.

**1.5 Siddavaram Silica Sand Mine of M/s Mangalore Minerals Pvt. Ltd. for mining of Silica Sand for Total Excavation of 0.306 Million Tonne per annum (MTPA)/0.1224 million Cum per annum [including 0.3 million tons of Silica Sand & Waste/Sub grade rejects] in the mine lease area of 105.22 Ha, located at Village Siddavaram, Tehsil Kota, District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh - [F. No.**

**23-258/2018-IA.III (V), Proposal No: IA/AP/MIN/68592/2017, Consultant: Perfect Enviro Solutions Pvt. Ltd] - Terms of Reference (Violation)**

The instant proposal is for Terms of Reference (Violation) of M/s Mangalore Minerals Pvt. Ltd. for mining of Silica Sand in Siddavaram Silica Sand Mine for Total Excavation of 0.306 Million Tonne per annum (MTPA)/0.1224 million Cum per annum [including 0.3 million tons of Silica Sand & Waste/Sub grade rejects] in the mine lease area of 105.22 Ha, located at Village Siddavaram, Tehsil Kota, District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 14°05'54.3" N - 14°07'13.7" N and Longitude: 80°05'35.9"E - 80°06'5.8" E. The mine lease area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: 66B/4 (Restricted) and falls in Seismic Zone-III.
- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals.
- iii. Initially, the Project Proponent submitted the proposal for Terms of Reference (ToR) vide online proposal no: IA/AP/MIN/68592/2017 dated 13.09.2017 under the Ministry's Notification S.O 804(E) dated 14.03.2017 since the mine was in operation without obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).
- iv. The proposal was earlier considered in the EAC (Violation) meeting held during 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 and after detailed deliberations, the EAC deferred the proposal and asked the Project Proponent to submit the Certificate from the State Forest Department stating that no forest land is involved in the mine lease area. The proposal was delisted from the Parivesh on 02.10.2020 and relisted on 03.03.2021. Again the proposal was delisted from the Parivesh on 31.05.2021 and then the Project Proponent relisted the proposal and submitted the information on 21.10.2022 in Parivesh. Accordingly, the proposal was reconsidered in the EAC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 based on Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022.

Based on observation of EAC (Violation) in its meeting held during 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 compliance of observation of EAC made by the Project Proponent are detailed below:

S. No	Observation of EAC	Reply by Project Proponent
1	Certificate from the State Forest Department that no forest land is involved in the mine lease area.	The Project Proponent submitted the letter from the Forest Department issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden vide Lr No: Rc.no. 13926/2019/WL-2, dated 05.09.2022 stating that the

		<p>I. Mangalore minerals is present outside the RF areas and adjacent to the Kothapatnam RF at the North-East corner of the proposed Silica Mining.</p> <p>II. The name of each RF along with the distances of the RF from the proposed silica sand mine are as detailed below.</p> <p>i. Kothapatnam RF (Main block- adjacent),</p> <p>ii. Kothapatnam Block-C RF- 7.69 km, 6.01 km &amp; 4.82 km from the proposed mine in 3 places.</p> <p>iii. Kothapatnam-E RF- 2.92 km,</p> <p>iv. Kothapatnam-D RF-3.65 km,</p> <p>v. Kothapatnam A&amp;B RF-2.93 km</p> <p>vi. Momidi RF- 5.25 km,</p> <p>vii. Thimmanapatnam Extn-A RF- 8.85 km,</p> <p>viii. Udathavaripalem RF -9.25 km,</p> <p>ix. Vallipedu RF-9.69 km,</p> <p>x. ESZ of Pulicat Birds Sanctuary-9.74 km</p> <p>xi. Pulicat Birds Sanctuary 13.04 km.</p>
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v. Details of Mine Lease:

- a) The Project Proponent submitted that mining lease was granted by Industries & Commerce (M-III) Dept, Govt. Andhra Pradesh vide G.O. Ms. No. 236, dated 6-8-2003 and it was executed by the Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Nellore vide letter No. 2188/M2/98, dated 28/2/2004 for a period of 20 years i.e. from 09-09-2003 to 08-09-2023.
- b) The Project Proponent also submitted that mining lease will be valid up to 08.09.2053 (50 YEARS) as per Rule 8 A (3) of MMDR (Amendment) Act 2015.

vi. Land use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	NA
Government barren land	105.22 ha
Total Mining lease area (MLA)	105.22 ha
Private land for crusher, workshop & other infrastructure outside the MLA	NA

vii. Details of Mining Plan:



Mining Plan (approved by Indian Bureau of Mines/ DMG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Project Proponent submitted that the Mining Plan was approved by the DMG, Hyderabad vide letter no. 39449/MP-II/ 02, dated 23-05-2003.</li> <li>ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Scheme of mining was approved by the Zonal Joint DMG, vide letter no. 5466/MP/ NLR/2010, dated 14-06-2011 for 2 years upto 2013.</li> <li>iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Scheme of mining was approved vide letter no. 562/MS/NLR/2015, dated 28- 05-2015. Scheme of mining was modified as per the guidelines of Nellore sub-committee's report on Silica sand mining in Chillakur and Kota Mandal and approved vide letter no. 723/MMS /NLR/2016, dated 05.03.2016 for 3 years valid upto 2019-20.</li> </ul>
Additional information (if any)	The mining Plan for the period 2019-20 onwards is under preparation.
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description
Method of Mining	Opencast semi-mechanized mining without drilling & blasting
Life of mine	19 Years
Bench Height	2.5 m (bench depth )
Bench Width	NA
Individual bench slope	Not applicable
Overall pit slope	45 <sup>o</sup>
Transportation details	The Entire ROM will be taken to the lessee's own plant which is at Momidi at an aerial distance of about 10 km with the help of Tippers.
Tipper capacity	17 T
RoM output size	Approx 1.05 mm to 2.00 mm
Groundwater intersection	Due to limited depth of 2.5m bgl, Ground water table will not be intersected.

viii. Water Requirement:

Total water requirement	27.0 KLD	Drinking & Domestic Water	2.0 KLD
		Mining and allied activities especially sprinkling	15.0 KLD
		Green Belt Development	10.0 KLD
Source	2.0 KLD from nearby village for domestic purposes. 25.0 KLD from accumulated pit rain water will be utilized for sprinkling and plantation.		
Permission	NA		

ix. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies:

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Directions
Village	Siddavaram	1.5 km, SE
Town/City/District Headquarters	Gudur	27 km, NW
Highway	NH-5	22 km, NW
Railway station	Gudur	27Km, NW
Water bodies	Buckingham Canal Swarnmukhi River	610 m, W 3 km, SE

x. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/ Protected Area/ Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/ No	Details of Certificate/letter/Remarks
Forest Land	No	The Project Proponent submitted the letter from the Forest Department issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden vide Lr No: Rc.no. 13926/2019/WL-2, dated 05.09.2022 stating that
National Park	No	
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ)/ Eco-Sensitive Area(ESA)	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The Mangalore minerals is present outside the RF areas and adjacent to the Kothapatnam RF at the North-East corner of the proposed Silica Mining.</li> <li>II. The name of each RF along with the distances of the RF from the proposed silica sand mine are as detailed below. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Kothapatnam RF (Main block- adjacent),</li> <li>ii. Kothapatnam Block-C RF- 7.69 km, 6.01 km &amp; 4.82 km from the proposed mine in 3 places.</li> <li>iii. Kothapatnam-E RF- 2.92 km,</li> <li>iv. Kothapatnam-D RF-3.65 km,</li> <li>v. Kothapatnam A&amp;B RF-2.93 km</li> <li>vi. Momidi RF- 5.25 km,</li> <li>vii. Thimmanapatnam Extn-A RF- 8.85 km,</li> <li>viii. Udathavaripalem RF -9.25 km,</li> <li>ix. Vallipedu RF-9.69 km,</li> <li>x. ESZ of Pulicat Birds Sanctuary-9.74 km</li> <li>xi. Pulicat Birds Sanctuary 13.04 km.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)	No	<p>Bay of Bengal- 3.38 km, East</p> <p>The Project submitted that the project site doesn't fall under the CRZ area. PP submitted the map showing the project site superimposed on authenticated Coastal Zone Management Plan, Andhra Pradesh.</p>
Schedule- I species	Yes	The Project Proponent submitted the letter from the Forest Department issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief

		Wildlife Warden vide Lr No: Rc.no. 13926/2019/WL-2, dated 05.09.2022 stating that the Indian Monitor lizard ( <i>Varanus bengalensis</i> ) belonging to schedule-I fauna species is found in the buffer zone of the study area.
Wildlife Conservation Plan	Yes	<p>The Project Proponent submitted the proof of submission of Wildlife Conservation Plan to the Divisional Forest Officer vide letter dated 08.09.2016.</p> <p>The Project Proponent also submitted the letter from the Forest Department issued by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) &amp; Chief Wildlife Warden vide Lr No: Rc.no. 13926/2019/WL-2, dated 05.09.2022 stating that the Project Proponent has submitted Conservation plan with a cost of Rs 5.00 lakh. Further, it was requested to deposit an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh (Rupees: Five lakh) in the following A/c Wildlife Conservation Projects &amp; CSR (WLC &amp; CSR) at an early date.</p>

xi. Green belt/plantation details:

Proposed area for greenbelt/ plantation	Green belt will be developed in the statutory width of 7.5m over an area of 3.0585 Ha in balance year of mining scheme. At the conceptual phase, an area of 5.5422 Ha will be planted.
Budget for green plant & plantation till the end of life of mine.	Rs 16.62 Lakhs
Budget for nursery	NA
Particulars for Green belt/ plantation	Area covered (in Ha)
7.5 m barrier & non-mineralized zone	5.5422 Ha
Additional information (if any)	The Project Proponent has submitted that the plantation details and species has been selected as per CPCB guidelines.

- xii. The Project Proponent has submitted that earlier baseline data was collected during Post-monsoon season (Oct to Dec, 2015). Public hearing was conducted on 16.01.2017 for production capacity from 17,820 TPA to 3,00,000 TPA. PP also submitted that cluster condition is not applicable to the project as per MoEF's Gazette notification S.O.2269(E) dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 as the lease was granted before 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.
- xiii. The Project Proponent has submitted the certified production details from the Department of Mines and Geology vide Lr No. 2188/M/1998, dated 23.12.2017 for the period 2005-06 to 2017-18 (upto 23.12.2017). PP also submitted that the production from this mine was started in 2005-2006 and the

mine discontinued the mining operation from 01.05.2013. About 28,011 MTs of Silica Sand was produced. The details of the year wise dispatch permits since the inception of the mining lease are given below: -

S. No	Year	Quantity in MTs
1	2005-06	2000
2	2006-07	1000
3	2007-08	Nil
4	2008-09	2000
5	2009-10	5000
6	2010-11	14900
7	2011-12	3111
8	2012-13	Nil
9	2013-14	Nil
10	2014-15	Nil
11	2015-16	Nil
12	2016-17	Nil
13	2017-18 (upto 23.12.2017)	Nil
Total		28,011

- xiv. The Project Proponent has submitted that on account of mine operation without EC, the Ministry vide letter dated 13.02.2014 issued a letter to State Government of AP to take credible action against Project Proponent. Simultaneously the Ministry issued a letter to PP dated 13.02.2014 for compliance of certain conditions including placing the violation before the Board of Director's and to ensure that the credible action has been taken by the State Government. In compliance with order of MoEF&CC, the Andhra Pradesh, SPCB filed a court case File no. 301/15 and Hon'ble Court pronounced the judgment on 18.04.2016 and found that Project Proponent guilty and imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh and was duly paid by Project Proponent. The violation matter was placed before the Board of Director's as directed by MoEF&CC which took note and committed not to repeat the violation. The Project Proponent submitted an affidavit in a non-judicial stamp duty of Rs 100 bearing no: IN-KA64121945975114Q dated 12.10.2018 stating that *"we commit to comply with the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 02.08.2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause vs Union of India and Ors and we commit not to repeat and do any violation in future and also we will deposit the admissible demand as may be raised by the State Govt. in compliance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 02.08.2017"*.
- xv. The Project Proponent vide letter dated 29.01.2023 submitted an undertaking stating that as on date there is no court case is pending related to Siddavaram Silica Sand Mine of M/s Mangalore Minerals Pvt. Ltd.
- xvi. The Project Proponent has submitted that the project cost is Rs 215 Lakhs and about 34 persons will get employment.

### **3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -**

The EAC noted that the instant proposal was earlier considered in the EAC (Violation) meeting held during 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 wherein the EAC deferred the proposal and the Project Proponent is approaching the EAC (Non-Coal Mining) after 4 years. The EAC asked the Consultant about the validity of the NABET Accreditation. The Consultant informed the EAC that the validity has been extended till 28.02.2023. The Project Proponent/Consultant briefed about the background of the project and informed the EAC that initially mine lease was executed on 2004 and then the mining operations commenced and continued till 2013. Thereafter, application for Terms of Reference was submitted to the Ministry and the EAC observed that instant proposal falls under violation case as the mine was operating without obtaining prior environmental clearance. Then, the Ministry issued vide letter dated 13.02.2014 requested the State Government of AP to take credible action against Project Proponent and also to the Project Proponent for compliance of certain conditions including placing the violation before the Board of Director's and to ensure that the credible action has been taken by the State Government.

Further, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that Andhra Pradesh SPCB has filed a court case File no. 301/15 and the Hon'ble Court found PP guilty and imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh and the same was duly paid by PP. The violation matter was placed before the Board of Director's as directed by MoEF&CC which took note and committed not to repeat the violation. After compliance of conditions, Terms of Reference (ToR) was granted by the Ministry vide ToR Letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. Public Hearing was held on 16.01.2017. Final EIA was submitted to the Ministry on 04.02.2017. Subsequently after issuance of Notification S.O. 804(E) dated 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, the MoEF&CC issued a letter on 15.05.2017 to submit the proposal before violation committee. Accordingly, the Project Proponent submitted the proposal on 13.09.2017 under violation window and the proposal was considered in the EAC (Violation) meeting held during 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 wherein the EAC deferred the proposal for want of requisite information. The information as sought by the EAC is submitted now and the Project Proponent requested to issue grant of Terms of Reference (ToR).

The Project Proponent informed the EAC that no forest land is involved in the mine lease area and letter for the same has been obtained from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden vide letter dated 05.09.2022. The PP also informed the EAC that the project site doesn't fall under the CRZ area and shown the map superimposing the project site on authenticated Coastal Zone Management Plan, Andhra Pradesh. One Schedule-I species namely Indian Monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*) is found in the buffer zone of the study area and the same has been authenticated from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden vide letter dated 05.09.2022. Further, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that letter has been obtained from the Forest Department issued

by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden vide letter dated 05.09.2022 stating that the Project Proponent has submitted Conservation plan with a cost of Rs 5.00 Lakhs. Plantation details have been revised as per guidelines of CPCB. As the mine is not in operation at present, the effect of Silica on the mine workers and inhabitants of the area was not tested. It will be tested after the mine comes under operation.

After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the EAC noted that earlier baseline data was collected during Post-monsoon season (Oct to Dec, 2015) and based on that data public hearing was conducted on 16.01.2017. The EAC reiterated the Ministry's OM dated 08.06.2022 wherein it is mentioned that *the baseline data and Public Hearing shall not be more than three years old at the time of submission of application for consideration of EC.* In the instant proposal validity of the baseline data and the public hearing got expired in the year 2018 and 2020 respectively and hence the Project Proponent shall collect a fresh baseline data and conduct a fresh public hearing as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments.

Based on the above discussions held, the EAC in its 10<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 **recommended** the proposal under the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) under the provisions of Ministry's Notification S.O 804 (E) dated 14.03.2017 to M/s Mangalore Minerals Pvt. Ltd. for mining of Silica Sand in Siddavaram Silica Sand Mine for Total Excavation of 0.306 Million Tonne per annum (MTPA)/0.1224 million Cum per annum [including 0.3 million tons of Silica Sand & Waste/Sub grade rejects] in the mine lease area of 105.22 Ha, located at Village Siddavaram, Tehsil Kota, District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh for undertaking detailed EIA/EMP study subject to the following specific conditions in addition to the standard ToR conditions applicable for non-coal mining projects:-

- i. The Andhra Pradesh, SPCB has filed a court case vide File no. 301/15 and Hon'ble Court pronounced the judgment on 18.04.2016 and imposed a penalty of Rs 1.0 Lakh and the same was duly paid by Project Proponent. Further no consent to operate to be issued till the project is granted EC. Present status of above case by the State/State PCB, may be submitted to the Ministry.
- ii. The Project Proponent shall be required to submit a bank guarantee equivalent to the amount of remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan with the SPCB prior to the grant of EC. The quantum shall be recommended by the EAC and finalized by the regulatory authority. The bank guarantee shall be released after successful implementation of the EMP, followed by recommendations of the EAC and approval of the regulatory authority.

- iii. Assessment of ecological damage with respect to air, water, land and other environmental attributes. The collection and analysis of data shall be done by an environmental laboratory duly notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or an environmental laboratory accredited by NABL, or a laboratory of a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) institution working in the field of environment.
- iv. The Dept. of Geology and Mining shall take necessary action in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 02.08.2017 in writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India & Ors.
- v. Preparation of EMP comprising remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the ecological damage assessed and economic benefits derived due to violation.
- vi. The remediation plan and the natural and community resource augmentation plan to be prepared as an independent chapter in the EIA report by the accredited consultants.
- vii. Details of benefit accrued during the violation period along with capital cost of the project is to be submitted.
- viii. Budget of remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the ecological damage shall be completed within three years and to be prepared accordingly.
- ix. One season fresh baseline data has to be collected and incorporated in the EIA/EMP report. The Project Proponent needs to monitor the ambient air quality and noise level at the mine lease boundary, nearest village, predominant downwind direction and at other sensitive receptors.
- x. The Project Proponent should prepare the EMP considering the scenario of pollution to be generated for normative and peak total excavation for assessing air and noise pollution.
- xi. The Project Proponent needs to specifically address the health and environmental impacts due to mining of Silica sand.
- xii. The Project Proponent needs to study the traffic density and carrying capacity of the road and should include the same in the EIA/EMP report. PP needs to submit the map showing the transport route and its impact due to mining activity and the mitigation measures to be taken.

- xiii. The Project Proponent needs to carry out the Public Hearing as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. PP should also submit the time bound action plan on concerns of the public through a separate budget with capital expenditure with a timeline of 3 years. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing shall be different from the CSR activities.
- xiv. The Project Proponent needs to submit the letter from the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA) at the time of appraisal of EC.
- xv. The Action Plan on the compliance of the recommendations of the CAG as per Ministry's Circular No. J-11013/71/2016-IA.I (M), dated 25.10.2017 needs to be submitted at the time of appraisal of the project and included in the EIA/EMP Report.
- xvi. The Project Proponent needs to submit the District Survey Report (DSR) as per Ministry's Notification S.O 3611(E) dated 25.07.2018 approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Andhra Pradesh at the time of appraisal of EC.
- xvii. The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.

**1.6 Humdara - Ghodepawadi block of Bauxite Mine of M/s Gamma Iron India Ltd with the proposed production capacity of 0.3 MTPA of Bauxite, Waste: 0.31 MTPA (Total Excavation: 0.61 MTPA) along with mobile crushing and screening plant having a capacity of 100 TPH in the mine lease area of 120.48 ha, located at Hamdara–Ghodepawadi, Sagave Village, Rajapur Tehsil, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra - [Proposal No: IA/MH/MIN/240932/2021, File. No: IA-J-11015/106/2021-IA-II(NCM), Consultant: Mineral Engineering Services] - Reconsideration for ToR**

The instant proposal is for reconsideration of Terms of Reference (ToR) of M/s Gamma Iron India Ltd for mining of Bauxite in Humdara - Ghodepawadi block with the proposed production capacity of 0.3 MTPA of Bauxite, Waste: 0.31 MTPA (Total Excavation: 0.61 MTPA) along with mobile crushing and screening plant having a capacity of 100 TPH in the mine lease area of 120.48 ha, located at Hamdara–Ghodepawadi, Sagave Village, Rajapur Tehsil, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra.

2. The details of the project as ascertained from the document submitted by the Project Proponent and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting are given as under:

- i. The mine lease area is located between Latitude: 16°31'5.704"N to 16° 31'38.06" N and Longitude: 73°23'11.61"E to 73° 24' 23.50" E. The mine lease



area falls under the Survey of India Toposheet No: 47 H/6 and falls in Seismic Zone-II.

- ii. The proposed project activity is listed at schedule no. 1(a) Mining of Minerals. The instant proposal attracts the general conditions as the mine lease area is located within 5km of Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA).
- iii. Details of previous EAC meetings:
  - a) The proposal was initially considered in the EAC meeting held during 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 wherein the EAC deferred the proposal and the Project Proponent submitted the information on 18.01.2022.
  - b) Then the proposal was reconsidered in the 46<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held during 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the EAC after detailed deliberations deferred the proposal and directed the project proponent to submit a letter from the State Authority stating that the project site is not falling under ESA of Western Ghats. The Project Proponent vide Lr. No: GIIL/272/2022-23 dated 25.07.2022 submitted the information.
  - c) Accordingly, the proposal was again reconsidered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held during 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 and due to close proximity of Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA), the EAC was of view that Ministry's Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Nagpur and a senior officer from Forest Department, Maharashtra Government may be requested for a joint visit to the site for ground truthing and submit the report to the Ministry. After detailed discussions, the EAC deferred the proposal. The Project Proponent submitted the information on 07.01.2023 in Parivesh and accordingly the proposal was again considered in the 10<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 08.02.2023 based on Ministry's OM dated 27.09.2022.

Based on observation of EAC in its meeting held during 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 compliance of observation of EAC made by the Project Proponent are detailed below:

S. No	Observation of EAC	Reply by Project Proponent
1	Due to close proximity of Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA), the EAC was of view that Ministry's Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Nagpur and a senior officer from Forest Department, Maharashtra Government may be requested for a joint visit to the site for ground truthing and submit the report to the Ministry.	<p>The Project Proponent informed that as per Ministry's direction, joint inspection was carried out by Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra on 13.12.2022 for ground truthing.</p> <p>During the site inspection, the committee observed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. As per the Draft ESA notification (dated 06.07.2022) of Western Ghats, the village Hamdara-Ghodepawadi (Sagave), (in which the Gamma Iron</li> </ul>

		<p>India Ltd. block is located) does not fall under the proposed ESA of Western Ghats.</p> <p>ii. The Location of mine project boundary (mining lease cadastral map pillar number 20) is falling at an aerial distance of 1.3 Km from boundary of WG ESA (Village Palye Boundary).</p> <p>The recommendations of the committee are given below: -</p> <p>Based on the observation made during site inspection, mining lease cadastral area map, Palye and Sagave Village maps, it is observed that the village Hamdara-Ghodepawadi (Sagave) does not fall inside the Western Ghat ESA and the location of mining project is at the distance of 1.3 km from the boundary of nearest Western Ghat ESA Village Palye in Rajapur Taluk, Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra.</p>
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iv. Details of Mine Lease:

S. No	Lease Particulars	Date of Grant	Mineral	Mine Lease Area, Ha	Period	Granted by
1	Letter of Intent with reference to e-auction dated 08.05.2019 for grant of a mining lease in pursuant to Rule 10 (2) of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and this Letter of Intent is valid for a period of 3 years from the date of its issuance	13.09.2019	Bauxite	120.48	50 years	Govt. of Maharashtra

v. Land Use/Land Cover of the Mine Lease Area:

Private land	120.48 ha
Government land	-
Total Mining lease area	120.48 ha

- a) The Project Proponent submitted the detailed breakup of current land use and conceptual land use plan with extent of land use is shown below:

Current Land use Pattern for Core Zone Area			
Sl. No	Type	Area in Ha	%
1	Residential Area	6.45	5.35
2	991 m* 6 m Road	0.59	0.49
3	992 m * 3.5 m Road	0.35	0.29
4	Mango/Cashew plantation	12.56	10.42
5	Un-used Area	100.53	83.44
Total		120.48	100.00

PP submitted that the presence of Mangroves, Mango and Cashew plantation are clearly shown in the submitted KML File. The KML file also demarcates the boundary limits of mangroves, marked by Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZA).

Conceptual Land use Pattern			
Sl. No	Type	Area in Ha	%
1	Mining Area for Block period	2.75	2.28
2	7.5 Buffer Area	4.47	3.71
3	Mining for Conceptual period	6.29	5.22
4	991 m* 6 m Road	0.59	0.49
5	992 m * 3.5 m Road	0.35	0.29
6	50 mt safety barrier for Roads & Electrical Lines	36.90	30.63
7	Mango/Cashew plantation	12.56	10.42
8	Ultimate pit Limit	21.49	17.84
9	Waste Stack	0.80	0.67
10	Residential Area	6.45	5.35
11	Un-used Area	27.83	23.10
Total		120.48	100.00

- vi. Mining plan details:

Approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines	Letter No.	MP/MECH-02(MAH)/GOA/2021-22
	Date	02.08.2021
	Mineral	Bauxite
	Mine lease area	120.48 ha
	Validity	5 years
Mining Parameters	Quantitative Description	
Method of Mining	Opencast mechanized mining method	
Reserves and Resources	2.365 Million Tonnes (As per Approved Mining Plan as on date )	
Life of mine	8 years @ 0.3 Million Tonnes per (max) Annum	

Bench Height	5 m
Bench Width	10 m
Overall pit slope	45°
Drilling/Blasting	Deephole drilling and blasting will be adopted in hard zone
Transportation details	The waste material will be transported from mine face to dumping or backfilling site and ore will be transported to the mobile crushing/ screening plant using tippers. Dry crushed/ screened ore will be stacked within lease and domestically sold and transported by tippers. Wheel Loaders will be used for loading of ore into tippers for transport.
Dumpers capacity	Trucks: 16 tonnes Dumpers: 25 tonnes
Crushing/ Screening	The bauxite will undergo dry crushing/ screening within the mine lease using mobile crushing and screening plant having a capacity of 100t/hr. Hydraulic excavators and wheel loaders will be used for feeding of ore to the crusher and screening plant as well as loading of ore for transport.
Waste Management	PP submitted that the development includes top soil, laterite waste, laterite of < 30% AL <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> . The maximum quantity of waste handling will be 4, 26,978 tonnes/ annum. During the first year, the waste generated will be temporarily stacked as surface dump within the mining lease and will be re-handled and backfilled in the exhausted pit in the next year. From the second year onwards, waste generated will be backfilled in the exhausted pit after complete exhaustion of mineral.

vii. Water requirement:

Total water requirement	80.0 KLD	Dust suppression	70.0 KLD
		Afforestation	8.0 KLD
		Domestic	2.0 KLD
Source	Project Proponent reported that total monsoon water will be allowed to collect in the proposed pit and same will be pumped out and used for mining operations such as dust suppression and well water from nearby village shall be used for drinking and domestic purpose.		
Permission	PP submitted that application is yet to be submitted to CGWA		

viii. Nearest village / town/ highway/railway station / water bodies

Particulars	Particular's Name	Distance & Direction
Nearest Village	Palye village	6.0km
Nearest Town	Rajapur Town	30.0km

Nearest Railway station	Rajapur Road Railway station	42.0 km
Nearest Airport	SindhurgaChipi Airport	84.0km
Nearest highway	NH-17	17.0 km(by road)
Nearest water bodies	River Kavdoli Vaghotan river pariyanala Kavdoli river Arabian Sea	8.0 km 500 m, S 2.8km 8.0 km 7.7 km, W
<p>PP submitted the Plan showing clear CRZ demarcation from the High Flood Plain (HFL) issued by Water Resources Department map showing HFL of Vaghotan river in village Sagave, Rajapur taluk, Ratnagiri (Dist), Maharashtra. Also, CRZ line is marked by MCZMP of Maharashtra and also shows the distance of proposed mining lease from the nearest ESA village of Western Ghats notification, 2018 i.e., Palye village.</p>		

ix. Presence of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the study area:

Forest Land/ Protected Area/ Environmental Sensitivity Zone	Yes/No	Details of Certificate/ letter/Remarks
Forest Land	No	-
National Park	No	
Wildlife Sanctuary	No	
Western Ghats	Yes	

	<p>mining lease area is not falling in ESA of Western Ghats along with authentication of the map. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &amp; Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board vide letter dated 20.07.2022 informed that the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board has no mandate to issue such certificates and requested to contact with the concerned District Officials in this regard.</p> <p>The Project Proponent has now approached the Forest Department, Govt.of Maharashtra to provide a certificate clearly stating that the subject mining lease does not form part of any ESA villages as given draft notification vide SO.No. 3072(E) dated 06.07.2022.</p> <p>The Project Proponent also submitted that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA No 1000 of 2003 in W.P (C) No. 202 of 1995 titled T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs Union of India &amp; Ors vide order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 in a matter pertaining to ESZ/Safety zone for mining activities has disposed by ordering that "Each Protected forest that is National Park or Wild life Sanctuary must have an ESZ of Minimum One Kilometer measured from the demarcated boundary of such protected forest in which the activities prescribed in the Guidelines of 9th February 2011 shall be strictly adhered to".</p> <p>The Mining lease area in village Sagave is at the distance of 47.6 km from the nearest Radhanagari Wild Life Sanctuary and at the distance of 44.4 km from nearest ESZ boundary of Radhanagari Wild Life Sanctuary in Kolhapur District which is notified. Thus it can be seen that the project does not violate any norms concerned with NBWL / FC Act 1980.</p> <p>The Mining lease area is not falling within 1km of ESA (Boundary of village Palye falling in ESA) of Western Ghat as per the MoEF&amp;CC First Draft Notification dated 10.03.2014 or in Second Draft Notification dated 04.09.2015 or in Third Draft Notification dated 27.02.2017 or in Fourth draft notification dated 03.10.2018 or in Fifth draft notification dated 06.07.2022. Since the authentication certificate sought is for the area which is pending and in draft stage, Project Proponent requested the Ministry to seek clarification from the WG-ESA division of MoEF&amp;CC or from NBWL of MoEF&amp;CC.</p>
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x. Green belt/plantation details:

Period	Area	Proposed plantation	Location	Name of species
1 <sup>st</sup> 5 years Block Period	3.32 ha	3320 no.s	0.42 Ha. of 7.5 m safety zone and 2.90 Ha. of Backfilled area	Species like Gulmohar, Cashew, Coconut, Mango, Jackfruit, etc.,
2 <sup>nd</sup> 5 Years Block Period	Proposals shall be given after completion of exploration			
3 <sup>rd</sup> 5 years upto conceptual/ lease period				

xi. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

R & R details	The Project Proponent submitted that there are few houses located within the ML area which shall be shifted complying with the statutory requirements after paying necessary compensation.
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xii. Court case details:

Court Case	No litigation is pending against the project
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xiii. Affidavit/Undertaking details:

Affidavit as per Ministry's OM dated 30.05.2018	The Project Proponent submitted the Affidavit in a Non-Judicial stamp paper of Rs.100 bearing XM 942491 dated 14.01.2022 stating that the company will comply with all the statutory requirement & judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of common cause versus Union of India &Ors.
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xiv. Details of Project cost and Employment:

Particulars	Details
Project Cost	Rs. 2.6 Crore
Employment	60 persons

**3. Observation and Recommendation of the Committee: -**

The EAC noted that the instant proposal is reconsideration of Terms of Reference (ToR) mining of Bauxite in Humdara - Ghodepaiwadi block with the proposed production capacity of 0.3 MTPA of Bauxite along with mobile crushing and screening plant having a capacity of 100 TPH in the mine lease area of 120.48 ha. During the meeting, the Project Proponent informed the EAC that joint inspection was carried out by Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra on 13.12.2022 for ground truthing. Based on the observation made

during site inspection, mining lease cadastral area map, Palye and Sagave Village maps, it was observed that the village Hamdara-Ghodepaiwadi (Sagave) does not fall inside the Western Ghat ESA and the location of mining project is at the distance of 1.3 km from the boundary of nearest Western Ghat ESA Village Palye in Rajapur Taluk, Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra.

Based on the above discussions held, the EAC in its 10<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 **recommended** the proposal under the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments to M/s Gamma Iron India Ltd for mining of Bauxite in Humdara - Ghodepaiwadi block with the proposed production capacity of 0.3 MTPA of Bauxite, Waste: 0.31 MTPA (Total Excavation: 0.61 MTPA) along with mobile crushing and screening plant having a capacity of 100 TPH in the mine lease area of 120.48 ha, located at Hamdara–Ghodepaiwadi, Sagave Village, Rajapur Tehsil, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra for undertaking detailed EIA/EMP study subject to the following specific conditions in addition to the standard ToR conditions applicable for non-coal mining projects:-

- i. The Project Proponent needs to specifically address the impact on the environmental sensitivity area due to mining of Bauxite.
- ii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for year wise backfilling.
- iii. The Project Proponent needs to monitor the ambient air quality and noise level at the mine lease boundary, eco sensitive area, nearest village, crusher, predominant downwind direction and at other sensitive receptors. Accordingly, Project Proponent shall propose to install Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station within certain timeline.
- iv. The Project Proponent should prepare the EMP considering the scenario of pollution to be generated for normative and peak total excavation for assessing air and noise pollution.
- v. The Project Proponent needs to study the traffic density and carrying capacity of the road and should include the same in the EIA/EMP report. PP needs to submit the map showing the transport route and its impact due to mining activity and the mitigation measures to be taken. The Project Proponent shall prepare the plan in such a way that the transportation route does not pass through village road.
- vi. The Project Proponent needs to submit the action plan for undertaking plantation in the periphery of the mine lease boundary and in safety zone. PP also needs to submit the year wise afforestation plan in a tabular form till the



life of the mine. The details of the no. of saplings proposed, type of saplings, spacing and the area to be covered including the cost and timeline for completion of plantation needs to be provided in the EIA report.

- vii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the compensatory afforestation plan for the two times the no. of trees to be cut in the mine lease area. The afforestation plan shall be prepared in such a way that the ecology of the area shall be restored with undertaking the same species.
- viii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the design for construction of retaining wall, garland drains, catch drains and siltation ponds along with the timeline.
- ix. The Project Proponent needs to carry out the Public Hearing as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. PP should also submit the time bound action plan on concerns of the public through a separate budget with capital expenditure with a timeline of 3 years. The Project proponent shall ensure that the activities proposed under the public hearing shall be different from the CSR activities.
- x. The Project Proponent shall carry out the assessment of impact due to the proposed project as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP. The project proponent shall conduct hydrological study for projects involving intersection of ground water table as per the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time and submit the same as a part of the EIA/EMP.
- xi. The Project Proponent shall explore the possibility of reduction of specific water requirement by optimization / technology up gradation, etc. The efforts shall be delineated in the EIA/EMP.
- xii. The Project Proponent shall prepare the scheme for mandatory recycle/re-use of water as specified by the Central Ground Water Authority for different category areas seeking NoC for ground water withdrawal and the shall submit as part of EIA/EMP report.
- xiii. The Project Proponent needs to submit the detailed R&R plan covering all the components viz. number of Project Affected Families (PAF) and details of the land owned by them, break up of total compensation to be paid including method of calculation including the sources/references adopted and mode of payment etc. PP need to submit the plan for Socio economic development of the neighbourhood habitats based on the need based survey along with the time bound action plan.

- xiv. The Project Proponent shall conduct drone survey of the mine lease area and buffer area and submit during the appraisal for EC.

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA**

#### **1.7 Amendment in Environmental Clearance dated 27.12.2007 of M/s Birla Corporation Limited for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha and intersection of ground water table during mining activity of Sagmania Lime Stone mine located at Village Sagmania, Tehsil Raghurajnagar, District Satna, Madhya Pradesh - [File No: J-11015/271/2006-IA.II(M), Proposal No: IA/MP/MIN/264555/2022; Consultant: Ardra Consulting Services Pvt. Ltd] - Amendment in EC**

The proposal of M/s Birla Corporation Limited is for amendment in Environmental Clearance vide no J-11015/271/2006-IA.II(M) dated 27.12.2007 for change in ML area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha, intersection of ground water table during mining activity and extension of EC validity for Sagmania Lime Stone mining located at Village Sagmania, Tehsil Raghurajnagar, District Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

2. The proposal was earlier considered in the 49<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) Meeting held during 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 and the EAC after detailed deliberations returned the proposal in present form. The observations and recommendations of the EAC are reproduced below: -

“After detailed deliberations made by the Project Proponent and the Consultant, the Committee noted that the Project Proponent initially obtained Environmental Clearance on 17.09.2007 and 27.12.2007 and the PP operated the mines without obtaining Environmental Clearance from 1994 to 2006 and also PP obtained the 2nd renewal of mining lease on 13.10.2010 and at this stage PP required to obtain EC as per Ministry’s OM No.J15012/35/2007-IA.II(M)-Part dated 2nd July, 2007. However, project proponent has not obtained the EC at the time of renewal of mine lease. The Committee also noted that the PP has been operating the mines from 13.10.2010 without obtaining amendment in Environmental clearance from change in reduction of mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha. Thus, the Committee was of the view that the instant case attracts the Hon’ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 02.08.2017 in W.P.C 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common cause Vs Union India and violation of EIA Notification, 2006. Further, the Committee noted that the instant proposal is for amendment in environmental clearance for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha and intersection of ground water table during mining activity. The Committee observed that due to the above amendment sought by the PP, there will be change in pit size and reduction in land which requires detailed assessment through the proper impact assessment report. The Committee also observed that the PP has not submitted the final closure report issued by the IRO for earlier EC compliance. The Committee opined that the PP should apply for a fresh ToR

under violation for seeking environment permission for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha and intersection of ground water table during mining activity. Thus, the Committee was of the view that the instant proposal for amendment in EC was not accepted and the Ministry should take action against the Project Proponent for violation under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and therefore the Committee returned the proposal in present form”.

3. The Project Proponent vide letter Ref: BCL/SLSM/MoEF&CC/EC-Amend/2022-23/64 dated 11.10.2022 submitted that the instant proposal is not a violation case under EIA Notifications and submitted the following point wise reply to the issues raised in the 49<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) Meeting held during 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 as mentioned below: -

S. No	Queries as per minutes of meeting of 49 <sup>th</sup> EAC Meeting held during 19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2022	Reply/Compliance by the Project Proponent
1	PP operated the mines without obtaining Environmental Clearance from 1994 to 2006	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that Sagmania mine is running mine with proper consents under Air and Water Act as per details given below: -</p> <p>a) Air Consent no. TS/EZ/MMPCB/97/17218; valid from 01.08.1984 &amp; stand annually renewed till 31.07.1996</p> <p>b) Water Consent no. TS/EZ/MMPCB/97/17216; valid from 01.01.75 &amp; stand annually renewed till 31.07.96</p> <p>After 31.07.1996, both the consents are renewed till date without any delay.</p> <p>As per the applicability of EIA notification 1994, EC was not required for running mine with valid CTO.</p>
2	PP obtained the 2 <sup>nd</sup> renewal of mining lease on 13.10.2010 and at this stage PP required to obtain EC as per Ministry's OM No.J-15012/35/2007-IA.II(M)- Part	The Project Proponent submitted that 1 <sup>st</sup> Environmental Clearance was obtained vide EC Lr. No. J-11015/123/2005-IA.II(M) dated 17.09.2007 for limestone production capacity of 3.3 MTPA over an area of

	dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.	<p>939.78 ha.</p> <p>Then, PP obtained Environmental Clearance vide EC Lr. No J-11015/271/2006-IA.II(M) dated 27.12.2007 for an expansion of limestone production from 3.3 MTPA to 4.9 MTPA by opencast mechanised method involving total lease area of 939.78 ha.</p> <p>The OM No.J-15012/35/2007-IA.II(M)-Part dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007 requires EC in case of expansion of area/production. 2<sup>nd</sup> mining lease renewal was neither for increase in area not for increase in production. Therefore, said OM was not applicable.</p>
3	PP has been operating the mines from 13.10.2010 without obtaining amendment in Environmental clearance from change in reduction of mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha.	The Project Proponent submitted that as per this OM No.J-15012/35/2007-IA.II(M)- Part dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2007, no action was prescribed for reduction of area. It states requirement of EC only in case of expansion of area/production, which is not applicable to this instant proposal. Hence, amendment in Environmental Clearance was not required.
4	Thus, the Committee was of the view that the instant case attracts the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 02.08.2017 in W.P.C 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common cause Vs Union India and violation of EIA Notification, 2006.	<p>The Project Proponent submitted the certified past production details vide letter dated 23.03.2022 and reported that the prescribed production limit of EC i.e., 4.9 MTPA was never exceeded and there is no violation of EIA Notification, 2006.</p> <p>However, prior to applicability of EC, the production was increased from</p>

		sanctioned value of CTO and it does not fall within the purview of violation category under EIA Notification, 2006.
5	The amendment proposal is for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha and intersection of groundwater table during mining activity, there will be change in pit size and reduction in land which requires detailed assessment through the proper impact assessment report	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that the State Govt. renewed the mining lease on 13.10.2010 with reduction in mining lease from 939.78 ha to 852.5 ha.</p> <p>At present, there is no ground water intersection however for future mining, permission for groundwater intersection is required as per specific condition no. 3 of EC. PP also submitted that NOC already obtained from Central Ground Water Authority vide CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2021/13750 for ground water abstraction of fresh water of 290 m<sup>3</sup>/day and dewatering of 329 m<sup>3</sup>/day and is valid from 16.11.2021 to 15.11.2023.</p> <p>Total mine lease area is 939.78 ha, out of which 731.78 ha was proposed for mining pit, whereas on renewal of 852.50 ha, the proposed mining pit area is 728.12 ha. Also, highest production achieved was 3.72 Million Tonnes against the capacity of 4.9 MTPA. Therefore, the mining pit area remains almost the same.</p> <p>Further, the Project Proponent submitted the certificate from the DMG vide letter dated 03.10.2022 stating that no major change is observed in land use and pit size due to reduced mining lease area.</p>
6	PP has not submitted the final	The Project Proponent submitted that

	closure report issued by the IRO for earlier EC compliance.	the certified compliance report issued by the Regional Office, Bhopal vide File No 3-35/2012(ENV)/796 dated 01.12.2020. PP submitted the action report to the Regional Office (WZ), Bhopal on 04.01.2022. Further, the Project Proponent requested the Regional Office, Bhopal vide email dated 28.09.2022 to issue the closure report.
7	PP should apply for a fresh ToR under violation for seeking environment permission for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha and intersection of ground water table during mining activity.	<p>The Project Proponent submitted that as explained in point no: 4, the instant project is not a violation case under EIA Notification, 2006.</p> <p>The present proposal is for approval of intersection of groundwater as per compliance of specific condition 3 of EC and also for reduction in mine lease area from 939.78 ha to 852.50 ha. As per the said condition of EC, permission from CGWA has been already obtained for intersecting groundwater for proposed mining.</p>

4. In view of the above response of the Project Proponent vide letter dated 11.10.2022, the instant proposal was placed in the 10<sup>th</sup> EAC (Non-Coal Mining) meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 for due deliberations of EAC.

#### 5. **Observation and Recommendation of the EAC:**

The EAC during 8.02.2023 deliberated the representation dated 11.10.2022 of project proponent and the EAC reiterated the recommendations of the earlier EAC meeting held during 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 and the EAC opined that the project proponent should apply for a fresh ToR under SOP violation. Thus, the Committee was of the view that the instant proposal for amendment in EC was not accepted and the Ministry should take action against the Project Proponent for SOP violation under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**List of members of Expert Appraisal Committee participated through VC**

S.No	Member Name	Member Address	Designation	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023
1	Dr. Dinesh Misra, IFS (Retd.)	Plot No 65, Sector 8, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, 382 008	Chairman	Yes
2	Sh. Niranjan Kumar Vasu, IFS (Retd.)	816, Shanti Nagar, Opposite Durgapur Railway Station, Jaipur-Rajasthan, 302018	Member	Yes
3	Dr. Asha Rajvanshi Scientist 'G' (Retd.), WII	B/104/106 Rock Valley Apartments, GMS Road, Sewla Kalan, P.O. Majra, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248171	Member	Yes
4	Shri. Avijit Ghosh (CMD- Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited) (Retd.)	Singhee Marg, A- 604 Shahadeo Tower, P. P. Compound, Ranchi 834001, Jharkhand	Member	Yes
5	Shri. Bandi Ramchandra Reddy (CMD-South Eastern Coalfields Limited)- (Retd.)	Flat No-503 A, Jyoti Cosmos, White Fields, Hi-Tech City, Kondapur, Hyderabad-500081	Member	No
6	Prof. Pramod Kumar, Professor, Shri Aurobindo College, University of Delhi	Shri Aurobindo College, University of Delhi 1372, B-1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070	Member	No
7	Prof. Devesh Walia, Professor, Department of Environmental Studies	Department of Environmental Studies, NEHU, Shillong-793022 Meghalaya	Member	Yes
8	Dr. Suresh Tiwari Scientist-F	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, New Delhi Branch, Prof. Ram Nath Viji Marg Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060	Member	No
9	Dr. K.G Asha Manjari, Professor, University of	10/B, "SPARSHA", 2nd Main, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cross, Bhogadi 1 <sup>st</sup> Stage, Mysore-	Member	No

	Mysore	570026, Karnataka		
10	Prof. Dev Dutt Sharma, Vice-Chancellor	Sardar Patel University, Mandi H.P. 175001	Member	No
11	Shri V. K. Soni, Representative of India Meteorological Department	Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India Meteorological Department, Mausam Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110003	Member	No
12	Dr. Yogesh G.Kale, Representative of Indian Bureau of Mines	Controller of Mines, IBM Block D, Second Floor, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001	Member	Yes
13	Shri Madhav Rao, Dy. Director	Representative of Directorate General of Mines Safety	Member	Yes
14	Shri Pankaj Verma	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Prithvi Block, Indira Paryawaran Bhawan, MoEF&CC, Jorbagh, New Delhi-110003.	Member Secretary	Yes

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