

F. No. 22-4/2020-IA.III

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

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Dated: 16th February, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM


Sub.: Guidelines on public consultation in respect of mining projects of certain categories being considered under the provisions of S.O.1530(E) dated 6th April, 2018 – reg.

Reference is invited to Notification number S.O. 1530(E) dated 6th April, 2018 enabling those mining projects, whose Environmental Clearance was granted under EIA Notification 1994 and was considered as valid for five years, to apply for Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification, 2006. In such cases, public hearing has already been conducted earlier (at the time of grant of Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification, 1994) for the same project to undertake activities at that place and for that quantity.

2. In light of the above, the requirement of undertaking public hearing again has been reviewed keeping in view that the mining activity at the place was being undertaken since past several years. In such cases, fresh public hearing, to decide whether mining activity could be undertaken at that place and for that quantity, may not be warranted since these are legacy cases. Nevertheless, the views of the public are required to be obtained in such cases through other modes of public consultation process stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006.

3. In order to ensure uniformity in approach in these legacy cases, it has been decided that in such cases the project proponent shall invite the suggestions/objections as wider part of public consultations for the project, instead of public hearing as per the procedure prescribed in EIA Notification, 2006 provided-

- a. The project involves:
- i. No increase in the production capacity & Mining lease; and
 - ii. No change in mining namely, mining method, mining plan, mineral transportation, water requirement, reclamation plan is involved.
- b. The mine has not discontinued operations for a period more than 5 years from the date of application for grant of EC.
5. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director- IA (Policy)

To

1. Chairman/ Member Secretaries of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
2. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. All the Officers of IA Division

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Ps to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS (RSP)/AS (RA)
5. PPS to JS (GM)/JS (SKB)/JS (AKN)
6. Website, MoEF&CC/Guard file.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director- IA (Policy)