

F. No.IA3-22/23/2021-IA.III [E167077]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 20th October, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Guidelines for granting Environmental Clearance (EC) for up to 20% expansion of Iron, Manganese, Bauxite and Limestone mining projects – reg.

The Ministry is in receipt of representations from Ministry of Mines and other stakeholders for simplifying the procedure for issuing Environmental Clearance (EC) for Iron, Manganese, Bauxite and Limestone, as done in case of Coal mines to facilitate enhancing the production.

2. The matter was referred to the Joint Expert Appraisal Committee (Coal and Non-Coal Mining Sectors) for its consideration. The committee after due deliberation has provided its recommendations.

3. The matter has been examined in the Ministry in light of the provision already available in the clause (a) of Para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006 as amended from time to time wherein applications for prior EC for expansion or modernization or change of product mix in existing projects shall be considered by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee, who will decide on the due diligence necessary including preparation of EIA report and public consultations and the application shall be appraised accordingly for grant of EC.

4. The Ministry has also examined the recommendations of the committee. With a view to encourage compliant mining projects with 5-star ratings, it has been decided that the expansion of Iron, Manganese, Bauxite and Limestone mining projects (with 5-star ratings) upto 20% of the production capacity (for which EC had been granted on the basis of public hearing) shall be allowed to undertake public consultation instead of Public Hearing at site while granting EC subject to the conditions as under:

- i. The said relaxation would be applicable to only those mining projects that have 5-star rating of Mines as per as per notification from Ministry of Mines.
- ii. The expansion up to a maximum of 20% of production capacity, authorized through prior EC (issued on the basis of public hearing), would be allowed.

- iii. Public Consultation shall be undertaken by obtaining response in writing, as per para 7 III (ii) (b) of EIA Notification 2006.
 - iv. The project must have a prior EC (issued on the basis of public hearing) and capacity indicated in the EC shall be treated as base for expansion.
 - v. The expansion should not involve any increase in the mining lease area that has been authorized through the prior EC.
 - vi. The project proponent shall prepare a detailed Environment Management Plan (EMP).
 - vii. Air quality online monitoring systems, as stipulated by the EAC/SEAC, as per prior EC (already issued) should have been installed.
 - viii. Predicted environmental quality parameters should be within the prescribed norms and the same shall be maintained as per prescribed norms.
 - ix. Project Proponent shall apply in Form-2 on the PARIVESH Portal under para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006. The concerned EAC/SEAC shall appraise the project proposal and may prescribe additional environmental safeguards as per requirement after due diligence.
 - x. The dispensation shall be considered only for project that are compliant to the existing EC conditions and the same shall be ensured through a certified compliance report from the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry, not older than one year at the time of application.
 - xi. Other statutory requirements like Consent to Establish/Operate, Clearance from CGWA, approval of Mining Plan, Mine Closure Plan, Mine Closure Status Report, approval of DGMS, Forest Clearance, Wildlife Clearance etc., if applicable, are to be satisfactorily fulfilled at the time of application.
5. This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.


(A K Agrawal)
Director

To

1. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
2. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairmen of all State/UT Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees
4. Ministry of Mines, Government of India
5. All the Officers of IA Division, MOEFCC

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(RA)/JS(SKB)
5. Website MoEF&CC/ Guard file.