

Ref. No. EML/MOEF/ 23/01

Date: January 3, 2023

To

The Member Secretary,

Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry -I),

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India,

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi – 110003

Subject: Additional Information Sought for grant of Environmental Clearance for setting up of 2X7 MTPA Pellet Plant at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur District, Odisha

Ref:

- 1) Our Proposal No IA/OR/IND/198977/2021
- 2) Additional Information sought by MOEF& CC (Impact Assessment Division) Ir ref no F.No.IA-L-11011/38/2021-IA.II (I) dated 09th November, 2022.
- 3) Email ADS alert from MOEF&CC dated 24th Nov 2022
- 4) Our reply dated 02/12/2022
- 5) Email ADS alert from MOEF&CC dated 15th Dec 2022
- 6) Email ADS alert from MOEF&CC dated 30th Dec 2022

Sir,

This has reference to the above mentioned letter from MOEF &CC reference 2 on the proposal for setting up a green field Pellet Plant by M/s. Essar Minmet Ltd., at Paradeep. We submit the Additional Information Sought (ADS) by the EAC held on 14/15th September, 2022 for the grant of EC for the proposed project.

EAC Observation 1(Point no. 4 of Ref no. 2 -ADS):

It is reported by the PP that this is an interlinked project, Iron Ore Beneficiation plant of 14.3 MTPA at Tikarpada - Keonjhar district for which TOR was obtained on 12/04/2021. The EIA study completed in March-May 2021 and Draft EIA report submitted to OSPCB on 27th Sep -2021. The Public Hearing was announced for 10th Jan 2022. Due to COVID surge in Keonjhar during this period it was postponed as per State Govt. order. Then Panchayat Election in April 2022 and due to Code of Conduct

the date of Public Hearing was not declared. Same is being pursued and we expect the date of Public Hearing by end of October 2022. The final EIA-EMP shall be submitted to MoEFCC for consideration by November 2022. Being a smaller unit compared to Pellet Plant it can be completed in 24 months and 30 months required to construct Pellet plant. Hence both the units will be commissioned simultaneously along with completion of underground slurry pipeline of 250 km in 2 years' duration.

PP Information on the EAC Observation and current status:

As explained to the esteemed EAC during the presentation on 14/15th of September, 2022 the Beneficiation plant is an integral and interlinked project. The pellet plant can be commissioned only with the concentrate from Beneficiation Plant. Keeping in view of the importance of timely Environmental Clearances we have applied for the grant of EC for Beneficiation plant vide IA/OR/IND/204962/2021 On 21st March 2021 and the EC application for pellet plant vide IA/OR/IND/198977/2018 on 19th February 2021.

We have received the TOR for both projects and completed the requisite data collection. TOR for Pellet plant received on 21st March 2021 and TOR for Beneficiation Plant received on 12th April 2021.

We had submitted the DRAFT EIA Report for both the plants to Odisha State Pollution Control Board for Pellet Plant on 7/10/2021 and for Beneficiation Plant on 27/09/2021.

M/s. OSPCB and district administration of Jagatsinghpur could complete the PH process for Pellet Plant and accordingly we submitted the final report for Pellet plant for grant of EC. The EAC reviewed our proposal on 16th Aug 2022 and 14th Sep 2022.

For our Beneficiation plant, the Public Hearing (PH) was originally scheduled on 10/01/2022. Due to outbreak of COVID, the District Administration had postponed the PH (Letter no. 48/Judl. Dated 7th Jan 2022). Subsequent to this we have been pursuing the same with District Authorities as well as Senior Officials of GOO at state level to carry out the same so that we could apply for grant of EC for beneficiation plant.

Member Secretary – OSPCB has written to the Collector, Keonjhar requesting to conduct the PH vide letter no. 2986 /IND-II-PH-956 dated 23-02-2022.

EAC Observation 2 (Point no. 5 of Ref no. 2 –ADS):

The matter has been examined in the Ministry as per the Ministry's OM dated 24/12/2010 for consideration of integrated and Inter-linked projects. The said OM,

inter-alia, mentioned that the proposals relating to the various sector have been considered by the respective EACs and their recommendations made, these proposals will be processed on individual files for obtaining simultaneous approval of the Competent Authority in the Ministry. It has been admitted by the PP that instant project is an inter-linked project and EAC has also raised this issue that without beneficiation plant, how PP will implement this instant Project.

PP Information on EAC observation and current Status:

We have been constantly pursuing with the Concerned State Authorities to facilitate the Public Hearing as Beneficiation Plant is the main source of raw material for the Pellet plant.

We as explained and represented during our presentation to the EAC during EC for Pellet plant, the Pellet plant construction is about 30 months as compared to Beneficiation plant which generally takes 24 months and can be expedited to complete in 18 months. For testing the pellet plant, we propose to commission Module 1 followed by Module 2 in 3 to 4 months thereafter to cover the current delay in execution.

Alternatively while Beneficiation plant under testing and commissioning, we source pellet feed which can be converted to pellets so that the pellet plant gets tested and commissioned by the time concentrate is made available from Beneficiation plant. This as one time arrangement with all due approvals.

EAC Observation 3(Point no. 6 of Ref no. 2 –ADS):

3) In view of the extant rule position as per above said OM dated 24.12.2010 and submission of PP as well as observation of EAC, PP is advised to expedite the process of EC Application for the integrated Iron Ore Beneficiation plant of 14.3 MTPA at Tikarpada -Keonjhar District for further action on the instant project in the Ministry

PP Information on EAC observation and current Status:

We have made the following formal requests on the basis of MOEF & CC Additional Details Sought on dated 09/11/2022.

Letter Ref No EML/GENERAL/22/107 Dtd 11/11/22 addressed to the Principal Secretary, Industries & Chairman, IPICOL, Govt of Odisha, Bhubaneswar – requesting of completion of PH at the earliest.

Letter Ref No EML/General/22/108 Dtd 18/11/2022 addressed to the Chief Secretary and Chief Development Commissioner, Govt of Odisha, Bhubaneswar – requesting for support for various statutory clearances.

Letter Ref No EML/General/22/119 Dtd 30/12/2022 addressed to The Member Secretary Odisha State Pollution Control Board to expedite the Public Hearing Process for submission of Final EIA report to MoEFCC for appraisal.

The state government has assured informally to complete the Public hearing process in the month of Feb.2023 due to various other engagements. We are hopeful to submit our EIA application in the month of March, 2023 for your kind perusal.

We request now to issue us the EC for Pellet Plant at Paradeep as this will save us at least 6 months of project time (due to severe monsoon at Paradeep) and ready to receive the slurry/concentrate and meet the commitments for our financial closure of the project and meet the product delivery commitments as per the off take agreements.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

For Essar Minmet Limited



P C Mohapatra

Director



Enclosed:

1. Letter from Collector Keonjhar regarding postponed of Public Hearing for Beneficiation Plant (Letter no. 48/Judl. Dated 7th Jan 2022).
2. Letter from Member Secretary – OSPCB has written to the Collector, Keonjhar requesting to conduct the PH vide letter no. 2986 /IND-II-PH-956 dated 23-02-2022.
3. Letter Ref No EML/GENERAL/22/107 Dated 11/11/22 addressed to the Principal Secretary, Industries & Chairman, IPICOL, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. Letter Ref No EML/General/22/108 Dated 18/11/2022 addressed to the Chief Secretary and Chief Development Commissioner, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
5. Letter Ref No EML/General/22/119 Dated 30/12/2022 addressed to The Member Secretary Odisha State Pollution Control Board.



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE: KEONJHAR

No. 48 / Judl. Dt. 07.01.2022

To

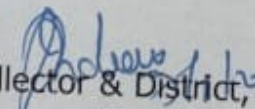
The Superintendent of Police, Keonjhar
Addl. District Magistrate (R), Keonjhar
Sub-Collector, Keonjhar
Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Keonjhar
Tahasildar, Keonjhar
Regional Officer, SPCB, Keonjhar

Sub: - Cancellation of Public Hearing of M/s. Essar Minmet Ltd. scheduled to be held on 10.01.2022.

Sir,

With reference to the letter on the subject cited above, I am to say that, the proposed public hearing of M/s. M/s. Essar Minmet. Ltd scheduled to be held on 10.01.2022 at village Tikarpada under Keonjhar Tahasil is hereby postponed until further order due to the sudden upsurge of **COVID-19** in the state.

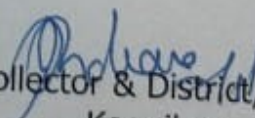
Yours faithfully,


Collector & District, Magistrate,
Keonjhar.

Memo No. 49

Date: 07.01.2022

Copy forwarded to the member Secretary, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VII, Bhubaneswar-751012 for kind information with reference to this office letter No.2964//Judl., Dt.07.12.2021.


Collector & District, Magistrate,
Keonjhar.



FAX : 2562822/2560955
Tel : 2564033/2563924
EPABX : 2561909/2562847
Email : paribesh1@ospcboard.org
Website : www.ospcboard.org

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
[Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Govt. of Odisha]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751012

No. 2986 / IND-II-PH-956

Date 23-02-2022
By Speed Post / Email: dm-Keonjhar@nic.in

To
The Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Keonjhar

Sub: Public Hearing for M/s Essar Minmet Limited for installation of 14.3 MTPA capacity Iron ore Benefication Plant at Tikarpada in the district of Keonjhar. - regarding.


Ref: This office letter No.872 -IND-II-Misc-02 dated 20.01.2022.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to above, this is to inform that the Public Hearing of above mining project scheduled to be held on 10-01.2022 at 11.00 A.M at Khata No.273 (AJA), KISSAM - HUDI, (Total area : Ac.25.50 Dec. Area required Ac.2.00 dec.) Tahsil - Keonjhar in Keonjhar district has been cancelled due to Model Code of Conduct imposed by the State Election Commission on 11.01.2022 for holding General Election to PRIs, 2022 and remains in force till counting is over i.e., 28.02.2022.

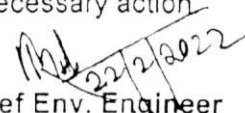
Under the above circumstances, I would request you to suggest another Date, Time and Venue of the aforesaid Public Hearing through E-mail publichearing@ospcboard.org with atleast 40 days in advance for conducting the Public Hearing of above proposal as per the above guidelines of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India as well as Govt. of Odisha.

Yours faithfully,


MEMBER SECRETARY

Memo No 2987 /dt. 23-02-2022

Copy forwarded to the Director (Env)-cum-Special Secretary to Govt. Dept. of Forest, Env. & Climate Change, Govt. of Odisha for kind information and necessary action.


Addl. Chief Env. Engineer

PTO...

Memo No 2988 /dt. 23-02-2022

Copy forwarded to the Regional Officer, SPC Board, Keonjhar for information and necessary action.


Addl. Chief Env. Engineer

Memo No 2989 /dt. 23-02-2022

Copy forwarded to The CEO & Managing Director, M/s Essar MinMet Ltd., 3rd Floor, UCCI Building, Plot No.1/1C, N6-IRC village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015 for information.


Addl. Chief Env. Engineer

Ref No. EML/General/22/107
Date 11-11-2022

Mr. Hemant Sharma, IAS
Principal Secretary, Industries &
Chairman IPICOL
Govt. of Odisha
Bhubaneswar

Essar Minmet Limited
Essar House, 11, K. K. Marg,
Mahalaxmi, Mumbai -400 034.

Corporate Identity Number:
U27100MH2016PLC355097

T: +91 22 6660 1100
E: CS@essarminmet.co.in www.essar.com

Sub: Interlinking of Pellet Plant at Paradip with Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada, Keonjhar for grant of Environment Clearance of the Pellet Plant by MOEF & CC.

Dear Sir

We thank you for the support extended in implementation of our proposed 14 MTPA Pelletizing Complex comprising of 14 MTPA Pellet Plant at Paradip, matching iron ore Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada in Keonjhar District, and 250 KM long slurry and return water pipeline connecting both the plants.

As informed to your goodself earlier, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MOEF&CC in its meeting held on dated 14-09-2022, had recommended the grant of EC for the Pellet Plant at Paradip, and we have undertaken preparatory work to commence construction activities of the Pellet Plant upon receipt of the EC. As a matter of fact, we were planning the ground breaking ceremony of the project at Paradip during Jan'23.

Meanwhile vide letter dated 09-11-2022 (letter enclosed), we have been advised by MOEF & CC to expedite the process of EC application for the Iron Ore Beneficiation plant at Tikarpada, since it is a part of the integrated project. It is imperative that EC of the Pellet Plant may not be granted till the EC application of the Iron Ore Beneficiation plant is processed.

We would like to mention that the TOR for the iron ore Beneficiation plant has been obtained from MOEF & CC on 12-4-2021. The EIA study and draft EIA report has been submitted on 27-9-2021, to OSPCB, following which the Public Hearing was notified by the District administration on 10-1-2022. Unfortunately the public hearing had to be postponed by the District administration, in view of the COVID surge. Thereafter imposition of Code of Conduct due to declaration of the Panchayat Elections delayed the notification and conduct of Public hearing.

In view of the decision by the MOEF & CC for interlinking both projects for grant of EC for the Pellet plant, it has become essential to notify and conduct the public hearing at the earliest for the Beneficiation Plant. This would help in execution of the entire project as per schedule.

We seek your kind support in the matter.

Thanking you.

With warm regards,
For Essar Minmet Limited



S.S. Mohanty
CEO & Managing Director
Contact No. : 8826630014 Email: sashi.mohanty@essarminmet.co.in

Regional Office: 3rd Floor UCCI Building, Plot No 1/1C N6 IRC Village, Nayapalli Bhubaneswar Khordha, Odisha -751015

Dangore, Amol - ESIPL - Finance (MUM)

From: Dangore, Amol - ESIPL - Finance (MUM)
Sent: 11 November 2022 17:53
To: 'indsec.or@nic.in'
Cc: Mohanty, Sashi S. - EML - MUM
Subject: Interlinking of Pellet Plant at Paradip with Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada, Keonjhar for grant of Environment Clearance of the Pellet Plant by MOEF & CC
Attachments: EML Letter-Principal Secretary Industries-11-11-22.pdf; ADS TO ESSAR.pdf

Dear Sir

Greetings from Essar Minmet Ltd.!

Kindly find a representation regarding interlinking of Pellet Plant at Paradip with Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada, Keonjhar for grant of Environment Clearance of the Pellet Plant by MOEF & CC. This for your kind perusal and necessary support.

Thank you.

Best Regards
Amol Dangore
DGM-Projects
Essar Minmet Ltd.

Ref No. EML/General/22/108
Date 18-11-2022

Shri. Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, IAS
Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner
Govt. of Odisha
Bhubaneswar

Essar Minmet Limited

Essar House,
11, K. K. Marg,
Mahalaxmi,
Mumbai -400 034.

Corporate Identity Number:
U27100MH2016PLC355097

T: +91 22 6660 1100
E: CS@essarminmet.co.in

www.essar.com

Dear Sir

Greetings from Essar Minmet Limited!

We thank you and the various agencies of State Govt. for the support and guidance for our 14 MTPA Pelletizing complex currently under execution. You may kindly recall, the project comprises an iron ore fines Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada in the district of Keonjhar, a Pellet Plant at Paradip and 250 KM long slurry pipeline and return water pipeline connecting the Beneficiation Plant and the Pellet Plant. It is pertaining to note that this project has been registered by Govt. Of India under the National Infrastructure Pipeline Project (NIP).

We are confident that the said project upon commissioning would accelerate the industrialization process in the region.

We wish to mention the salient points of the progress so far in our project.

- HLCA (High Level Clearance Authority) of Govt. of Odisha approved the project on 5th Nov-2020.
- 132 acres of land (111 acres of Govt. land and 21 acres of Private land) in the villages Tikarpada and Kadagarh has been allotted by IDCO for the Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant.
- 100 acres of land for the Pellet Plant, has been allotted by the Paradip Port Authority on lease basis for 60 years upon approval by the Ministry of Ports & Shipping, Govt. of India.
- Right of Way (RoW) for 250 KMs of Slurry Pipeline and Return water pipeline, connecting the Beneficiation plant and the Pellet plant has been obtained from NHAI and other concerned State Govt. agencies.
- The Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha, has given approval for 7.16 Cusecs of water for the plant to be drawn from River Baitarani.
- The connectivity approval for both Pellet and Beneficiation plant (120 MW) has been received from OPTCL.

- Environment Clearance for Pellet plant at Paradip has been recommended by EAC, MOEF&CC.
- The site specific wildlife management plan for the Pellet Plant has been approved by PCCF (wildlife), Odisha.
- Off-take agreements for 12 MTPA of high quality Pellet with overseas buyers has been executed.

Discussions with the technology suppliers, EPC agencies are at final stages for placing orders. We are deploying the most advanced technology with best in class techno-economic parameters in Pellet manufacturing.

We seek your kind support in the following areas which would help the early commissioning of the project.

- **Raw material security** - We require approx. 18 to 20 MTPA iron ore fines to feed our beneficiation plant and upon beneficiation, the concentrate would be transported to the Pellet Plant at Paradip through slurry pipeline. Raw material security is a pre-requisite for the financial closure of this project.

M/s Odisha Mining Corporation is the leading State PSU in the Mining Sector in our country and is recognized for its sustainable and scientific mining practices. We have already communicated our interest to source the iron ore fines from OMC mines. **We request that an agreement may be executed between OMC and Essar Minmet for sourcing 18 to 20 MTPA iron ore fines under its long term linkage for the Raw Material security of the project.**

- **Land** – IDCO has in-principle allotted 132 acres of land (111 acres of Govt. land and 21 acres of private land) in the villages Tikarpada and Kadagarh in Keonjhar District for the iron ore Beneficiation Plant. **We request for expeditious alienation of 111 acres of Govt. land followed by acquisition of 21 acres of Private land and handing over the possession of the said tract of land to enable us to commence the project implementation activities as soon as possible.**

- **Environment Clearance (EC) / Public Hearing** – Public hearing for the Beneficiation Plant was notified on 10-1-2022. Unfortunately the date was postponed in view of the COVID surge and thereafter, imposition of Code of Conduct because of the Panchayat and Urban Body elections in the State. MOEF&CC has withheld the EC for the Pellet Plant since they have considered the Pellet Plant and the Beneficiation Plant as interlinking projects, therefore it is has become essential to process the EC application for the Beneficiation Plant.

We request that the public hearing date may be notified at the earliest so that the application for grant of Environment Clearance along with the Public Hearing proceedings can be processed.

- **State Recommendation for SEZ** - The Board of Approval (BOA), Ministry of Commerce, has accorded in principle clearance for a composite SEZ comprising the Beneficiation Plant, the Pellet Plant and the 250 km slurry pipeline connecting both the plants. Since this project is designed to produce high quality pellets for the MENA region and South East Asian countries, it is essential that the project be recommended and facilitated as a SEZ for its long term sustainability. **We submit that the recommendation for SEZ is also a prerequisite for the financial closure of the project. We humbly request the State Government to grant necessary recommendation, which is required for the Central Govt. to notify the SEZ.**

We once thank you and the various agencies of the State govt. for facilitating in accomplishing some of the key pre-project activities and seek your continued support and guidance for commissioning the project as per schedule.

With warm regards



S. S. Mohanty
CEO & Managing Director
Contact No. : 8826630014 ,
Email: sashi.mohanty@essarminmet.co.in

Dangore, Amol - ESIPL - Finance (MUM)

From: Dangore, Amol - ESIPL - Finance (MUM)
Sent: 18 November 2022 18:23
To: csori@nic.in
Cc: Mohanty, Sashi S. - EML - MUM
Subject: Letter from Essar Minmet Ltd regarding 14 MTPA Pellet plant Project in Odisha
Attachments: EML Letter- Chief Secretary Govt of Odisha - 181122.pdf

Dear Sir

Greetings from Essar Minmet Ltd.!

M/s Essar Minmet Limited is setting a 14 MTPA Pellet Project in Odisha comprising of 14 MTPA Pellet Plant at Paradip , 14.3 MTPA Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant at Keonjhar and 250 KM connecting slurry pipeline and return water pipeline.

Please find enclosed letter from our CEO & MD, regarding the status of the our upcoming 14 MTPA Pellet project in Odisha and we seek your guidance.

Thanking you.

Best Regards
Amol Dangore
DGM –Projects
Essar Minmet Ltd.

Ref No. EML/General/22/119
Date 30-12-2022

To
The Member Secretary
Orissa State Pollution Control Board
Bhubaneswar.

Essar Minmet Limited

Essar House,
11, K. K. Marg,
Mahalaxmi,
Mumbai -400 034.

Corporate Identity Number:
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T: +91 22 6660 1100
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www.essar.com

Dear Sir

Greeting from Essar Minmet Limited !

Kindly recall to our various discussions regarding the proposed 14MTPA Pellet Project of Essar Minmet Limited . The Project comprises of an Iron Ore Fines Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada in the district of Keonjhar, a Pellet Plant at Paradip and 250 KM long slurry pipeline and return water pipeline connecting the Beneficiation Plant and the Pellet Plant. It is pertaining to note that this project has been registered by Govt. of India under the National Infrastructure Pipeline Project (NIP).

You are kindly aware that the EAC, MOEF & CC, has recommended the proposal for grant of Environment Clearance for the Pellet plant at Paradip. However the Public Hearing for the Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada Keonjhar scheduled on 10-01-2022 was postponed by the Sate Govt. due to the Covid surge in Keonjhar, and thereafter, imposition of code of conduct because of Panchayat and Urban body elections in the state. Since the Public Hearing has not yet been conducted, therefore our Environment Clearance application for the Beneficiation plant has not been processed as yet.

It may be pertinent to note that, Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada, Keonjhar, and the Pellet Plant at Paradip are inter linked projects. The EC for the Pellet Plant will be granted along with EC of the Beneficiation Plant as mentioned vide letter no F.No.IA-L-11011/38/2021-IA.II(I) on dated 9th November 2022. (Copy enclosed)

We, therefore request you to kindly advice the district administration of Keonjhar to notify a date in consultation with you as early as possible so that the process for grant of EC for the Beneficiation Plant could be expedited.

We shall be thankful for your urgent action in the matter.

Thanking You.

Yours faithfully,
For Essar Minmet Limited



S.S. Mohanty
CEO & Managing Director
Contact No : 8826630014
Email : sashi.mohanty@essarminmet.co.in

Ref No. EML/General/22/119
Date 30-12-2022



To
The Member Secretary
Orissa State Pollution Control Board
Bhubaneswar.

Essar Minmet Limited
Essar House,
11, K. K. Marg,
Mahalaxmi,
Mumbai -400 034.

Corporate Identity Number:
U27100MH2016PLC355097

T: +91 22 6660 1100
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Dear Sir

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You are kindly aware that the EAC, MOEF & CC, has recommended the proposal for grant of Environment Clearance for the Pellet plant at Paradip. However the Public Hearing for the Beneficiation Plant at Tikarpada Keonjhar scheduled on 10-01-2022 was postponed by the Sate Govt. due to the Covid surge in Keonjhar, and thereafter, imposition of code of conduct because of Panchayat and Urban body elections in the state. Since the Public Hearing has not yet been conducted, therefore our Environment Clearance application for the Beneficiation plant has not been processed as yet.

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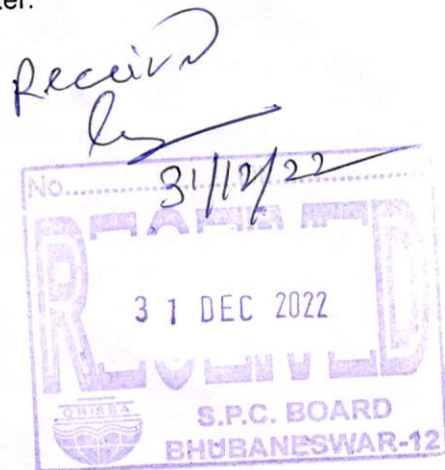
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Thanking You.

Yours faithfully,
For Essar Minmet Limited


S.S. Mohanty
CEO & Managing Director
Contact No : 8826630014
Email : sashi.mohanty@essarminmet.co.in



Regional Office: 3rd Floor UCCI Building, Plot No 1/1C N6 IRC Village, Nayapalli Bhubaneswar Khordha, Odisha -751015