

NOTE
FOR
GRANT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
(UNDER 7(ii) OF EIA NOTIFICATION 2006)

FOR
**EXPANSION OF UMRER OC COAL MINING PROJECT
UMRER AREA, WCL**

(Enhancement of capacity by 40 % from 3.50 MTPA to 4.90 MTPA within existing ML area of 944.65 Ha)

December, 2018

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

Subject:- Expansion of Umrer OC Coal Mining Project from 3.50 MTPA to 4.90 MTPA in mine lease area of 944.65 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited, located in Village Kanwa, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) - For EC

[IA/MH/CMIN/75881/2018; F.No.J-11015/151/2014-IA.II(M)]

Reference: Minutes of the 40th EAC meeting uploaded on MoEF&CC website on 04.12.2018.

The proposal was considered in the 40th EAC meeting held on 26.10.2018 at item 40.2: - Expansion of Umrer OC Coal Mining Project from 3.50 MTPA to 4.90 MTPA in mine lease area of 944.65 ha of M/s Western Coalfields Limited, located in Village Kanwa, Tehsil Umrer, District Nagpur (Maharashtra) - For EC

Submission

The minutes of meeting at point no 40.2.4 (last paragraph) recorded the following: -

Quote:

“However, as far as expansion of mining activities from 3.50 MTPA to 4.90 MTPA is concerned, the OM of 15th September 2017 only provides the possibility of exemption from public hearing. Obtaining a TOR for the proposed expansion and conducting of EIA and preparation of EMP are still required.”

Unquote

In this regard, following is submitted for kind consideration: -

The proposal submitted under section 7 (ii) of EIA notification, 2006 with exemption of public hearing till the issuance of aforesaid minutes has been considered by EAC under following requirements: -

- a) The quantum of land remaining the same for proposed expansion.
- b) Public hearing has been conducted at least once for the said quantum of land during existing EC.
- c) EC compliance certificate from the respective regional office of MoEF&CC.
- d) Valid approval Mining Plan including Mine Closure Plan for proposed expansion.
- e) Valid CTO for existing EC capacity.
- f) Valid FC wherever applicable.

The condition stipulated in the O.M dated 15.09.2017, there is no specific mention of obtaining a ToR for the proposed expansion and conducting of EIA and preparation of EMP. The status of compliance against the O.M dated 15.09.2017 is as follows:

Sl.No	Condition	Action taken report/Compliance status
1.	Predicted air quality parameters are within the prescribed norms	An exercise for predicting the air quality level due to the proposed expansion has been carried out through AERMOD which shows that the predicted air quality levels are within the prescribed norms.
2.	Coal transportation is through conveyor system up to the silo and then loading to railway wagons involving no transportation through roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project does not involve coal transportation by road beyond its ML area. The railways siding is located within the ML area of Umrer OC. The coal extracted from quarry is transported by 60 Tonne dumpers to Umrer railway Siding covering approximately 3 kms distance. The railway Siding is equipped with rotating type fixed sprinklers along its completed length. Dense plantation has been carried out along the railway siding to minimized the air pollution.
3.	Coal mining is done through deployment of surface miners, replacing three dust generating operations of the conventional mining system namely drilling, blasting & crushing in one go.	In this regard, it is submitted that the subject mine is an operating mine with shovel-dumper combination. During the proposed expansion also, the same system of mining will continue. The deployment of surface miner in the subject mine is not technically feasible as there are multiple seams to be exploited and seam gradient is not amenable for effective deployment of Surface Miner. So technically shovel-dumper combination is ideal solution for exploitation of seam in the subject mine. Regarding removal of dust generating operation, it is submitted that in case of surface miner, the said operation in coal only can be avoided and OB will continue to be removed by drilling & blasting. In case of shovel-dumper as practiced in subject mine, adequate measures are taken while drilling in coal as well as during blasting to minimize the dust. Further during crushing adequate measures for suppression of dust are taken and will continue to be maintained and augmented whenever required.
4.	Public hearing already conducted for the total mine lease area involved and no more area is required for the proposed expansion.	Yes, Public hearing was conducted on 23/09/2004 at Community Bachat Sabhagriha, Collectorate, Nagpur under the chairmanship of District Collector Nagpur based on which EC was secured for 3.5 MTPA with 944.65 ha of Land. No more area is required for the proposed expansion.
5	Compliance status of EC conditions maintained by the concerned regional office is found to be satisfactory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the compliance status of existing EC conditions (EC- May, 2005) has been monitored by the Regional Office of MOEF&CC, Nagpur vide its letter dated 22.06.2018. There was no "Non-Compliance" against the stipulated EC conditions. Only five partially compliance conditions have been recorded and ATR has been submitted vide letter dated 02.07.2018 against all 5 partially complied conditions.

6.	Other statutory requirements like consent to establish/operate, clearance from CGWA, approval of mining plan & the mine closure plan, mine closure status as applicable, forest clearance etc. are satisfactorily fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent to Operate: CTO Renewal application for 3.5 MTPA capacity was submitted to MPCB on 04-04-2017 CTO was approved in 7th CAC meeting held on 12/12/17 with validity upto 31/03/2021. • Clearance from CGWA: Application for grant of NOC for dewatering of Groundwater has been applied vide 21-4/348/MH/MIN/2018 dated 13.06.2016 • Approval of mining plan & the mine closure plan: A mining plan has been prepared for the enhancement of production capacity from 3.50 to 4.90 MTPA within the existing ML area of 944.65 ha and it has been approved by WCL board in its 300th meeting held on 24-05-2018 as communicated vide letter no WCL/BD/SECTT/BM-300/2018/93 dated 31-05-2018. The aforesaid mining plan has in-built mine closure plan also. • Forestry Clearance: No forest land involved.
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The requirement as mentioned in the guidelines for expansion projects under section 7 (ii) of EIA notification 2006 attached with the agenda of every EAC meeting is for submission of an Addendum EIA/EMP which is placed below: -

Quote

“APPLICATIONS OF COAL SECTOR PROJECTS
TOR/EC APPLICATION

15. In case of applications under Section 7.2 (ii) for expansion projects with prior EC for the project of a lesser production capacity/lease area/both and the present application is for expansion in production/ lease area/ both/ modernisation, the application (Form-I) should be submitted under Section 7 (ii) of the EIA Notification 2006, enclosing the following: (i) a copy of the EC letter, (ii) a copy of the EIA-EMP Report of the earlier EC, (iii) copy of the proceedings of Public Hearing conducted on the project of earlier EC (and authorised English translation in case the P.H. is not in English) and status of implementation of issues raised therein, (iv) An Addendum EIA-EMP Report of not more than 25-30 pages which will form part of the pre-feasibility report of the expansion project report covering all aspects of EIA-EMP for the proposed expansion - status of env. quality, specific issues on which impacts are anticipated and the proposed EMP/ mitigative measures proposed for the expansion project vis-à-vis the project for which EC was obtained.

In addition, a detailed compliance report on the earlier EC along with status of implementation of R&R (in case the project involved an R&R) should be also furnished in the Addendum EIA-EMP Report.”

Unquote

According to the above guidelines, the addendum EIA/EMP for Umrer OC Expansion has been submitted to MoEF&CC & the same was presented before EAC.

As explained above and recorded in the minutes, all the requirements of grant of EC with exemption of PH under section 7 (ii) of EIA notification 2006 have been complied with as mentioned below: -

Quote

“Earlier, the Environmental Clearance to Umrer OC coal mine for its expansion up to 3.5 MTPA in a total area of 944.65 ha, was accorded by the Ministry vide letter dated 20th May, 2005 based on public hearing conducted on 23rd September, 2004. The proposal for re-validation of environmental clearance in accordance with the Ministry’s Notification dated 6th April, 2018 was considered by the EAC in its meeting held on 24th July, 2018.

The Regional Office (WCZ) of the Ministry at Nagpur has carried out site inspection in February, 2018 and submitted its report on updated status of compliance of EC conditions vide letter dated 7th February, 2018. The action taken report has been submitted by the PP to the Regional Office, MoEF& CC, Nagpur on 2nd July, 2018.

Renewal of Consent to operate for the existing capacity of 3.50 MTPA has been obtained from the SPCB and is valid up to 31st March, 2021.

The Mining Plan for the increased coal production capacity of 4.90 MTPA within the lease area of 944.65 ha was approved by the Board of M/s Western Coalfields Ltd in its meeting held on 24th May, 2018. Mine Closure Plan is an integral part of the approved Mining Plan.

As per the observations of the EAC in its meeting held on 24th July, 2018, public Notice for information of the stakeholders about present coal mining operations of capacity 3.50 MTPA in mine lease area of 944.65 ha, was issued on 7th August, 2018 inviting comments within one month. The PP informed that no comments/suggestions were received within the prescribed time frame. As such, the PP had complied with the requirements for re-validation of EC.”

Unquote

Therefore, It is most earnestly solicited that EC for Umrer OC Expansion Coal Mining Project for expansion of production capacity by 40% i.e. from 3.50 MTPA to 4.90 MTPA in a mine area of 944.65 Ha may be accorded.