



छत्तीसगढ़ मिनरल डेव्हलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लि.

(छत्तीसगढ़ शासन का एक उपक्रम)

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मुख्य कार्यालय :

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पो.खिग्राम, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492006

Letter No./645/Coal/CMDC/2013

Raipur, Date : 9.7.13

To,

The Director, Impact Assessment (Coal)
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi-110003.

Sub:- Environment Clearance for proposed Sondiha OC-Cum-UG Coal Mine Project (1 MTPA Peak in an ML area of 810 Ha) of M/s Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corp. Ltd. located in district Balrampur (earlier Surguja), Chhattisgarh.

Ref:- Minutes of 75th EAC (Thermal Coal) meeting held on 3rd June, 2013.

With reference to above referred minute of EAC meeting, it is to bring to your kind attention that the EAC has recommended Environment Clearance for Sondiha Coal Block with certain conditions as under:

- Clause 75.2.4 (i):** Certificate/documents from PCCF (Wild Life), GoCG for record of the MoEF, GoI pertaining to the affirmation given by CMDC (Project Proponent – PP) under this clause 75.2.4 (i) of the said Minutes of Meeting of EAC.
- Clause 75.2.4 (ii):** Certificate/documents from PCCF (Wild Life), GoCG for record of the MoEF, GoI pertaining to the affirmation given by CMDC (Project Proponent – PP) under this clause 75.2.4 (ii) of the said Minutes of Meeting of EAC.

It is also to inform you that CMDC has already submitted the response to the condition stipulated as above, inter-alia, in the said minutes of meeting vide CMDC's letter no 510/CMDC/2013-14 dated 12th June'2013. The copy of the letter submitted to MoEF is again enclosed herewith as **Annexure-I** to this letter for your ready reference.

The Environmental Clearance for Sondiha Coal Block may please be granted at earliest.

Thanking you,

Enclosure: As above.

Your's faithfully

Prem Kumar
(Prem Kumar) 9/7/13
Managing Director



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Letter No./ 510 /CMDC/2013-14

मुख्य कार्यालय :

सोनाखान भवन, रिंग रोड नं.-1, ग्राम-पुरैना
पो.खिग्राम, रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492006

Raipur, Date : 12.6.13

To

The Director & Member Secretary,
Ministry of Environment & Forest,
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110030.

Kind Atten: Director, Impact Assessment (Coal)

Subject: Responses to the queries raised during 75th Meeting of EAC (Thermal & Coal Mining Project) held on 3rd June' 2013, in respect to Sondiha Opencast cum U/G Coal Mining Project, Tatapani – Ramkola Coalfield, Surguja, Chhattisgarh – reg.

Sir,

With reference to the direction given by the EAC during its 75th Meeting (Thermal & Coal Mining Project) held on 3rd June' 2013 the CMDC responses are as follows –

Query No 1: The Project Proponent has submitted a map 64M/2 to MoEF certified by DFO, Surguja North, GoCG showing Sondiha Mining Lease boundary (ML Area) and the Tamor Pingla Wild Life Sanctuary Boundary. Referring to the said map Project Proponent stated that the ML Area is not within 10 km radius of Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the Committee desired that Project Proponent should obtain further certification of the said map, 64M/2, from Chief Wild Life Warden, GoCG to the MoEF.

Response:

- As directed by the EAC the CMDC has applied for such certified map vide its letter no 479/CMDC/2013, dated 5th June' 2013, a copy of which is enclosed as **Annexure 1** to this letter.
- The PCCF (Wild Life) vide its letter no W. L. /2137, dated 12th June' 2013, issued a further certified map 64M/2. The original copy of the Map is enclosed as **Annexure 1A** to this letter.
- Further the PCCF (Wild Life) in the same letter as mentioned in point b) further certified that the report presented by the DFO, Surguja North indicating that there is no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and any place of historical importance within 10km of ML Area is true and agreeable to PCCF (Wild Life). The said letter in original is enclosed as **Annexure 1B**.

Query No 2: The Project Proponent has submitted the approval letter of PCCF (Wild Life) approving the "Flora & Fauna, Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for Sondiha Coal Block" along with budget for implementation of the conservation and management plan. In the said approval letter the PCCF (Wild Life) noted that *proposed elephant corridor* is within 10km of the ML Area and there instances of movement of wild elephants near the ML Area. Therefore, what mitigative measures proposed by Project Proponent to reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) to be elaborated.

Prem

Response:

During the preparation of the "Flora & Fauna, Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for Sondiha Coal Block", the domain experts have taken into account instances of the elephant movements in the buffer zone (10 km). The ML area is in the vicinity of elephant route.

This project would mitigate the elephant menace and it will improve the habitat of the area.

A sum of Rs. 5.475 crores will be spent in the implementation of the project report named by "Flora & Fauna, Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for Sondiha Coal Block", which has got approval of PCCF (Wild life) vide letter no. W. L./ 06, Dated 04/01/2013 as attached in Annexure 2 to this letter.

Through the implementation of the approved conservation and management plan following important activities will be undertaken :-

1. Erection of watch tower.
2. Guard team with equipments like VHF equipments for communication and vehicles for smooth movement for guarding local inhabitants from wild animals.
3. Wild life conservation measures like firefighting, provision of improved availability of fodder, water through creation of hideout water holes, plantation of shade trees, flower & fruit trees.
4. Measures for habitat improvement, conservation and research resurrection like plantation, assisted natural regeneration, water harvesting and soil and water conservation.
5. other activities like cattle immunization, promotion of ecotourism and eco-development also proposed.
6. Provision for one time corpus fund for compensation for damages from wildlife also incorporated in budget.
7. Provision of fund for Bio-diversity Board Chhattisgarh to study and documentation of bio diversity in the area and preparation of People Biodiversity Register.

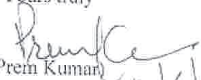
These activities will certainly induce the elephant to move through a path having better habitat condition. This will lead to minimum interference with local inhabitants with minimized incidence of man animal conflicts.

Hence it is again reiterated that by implementing Flora & Fauna, Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan conditions of the area will improve with regard to the management of the elephant movement.

In light of above discussion, it is therefore requested the EAC (Thermal & Coal Mining Project) to grant Environmental Clearance to Sondiha Opencast cum U/G coal mining project at earliest.

Thanking you

Encl.: As above.

Yours truly

(Prem Kumar)
Managing Director 12/6/13