



No. J-11015/487/2007-IA.II (M)pt

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Vayu Wing, 3rd Floor, Aliganj,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 9th March, 2020

To,

The General Manager (W B P & Environment)
M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd,
W B P & Environment Department,
Seepat Road, P B. No.60 **Bilaspur** - 495 006 (**Chhattisgarh**)
Email: gmenvtsecl@gmail.com;

Sub: Expansion of Dipka Opencast Coal Mine from 31 MTPA to 35 MTPA of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited in District Korba (Chhattisgarh) – Continuation of Environmental Clearance - reg.

Sir,

This has reference to your online proposal No. IA/CG/CMIN/127735/2019 dated 11th December, 2019 on the above-mentioned subject.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, vide letter dated 20th February, 2018, has granted environmental clearance and extension dated 20th March, 2019 to the expansion of Dipka Opencast Coal Mining Project from 31 to 35 MTPA in mine lease area of 1999.293 ha in District Korba (Chhattisgarh), subject to compliance of certain terms and conditions, which *inter-alia* included the following:-

subject to review of compliance status of the conditions by the EAC to consider continuance of the project after one year.

3. To monitor compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the said environmental clearance, site inspection was carried out by Ministry's Regional Office at Nagpur on 5th November, 2019. The report in this regard has been forwarded by the Regional Office vide letter dated 27th November, 2019. The action taken report on Partial Non-compliance has been submitted to RO, MoEF & CC, Nagpur vide dated 26th December, 2019 and has been forwarded by Regional Office vide its letter dated 9th January, 2020.

4. The proposal was considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 24th January, 2020. Based on recommendations of the EAC, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hereby accords approval for continuance of the **Dipka Opencast Coal Mining Project from 31 to 35 MTPA of M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited** in mine lease area of 1999.293 ha located in District Korba (Chhattisgarh) **for life of the mine or 30 years whichever is earlier** as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments/circulars with the conditions remaining the same in earlier EC and in addition to the conditions as mentioned below:-

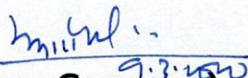
- (i) EAC desired that the MoC may direct CIL subsidiaries to comply the EC/FC/CTO conditions strictly within certain time bound manner so that the mining operations will be environmentally sustainable/viable etc.
- (ii) Also, EAC asked project proponent to plant 50,000 nos. of native trees (excluding other conditions of plantation given by this Ministry) with broad leaves along the villages and transportation route to prevent the effect of air pollution in three years. After completion of tree plantation, number of trees shall be duly endorsed from District Forest Office.
- (iii) All Partially and non-complied conditions reported by Ministry's Regional Office in its certified compliance report dated 27th November, 2019 shall be completed in 2 years from the date of issue of this letter.
- (iv) The Project Proponent shall complies with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors. State Government shall ensure that the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department in strict compliance of judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated the 2nd August 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in the matter of Common Cause versus Union of India and Ors.
- (v) Project Proponent shall obtain the necessary prior permission from the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in case of intersecting the Ground water table. The intersecting ground water table can only be commence after conducting detailed hydrogeological study and necessary permission from the CGWA. The Report on six monthly basis on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted to the Regional Office of the Ministry, CGWA and State Pollution Control Board.
- (vi) Proponent shall appoint an Occupational Health Specialist for Regular and Periodical medical examination of the workers engaged in the Project and maintain records accordingly; also, Occupational health check-ups for workers having some ailments like BP, diabetes, habitual smoking, etc. shall be undertaken once in six months and necessary remedial/preventive measures taken accordingly. The Recommendations of National Institute for ensuring good occupational environment for mine workers shall be implemented; The prevention measure for burns, malaria and provision of antisnake venom including all other paramedical safeguards may be ensured before initiating the mining activities.
- (vii) Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area".
- (viii) The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed;

by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours.

- (ix) The project proponent shall take all precautionary measures during mining operation for conservation and protection of endangered fauna, if any, spotted in the study area. Action plan for conservation of flora and fauna shall be prepared and implemented in consultation with the State Forest and Wildlife Department. A copy of action plan shall be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Regional Office.
- (x) Hon'ble Supreme Court in an Writ Petition(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause vs Union of India & Ors vide its judgement dated 8th January, 2020 has directed the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. Compliance of this condition after the mining activity is over at the cost of the mining lease holders/Project Proponent". The implementation report of the above said condition shall be sent to Regional Office of the Ministry.

5. All other terms and conditions stipulated in the said environmental clearance dated 20th February, 2018 shall remain unchanged.

6. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.


(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)
Director

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
2. The Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Chhattisgarh, Secretariat, Raipur
3. The APCCF, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (Western Central Zone), Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur (Maharashtra)
4. The Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
5. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 32
6. The Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Environment Conservation Board, 1-Tilak Nagar, Shiv Mandir Chowk, Main Road, Avanti Vihar, Raipur - 492001 (Chhattisgarh)
7. The District Collector, Korba, Government of Chhattisgarh
8. Monitoring File 9. Guard File 10. Record File 11. Notice Board


(Manoj Kumar Gangeya)
Director