

No.J-11015/301/2007-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O.Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi -110003.

Dated: 27th July 2007

To
M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.,
Kothagudam Collieries – 507 101,
Bhadrachalam Road Railway Station,
Khammam District, A.P.

Sub: Jalagam Vengal Rao Opencast-I Coal Mine Project (expansion in rated capacity from 0.70 MTPA to 2.0 MTPA with a peak production of 2.50 MTPA and increase in lease area from 410.58 ha to 547.08 ha) of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., located in village Ayyagaripeta, Mandal Sathupalli, District Khammam, Andhra Pradesh- environmental clearance – reg.

Sir,

This is in continuation to your application vide letter No. CRP/ENV/A/403/669 dated 14.10.2006 for Terms of Reference which was granted vide MOEF letter dated 15.01.2007. and with reference to your application for environmental clearance based on the prescribed Terms of Reference vide letter No. CRP/ENV/A/478/237 dated 31.03.2007 and your subsequent letter dated 19.07.2007 and E-mails dated 19.07.2007 and 20.07.2007 on the above-mentioned subject. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has considered your application. It has been noted that the project originally named **Sathupally Opencast Project-I** was granted environmental clearance vide MOEF letter NO. J-11015/240/2003-IA.II(M) dated 16.09.2004 for production of coal at a rated capacity of 0.7 MTPA in a lease area of 410.58 ha. The project has since been renamed as **Jalagam Vengala Rao Opencast-I Coal Mine Project**. The present application is for expansion in production from 0.7 MTPA to 2.50 MTPA (peak production) and for expansion in lease area from 410.58 ha to 547.08 ha of the Jalagam Vengal Rao Opencast (OCP)-I Coal Mine Project. The total lease area of the extension Block is 136.50 ha which consists of forestland. Forestry clearance has not been obtained for the extension area. Of the total lease area, area for excavation is 298.32 ha, 133.10 ha is for external OB dumps, 72.75 ha is for safety barrier, and drainage along the quarry, 18.13 ha is for service buildings, CHP, and sub-station, 14.78 ha is for road diversion, 10 ha is for colony/township with 175 dwelling units is proposed to be constructed in non-forestland. There area no National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserves found within the 10 km buffer zone. The NTR Canal (formerly Bethupally Flood Flow Canal) passes through the lease area and it is proposed to modify the natural drainage by diverting the canal for a total length of 18.32 km and will be realigned with the original course so as to retain the existing feeder channels of downstream irrigation tanks. NOC from the State Minor Irrigation Department has been obtained on 23.09.2004. A bund exists against protection of flood. Project involves R&R of one village within the blasting zone, namely, Vengal Rao Nagar involving 335 PAFs. Mining will be opencast by mechanised method and involves controlled blasting. Expansion of the rated capacity of the mine is from 0.70 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 2 MTPA of coal production with a peak production of 2.50 MTPA from 4th year onwards. Mineral transportation of coal is by by road to CHP at Kothagudam covering a road length of 65 km. A separate CHP for this project of 500 TPH capacity is under construction at a distance of 1.2 km. Ultimate working depth of the mine is 150 m below ground level (bgl). Water table in the core zone is in the range of 2.50m – 12.10m bgl -19.52m bgl during the pre-monsoon and in the range of 0.75m – 10.80m bgl in the post monsoon period. Mining has intersected water table. Clearance from the State Ground Water Department has been obtained on 06.07.2007. Peak water requirement is 826 m3/d, which will be met from mine pit water. An estimated 177 Mm3 of OB and topsoil will be generated in life of mine; of which about 135.84 Mm3 (76.75%) of the OB will be backfilled (of which 14.70 Mm3 of OB has been already accumulated in one external OB dump) and the balance 41.16



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Mm3 will be dumped in the external dump of a max. height of 90m in 3 benches of 30m each. Backfilling will begin from 5th year onwards and concurrent backfilling from 11th year till end of mine life. A void of 129.17 ha will be left at the end of mine life which will be converted into a water reservoir. Public Hearing was held on 13.03.2007 for increasing the production from 7 lakhs TPA to 20 lakh TPA with a peak production of 25 lakh TPA (from 4th year onwards). Life of the mine at the rated capacity is 20 years. Mining Plan has been approved by Ministry of Coal on 21.05.2007 for 2 MTPA. Capital cost of the project is **Rs. 131.05 crores.**

2. The Ministry of Environment & Forests hereby accords environmental clearance for the above-mentioned **Jalagam Vengala Rao Opencast-I Coal Mine Project of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. for expansion in production of coal from 0.7 MTPA to 2.50 MTPA (peak) rated capacity and expansion in lease area from 410.58 ha to 547.08 ha** under Section 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments thereto and under Para 2.1.1 of MOEF Circular dated 13.10.2006 subject to the compliance of the terms and conditions mentioned below:

A. Specific Conditions

- (i) No mining operations shall be undertaken in the 136.50 ha of forestland until forestry clearance has been obtained under the provisions of FC Act, 1980.
- (ii) Diversion of the NTR Canal (Bethupally Flood Flow Canal) for a length of 18.32 km shall be undertaken with the approval of the State Irrigation Department and shall ensure that it is realigned with the original course so as to retain the existing feeder channels of downstream irrigation tanks.
- (iii) Diversion of the PWD road passing through the lease shall be done with the prior approval of the competent authorities.
- (iv) Topsoil should be stacked properly with proper slope at earmarked site(s) and should not be kept active and shall be used for reclamation and development of green belt.
- (v) OB should be stacked at earmarked external OB dumpsite(s) within ML area and shall be a maximum height of 90m only consisting of 3 benches of 30m each. The ultimate slope of the dump shall not exceed 28°. Backfilling shall begin at the end of 5th year in the decoaled area. Monitoring and management of existing reclaimed dumpsites should continue until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. Compliance status should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and its Regional office located at Bangalore on an yearly basis.
- (vi) Catch drains and siltation ponds of appropriate size should be constructed to arrest silt and sediment flows from soil, OB and mineral dumps. The water so collected should be utilised for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development, etc. The drains should be regularly desilted and maintained properly.
Garland drains of suitable size, gradient and length and sump capacity should be designed keeping 50% safety margin over and above the peak sudden rainfall and maximum discharge in the area adjoining the mine site. Sump capacity should also provided for adequate retention period to allow proper settling of silt material.
- (vii) Dimension of the retaining wall at the toe of the dumps and OB benches within the mine to check run-off and siltation should be based on the rainfall data.
- (viii) Crushers at the existing CHP and that to be constructed should be operated with high efficiency bag filters, water sprinkling system should be provided to check fugitive emissions from crushing operations, conveyor system, haulage roads, and transfer points.
- (ix) Drills should be wet operated only.

- (x) Controlled blasting shall be practiced only during daytime with use of delay detonators. The mitigative measures for control of ground vibrations and to arrest the fly rocks and boulders should be implemented.
- (xi) Afforestation shall cover a total area of not less than 393.13 ha which includes reclaimed external OB dump (72.75 ha), reclaimed topsoil dump, backfilled area (169.15 ha), along ML boundary, along drains and along service buildings (18.13 ha) within the lease and in the township by planting native species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha.
- (xii) A Progressive Mine Closure Plan shall be implemented by reclamation of quarry area of 298.32 ha which shall be backfilled and afforested by planting native plant species in consultation with the local DFO/Agriculture Department. The density of the trees should be around 2500 plants per ha. The balance 129.17ha of decoladed area being converted into a water reservoir shall be gently sloped, and the upper benches of which shall be stabilised and reclaimed with plantation and the reservoir peripherally fenced.
- (xiii) The conditions stipulated by the State Ground Water Department shall be effectively implemented. The company shall obtain prior approval of CGWA/CGWB Regional Office for use of groundwater if any, for mining operations.
- (xiv) Regular monitoring of groundwater level and quality should be carried out by establishing a network of existing wells and construction of new piezometers. The monitoring for quantity should be done four times a year in pre-monsoon (May), monsoon (August), post-monsoon (November) and winter (January) seasons and for quality in May. Data thus collected should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and to the Central Pollution Control Board quarterly within one month of monitoring.
- (xv) The Company shall put up artificial groundwater recharge measures for augmentation of groundwater resource. The project authorities should meet water requirement of nearby village(s) in case the village wells go dry due to dewatering of mine.
- (xvi) Besides carrying out regular periodic health check up of their workers, 10% of the workers identified from workforce engaged in active mining operations shall be subjected to health check up for occupational diseases and hearing impairment, if any, through an agency such as NIOH, Ahmedabad within a period of one year and the results reported to this Ministry and to DGMS.
- (xvii) ETP should also be provided for workshop and CHP wastewater. Mine discharge water shall be treated to prescribed standards before discharge into any natural water course.
- (xix) A sewage treatment plant shall be installed in the combined township and in the proposed township to be established within the lease.
- (xx) For monitoring land use pattern and for post mining land use, a time series of land use maps, based on satellite imagery (on a scale of 1: 5000) of the core zone and buffer zone, from the start of the project until end of mine life shall be prepared once in 3 years (for any one particular season which is consistent in the time series), and the report submitted to MOEF and its Regional office at Bangalore.
- (xxi) A Final Mine Closure Plan along with details of Corpus Fund should be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests 5 years in advance of final mine closure for approval.

B. General Conditions

- (i) No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

- (ii) No change in the calendar plan including excavation, quantum of mineral coal and waste should be made.
- (iii) Four ambient air quality monitoring stations should be established in the core zone as well as in the buffer zone for SPM, RPM, SO₂ and NO_x monitoring. Location of the stations should be decided based on the meteorological data, topographical features and environmentally and ecologically sensitive targets in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (iv) Fugitive dust emissions (SPM and RPM) from all the sources should be controlled regularly monitored and data recorded properly. Water spraying arrangement on haul roads, wagon loading, dump trucks (loading and unloading) points should be provided and properly maintained.
- (v) Data on ambient air quality (SPM, RPM, SO₂ and NO_x) should be regularly submitted to the Ministry including its Regional Office at Bangalore and to the State Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board once in six months.
- (vi) Adequate measures should be taken for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. Workers engaged in blasting and drilling operations, operation of HEMM, etc should be provided with ear plugs/muffs.
- (vii) Industrial wastewater (workshop and wastewater from the mine) should be properly collected, treated so as to conform to the standards prescribed under GSR 422 (E) dated 19th May 1993 and 31st December 1993 or as amended from time to time before discharge. Oil and grease trap should be installed before discharge of workshop effluents.
- (viii) Vehicular emissions should be kept under control and regularly monitored. Vehicles used for transporting the mineral should be covered with tarpaulins and optimally loaded.
- (ix) Environmental laboratory should be established with adequate number and type of pollution monitoring and analysis equipment in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.
- (x) Personnel working in dusty areas should wear protective respiratory devices and they should also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects.
Occupational health surveillance programme of the workers should be undertaken periodically to observe any contractions due to exposure to dust and to take corrective measures, if needed.
- (xi) A separate environmental management cell with suitable qualified personnel should be set up under the control of a Senior Executive, who will report directly to the Head of the company.
- (xii) The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in separate account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year-wise expenditure should be reported to this Ministry and its Regional Office at Bangalore.
- (xiii) The Regional Office of this Ministry located at Bangalore shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The Project authorities shall extend full cooperation to the office(s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/ information/monitoring reports.
- (xiv) A copy of the will be marked to concerned Panchayat/ local NGO, if any, from whom any suggestion/representation has been received while processing the proposal.
- (xv) State Pollution Control Board should display a copy of the clearance letter at the Regional Office, District Industry Centre and Collector's Office/Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
- (xvi) The Project authorities should advertise at least in two local newspapers widely circulated around the project, one of which shall be in the vernacular language of the locality concerned

within seven days of the clearance letter informing that the project has been accorded environmental clearance and a copy of the clearance letter is available with the State Pollution control Board and may also be seen at the website of the ministry of Environment & Forests at <http://envfor.nic.in>.

3. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.
4. Failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
5. The above conditions will be enforced *inter-alia*, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules.


(Dr. T. Chandini)
Director

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat, Hyderabad.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional office (SZ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, 4th Floor, E-Wing, Kenriya Sadan Block, Kormangala, Bangalore – 560034.
4. Chairman, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhawan, A-3 Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad – 500038.
5. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi -110032.
6. Member-Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Curzon Road Barracks, A-2, W-3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
7. District Collector, Karimnagar, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
8. Monitoring File 9. Guard File 10. Record File