

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Impact Assessment Division  
(Coal Mining sector)**

**Date of zero draft MoM sent to Chairman: 14/10/2024**

**Approval by Chairman: 16/10/2024**

**Uploading on PARIVESH: 17/10/2024**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTEENTH (16<sup>TH</sup>) MEETING OF EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024 FOR ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL OF COAL MINING SECTOR PROJECTS THROUGH HYBRID MODE.**

**DAY-2: 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024 [WEDNESDAY]**

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Expert members & other participants and requested to start the proceeding as per the agenda listed for this meeting. The list of members who participated in the meeting is at Annexure – I.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EAC (Coal): The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EAC (Coal) held during 18– 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 have been confirmed by the EAC.

**Agenda No. 16.4:**

**Singhali Underground Coal Mine Project (Area 862.289 Ha having capacity of 0.42 MTPA) By M/s South Eastern Coalfields Limited, located at Village: Singhali; Tehsil: Korba/ Katghora; District: Korba; State: Chhattisgarh –Revalidation of EC as per S.O. No. 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018, based on ADS reply – regarding.**

**[Proposal No. IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005; File No. J-11015/179/2005-IA.II(M)]**

**[Consultant: CMPDIL; NABET Certificate No. NABET/EIA/22-25/SA 0223; Valid upto 08.04.2025]**

**16.4.1:** M/s. Singhali Underground Coal Mine made an online application vide proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005, dated 08.09.2018, seeking revalidation of Environment Clearance (EC) as per the Notification S.O. 1530(E), dated 06.04.2018 and under the EIA Notification 2006, as amended, for the project. The proposed activity is listed at item 1(a) under Category ‘A’ of the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 accordingly is being appraised at Central Level.

The instant proposal has already obtained EC vide letter no. J-11015/179/2005-IA.II(M), dated 09.05.2006 for the production capacity of 0.42 MTPA in a leasehold area of 862.289 Ha under the provisions of EIA Notification dated 27/1/1994.

Earlier, the project was considered in the 44<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 25.04.2019, wherein the Committee deferred the proposal for want of additional information. PP later submitted the

information in the PARIVESH 2.0 portal and the proposal was again considered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> EAC Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the proposal was again deferred for want of additional information. The Committee also observed that the PP did not submit the reply w.r.t. the observations of the 44<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 25.04.2019 on online proposal IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005, instead applied a new proposal with compliance on PARIVESH 2.0 vide proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/449593/2023. Accordingly, the Committee asked the PP to submit the reply on the earlier proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005 available on PARIVESH 1.0 for further consideration instead of a new application. PP submitted the reply and the proposal was again considered in the 11<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the Committee found the ADS reply to be dis-satisfactory and deferred the proposal again for want of further additional information. PP submitted the ADS reply on 21/09/2024. Now, the proposal is placed for appraisal in 16<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

**Details of the proposal, as ascertained from the proposal documents and as revealed from the discussions held during the meeting, are given as under:**

#### **16.4.2: Environmental Site Settings:**

The project area is covered under Survey of India Topo Sheet No. 64J/11 and is bounded by the geographical coordinates ranging from 22<sup>o</sup>25'3" to 22<sup>o</sup>26'52" N latitudes and 82<sup>o</sup>32'39" to 82<sup>o</sup>35'18" E longitudes.

Project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA)/ Severely Polluted Area (SPA), as per CEPI Assessment, 2018. This aspect has also been verified and confirmed through DSS.

**Forest Area:** PP Submitted that the project involved a total of 301.48 ha of forest land and Stage II Forest Clearance was obtained vide no. 8-91/94 FC dated 27/28.03.1995. PP further submitted that the extent of forest land in the project (including the safety zone and all types of forest land) is 301.48 Ha, and there is no broken forest land and no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

**Protected Area:** PP Submitted that the project is not located within 10 km of any ESZ/ESA/National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere reserve/Tiger reserve/Elephant reserve/Tiger Corridor/Elephant Corridor etc. However, there is a presence of Schedule-I species. PP further submitted that the Wildlife conservation plan has been prepared by TFRI Jabalpur and the report has been submitted to the State Forest Department for approval and further issuing of demand note for deposition of the Wildlife Conservation Fund.

**16.4.3: Mining Lease:** PP submitted that the mining lease for the block was granted vide S.O. 1500 dated 07.05.1990 for an area of 862.289 Ha with lease expiry co-terminus with mining.

#### **16.4.4: Previous Approvals:**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>EC no.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
1	J-11015/298/94-IA.II(M)	20.02.1995	0.24 MTPA
2	J-11015/179/2005-IA.II(M)	09.05.2006	0.42 TPA

*MoM of 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EAC for Coal Mining sector held on 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024*

W.r.t the previous approvals, PP submitted the actual production details of the concerned mine and submitted that the mine became operational from 1996 onwards. CTO renewal has been obtained from the SPCB and was valid up to 30.04.2024. Details of the same are as follows:

Year	EC sanctioned capacity (MTPA)	Actual Production (MT)	Excess production
1996-97	0.24	0.106	-
1997-98	0.24	0.142	-
1998-99	0.24	0.169	-
1999-2000	0.24	0.190	-
2000-01	0.24	0.220	-
2001-02	0.24	0.308	0.068
2002-03	0.24	0.315	0.075
2003-04	0.24	0.277	0.037
2004-05	0.24	0.253	0.013
2005-06	0.24	0.258	0.018
2006-07	0.42	0.212	-
2007-08	0.42	0.263	-
2008-09	0.42	0.303	-
2009-10	0.42	0.335	-
2010-11	0.42	0.325	-
2011-12	0.42	0.328	-
2011-12	0.42	0.302	-
2013-14	0.42	0.300	-
2014-15	0.42	0.325	-
2015-16	0.42	0.339	-
2016-17	0.42	0.364	-
2017-18	0.42	0.378	-
2018-19	0.42	0.383	-
2019-20	0.42	0.376	-
2020-21	0.42	0.237	-
2021-22	0.42	0.177	-
2022-23	0.42	0.129	-
2023-24	0.42	0.122	-
2024-25	0.42	Production stopped with effect from 01/05/2024.	-

PP informed that production in the aforesaid mine is stopped with effect from 01/05/2024.

**16.4.5: Method of Mining and Mining Plan:** PP Submitted that the mining plan/project report of the mine for 0.24 MTPA was approved on 21.10.1989 and the proposal for expansion from 0.24 to 0.42 MTPA was approved on 28.03.2005. PP further submitted that the Progressive Mine Closure Plan for 0.42 MTPA was approved on 18.05.2013. However, as per the recommendation of the EAC, a revised Mine Closure Plan was prepared in respect of the said mine for the production capacity of 0.42 MTPA in the lease area of 862.289 Ha and same got approved vide letter dated 05.09.2024.

- i. The method of Mining to be adopted shall be underground. The capacity of the mine applied for is 0.42 MTPA. Excavation of Coal is through a semi-mechanized Board and Pillar for the development of panels with LHDs and UDM.

*MoM of 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EAC for Coal Mining sector held on 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024*

- ii. Total minable reserve reported in the mine lease area is 11.49 MT with 4.054 MT mineable reserves as of 31.03.2024. Out of the total mineable reserve, 4.054 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 80 %.
- iii. G-III (top) and G-III (bottom) seams with thickness ranging from 10.79 m to 4.22 m are workable. The grade of coal is G5, G7 while the gradient is 1 in 12 to 1 in 20.
- iv. Life of mine is 10 years as of 01.04.2024.

v. **Details of Land usage**

**a) Pre mining (Area in Ha)**

S.No.	LAND USE	Within ML Area (Ha)	TOTAL (Ha)
1	Agricultural land	246.169	246.169
2	Forest land	301.480	301.480
3	Waste land	-	-
4	Grazing land	-	-
5	Surface water bodies	-	-
6	Settlements	-	-
7	Others (Total Govt. Land)	314.64	314.64
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>862.289</b>	<b>862.289</b>

**b) Post-Mining: (Area in Ha)**

S. no	LAND USE	LAND USE (Ha)				TOTAL
		Plantation	Water Body	Public Use	Undisturbed	
1	External OB Dump	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	Internal Dump/ Backfilled Area	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	Excavation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	Built up area including roads	-	-	14.80	-	14.80
5	Green Belt/Afforested Area	3.0	-	-	-	3.0
6	Undisturbed Area	-	-	-	844.489	844.489
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14.80</b>	<b>844.489</b>	<b>862.289</b>

- vi. **Details of transportation of Coal:** The coal is proposed to be transported within mining lease by covered belt conveyors and outside by covered trucks to railway siding and small quantity through road. There are no changes proposed in the mode of transportation.
- vii. The Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) was approved on 05.09.2024 and there is no deviation from the approved PMCP. Mine Closure activities are being undertaken as per the approved PMCP. PMCP has been submitted for capacity of 0.42 MTPA and project area of 862.266 Ha.
- viii. Total lease area of 862.289 Ha has already been acquired and is under the possession. There are 9 nos of villages within the mining lease area. None of the villages have been shifted.

- ix. The reclamation plan includes Afforestation which shall be done progressively. It shall consist of a greenbelt of 13.8 Ha, wherein the density of tree plantation (in no of plants) will be 2500 per Ha.

**16.4.6: EMP:** PP reported that the total Capital cost of EMP is 347.41 lakhs and total recurring cost is Rs. 17.48 Lakhs.

**16.4.7: Plantation:** PP reported that Existing green belt has been developed in 13.8 ha area which is about 1.6 % of the total project area of 862.289 Ha with total saplings planted as 34500 nos. PP proposed that 24,250 saplings in 9.7 Ha land will be planted during the balance life of the mine.

**16.4.8: Baseline Studies:** Baseline data for the instant proposal is not required as the proposal is for seeking revalidation of EC under EIA Notification, 2006 in compliance of the Gazette Notification S.O. 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018.

**16.4.9: Public Hearing/ Consultation:** Public hearing was conducted on 17.11.2004 and the issues raised during the PH were mainly air and water pollution, the requirement for drinking water, employment etc. PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted the details of expenditure of Rs. 229 lakhs incurred for compliance of the issues raised in public hearing.

For the instant proposal, the Committee asked the PP to conduct the public consultation by inviting the views/ suggestions/ objections of the public in writing. Advertisement for the same was in Dainik Bhaskar and Hindustan Times newspapers on 08.08.2024. RO, CECB submitted a letter to MS, CECB on 11.09.2024, regarding no comments been received on the public notice issued on 08.09.2024 in respect to Singhali UG Mine.

**16.4.10: Legal Issues/ Violation:** No legal issue/violation w.r.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air(P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Wildlife Protection Act, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project.

**16.4.11: Project Cost:** Existing capital cost of project was Rs. 47.3914 Crores and the capital cost for environmental protection measures is proposed as Rs. 347.41 Lakhs. PP reported that as on 01.04.2024, Singhali UG has 581 employees.

**16.4.12: R&R Plan:** PP submitted that no R&R is involved.

**16.4.13: Certified Compliance Report:** PP submitted that CCR obtained vide F.No.3-31/2006(Env) dated 19.06.2023. PP also submitted Action Taken report against the observations of RO vide letter no. SECL/KV-DSB-SA/SAM/ 2023/1729/594 dated 10.10.2023.

**16.4.14: Undertaking/ Affidavit:** PP submitted an affidavit that the proposal is for obtaining revalidation of the EC in compliance of the MoEF&CC Notification S.O. 1530(E), dated 06.04.2018. The project is an existing mine and the infrastructure has already been established in accordance with the prior EC. There is no litigation registered/ pending either at NGT or any other court of Law. The project involves 862.289 Ha area acquired for mining right through CBA Notification No. 1500 dated 26.05.1990. The land lease is in possession of Coal India Limited and there is no R&R involved. There is no difference in the documents submitted and the presentation being made to the EAC.

**16.4.15:** The above proposal was originally considered by the EAC in its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25.04.2019 and recommended to defer the proposal for want of following additional information:

1. Public Notice shall be issued through concerned SPCB for information of the shareholders about the present coal mining operations inviting comments and their redressal
2. Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan duly approved by the competent authority.
3. Compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance from the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.
4. Valid Consent to Operate from state pollution control board for the present mining Operations.
5. Redressal of Issue raised during the public hearing conducted by SPCB.
6. Coal Production realized from mine from 1993-94 vis-à-vis capacity stipulated in the Environmental Clearance.
7. Need assessment survey for the activities proposed under the CSR and the comprehensive plan to be prepared accordingly for implementation by the project proponent. Also, impact of the CSR activities undertaken at an interval of 5 years to be evaluated and a report to be submitted.
8. Forest Clearance for diversion of 17.50 Ha of forest land as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
9. Details of Court Case and the compliance of the orders, if any.
10. Compliance of the Ministry's OM dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The proponent submitted the following reply to the above mentioned queries raised by the EAC respectively.

1. Public notice regarding the 'present coal mining operations inviting comments and their redressal' in respect of Singhali u/g mine has been published through the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board in the Haribhoomi newspaper, Bilaspur edition (C.G.) on and 30.06.2021.
2. The mining plan/ Board approval and the progressive mine closure plan duly approved by the SECL Board has been submitted by the PP
3. The Certified Compliance report vis-à-vis the EC conditions compliance status of the mine issued by the IRO, Raipur of the MoEF&CC. The action taken report in respect of the CCR.
4. Consent to operate renewal obtained by the CCEB vide no. 584/TS/CECB/2023 dated 27.04.2023, valid upto 30.04.2024
5. The issues raised during the public hearing of Singhali u/g mine conducted on 17.11.2004 have been addressed. Action taken report of the public hearing minutes was discussed.
6. Coal production from the mine since capacity stipulated in the Environmental Clearance.
7. The report on need assessment survey for the activities proposed under the CSR and the comprehensive plan to be prepared accordingly for implementation by the project proponent.

*MoM of 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EAC for Coal Mining sector held on 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024*

8. Desired details is not related with Singhali UG. Forest land diversion of 301.48 ha is involved in the project and the Forestry Clearance.
9. No court Case have been registered against the project as on date.
10. The PP has submitted the application for revalidation of EC to MoEF&CC, New Delhi in compliance of the Gazette Notification issued by MoEF&CC, New Delhi dated 06.04.2018.

The above additional information was deliberated upon by the EAC in its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and committee did not find some of the information on order and deferred the proposal again for want of following additional information.

1. PP should submit detail reply on their earlier proposal number IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005 available on PARIVESH-1.0 for further consideration of proposal instead on new application.
2. PP should submit the NOC from CGWA for withdrawal of ground water
3. Action plan on partial compliance of EC conditions highlighted by Ministry's Regional office in its report.

The proponent submitted the following reply to the above mentioned queries raised by the EAC respectively.

1. PP submitted the reply w.r.t the previous ADS on PARIVESH 1.0.
2. CGWA NoC has been obtained vide application no. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2021/11741 dated 23.04.2021 for the capacity of 10328.00 m<sup>3</sup> /day which was valid up to 22.04.2023. The Committee asked for the renewal status. PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted that renewal application for obtaining groundwater NOC is in process and the groundwater abstraction charges have been deposited to the CGWA on 25.04.2024, e-mails sent to CGWA on 26.04.2023, 29.07.2023, 12.12.2023, 01.01.2024 and 07.02.2024 for grant of GW NOC renewal. PP further submitted that they have also visited CGWA office, and it is learnt that the application is revived by CGWA on 20.12.2023 and approved by Evaluation officer on 26.12.2023 and is Currently pending with approval officer.
3. PP submitted the action plan on the partial compliance of the EC conditions highlighted by the Ministry's RO in its report.

The above additional information was deliberated upon by the EAC in its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 08<sup>th</sup> – 09<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and committee again found some discrepancies in the information submitted and deferred the proposal again for want of the following additional information.

1. Compliance of ADS point no 1 (of 44<sup>th</sup> EAC held on 25.04.2019) for issuance of public notice as per provision of EIA Notification 2006 (as amended) read with OM dated 16.02.2021.
2. PP shall prepare the mine closure plan for the capacity and area for re-validation of EC is required.

The proponent submitted the following reply to the above mentioned queries raised by the EAC respectively.

1. Regarding compliance of the ADS point no.1, CECB was re-approached for issuing the public notice as per provision of EIA Notification 2006 (as amended) read with OM dated 16.02.2021. Public notice in respect of Singhali underground mine was published in Dainik

Bhaskar and mine was published in Dainik Bhaskar and Hindustan Times newspapers on 08.08.2024. Copies of the newspaper publication are submitted.

2. Mine closure plan has been prepared and approved for the capacity (0.42 MTY) and area (862.289 ha) for which re-validation of EC is required.

**Deliberations and Observation of the Committee:**

**16.4.16: The Committee noted the following:**

- i. The proposal was initially considered in the 44th EAC meeting held on 25.04.2019 wherein the committee deferred the proposal for want of additional information. PP later submitted the information in PARIVESH 2.0 portal as a new proposal and the proposal was considered in the 3rd EAC meeting held on 16th and 17th November 2023 and the proposal was again deferred for want of additional information. Further, the Committee observed that PP did not submit the reply w.r.t. the observations of the earlier EAC (deferred in the 44th EAC meeting dated 25.04.2019) and instead applied a new proposal with compliance on PARIVESH 2.0 vide proposal no. IA/CG/CMIN/449593/2023. Accordingly, the Committee asked PP to submit a detailed reply to their earlier proposal number IA/CG/CMIN/7650/2005 available on PARIVESH-1.0 for further consideration of the proposal instead of a new application. PP submitted the ADS reply vide letter dated 24.02.2024 and it was then placed in the 11th EAC meeting held on 8-9 May 2024. The Committee again deferred the proposal for want of additional information, w.r.t which PP again submitted the reply on PARIVESH 1.0 portal on 05.09.2024. The proposal is now placed in 15<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- ii. The PP and NABET Accredited consultant made detailed presentation and Committee deliberated on the various aspects of the project including compliance of ADS points/ EIA/EMP report / Transportation, plantation etc. and the EAC made various observations.
- iii. EC obtained vide letter no. J-11015/179/2005-IA.II(M) dated 09.05.2006 under EIA 1994 over an area of 862.289 Ha and capacity 0.42 MTPA.
- iv. The instant proposal is for grant of re-validation of EC under EIA 2006 (as amended) as per provision of S.O 1530(E) dated 6.04.2018 read with OM dated 16.02.2021.
- v. PP applied under extension of EC in PARIVESH Portal on 08.09.2018 i.e. well within the window period of 6 months (i.e. before 5.10.2018) and also submitted Form-1 as required under S.O 1530(E) dated 6.04.2018 for the re-validation of EC under EIA 2006 as amended.
- vi. PP also reported that general conditions are not applicable. The project does not fall in the Critically Polluted Area (CPA)/SPA as the area is not listed in the CEPI assessment made by CPCB in 2018.
- vii. The Committee observed that PP reported that the project is not located within 10 km of any ESZ/ESA/National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere reserve/Tiger reserve/Elephant reserve/Tiger Corridor/Elephant Corridor etc. However, PP submitted that there are Schedule-I species and a Wildlife conservation plan has been



prepared by TFRI Jabalpur and submitted to the State Forest Department for approval on 01.12.2023 and issuance of a demand note for deposition of the wildlife conservation fund. Provision of Rs 8.21 crore has been proposed in the WLC plan for implementation various activities for conservation of wildlife.

- viii. The Committee observed that PP reported that the project involves a total 301.48 Ha of forest land and Forest Clearance is obtained vide no. 8-91/94 FC dt. 27/28.03.1995 and there is no broken forest land and no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ix. It is observed by the Committee that there has been no excess production by the PP after the grant of EC dated 09.05.2006 for the production capacity of 0.42 MTPA. However, after the grant of EC for expansion, the production is well within the EC capacity.
- x. In pursuant to OM dated 16.02.2021, PP also submitted an undertaking dated 08.05.2024 wherein it has mentioned that there has been no change in mining namely mining method, mining plan, mineral transportation, water requirement, reclamation plan after obtaining EC for production capacity of 0.42 MTPA.
- xi. The Committee observed that the method of mining operations envisages development by the Board & Pillar method with UDM & LHD. The total minable reserve reported in the mine lease area is 11.49 MT with 4.054 MT mineable reserve as of 31.03.2024. Out of the total mineable reserve, 4.054 MT are available for extraction. Percent of extraction is 80 %. G-III (top) and G-III (bottom) seams with thickness ranging from 10.79 m to 4.22 m are workable. The grade of coal is G5, G7, stripping ratio NA while the gradient is 1 in 12 to 1 in 20. Life of mine is 10 years as of 01.04.2024. The coal is being transported from mine to surface through belt conveyors, from pit head to railway siding through covered trucks and small amount is also being transported through road. PP submitted that there is no change in mode of transportation.
- xii. The Committee observed that mine is in the development stage. Further, in the EC granted it was mentioned that No depillaring operation shall be carried out below the village area. The Committee is of the view that PP shall ensure proper subsidence monitoring even though mine is in the development stage.
- xiii. The Committee deliberated on the proposed plantation plan and also asked for reclamation plan for balance life of mine. PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted that as per green belt development plan submitted in EIA/EMP report total 58,750 nos. (i.e. 23.5 ha) of sapling plantation was proposed in the Singhali UG mine. Till 2023-24 project has planted 34,500 nos. of saplings. Further, remaining 24,250 nos. of sapling plantation has been proposed for the balance life of mine. PP also submitted details of proposed year wise sapling plantation. The Committee is of the view that PP shall expedite the plantation activities over remaining 9.7 Ha area so as to complete the same with in next three years. Further, the Committee asked the PP to increase the same and in case surface rights are not available plantation can be done in other places viz. nearby villages, schools etc. in consultation with the local Authorities.
- xiv. The Committee deliberated on Public Hearing. PP submitted that the Public hearing was conducted on 17.11.2004 and the issues raised during the PH were mainly air and

water pollution, the requirement for drinking water, employment etc. PP informed that to address the issue of air/water pollution the transportation of coal is through covered trucks/tippers, construction of concrete roads is done, water is treated before discharging outside to provide the same to residential colony and Bhejinara village, dense Plantation has been done in and around the mine area, employment has been provided to eligible persons etc. In addition, PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted the details of expenditure of Rs. 229 lakhs incurred for compliance of the issues raised in public hearing. PP also submitted that water supply to the nearby villages will be continued till the mine life for which an amount of Rs 3 lakh/annum will be incurred and the rest activity will be covered EMP revenue expenditure head.

- xv. Further, for the revalidation of EC pursuant to OM dated 16.02.2021 and being a legacy case comments of the general public were sought through written submission. Public Notice for revalidation was given in Hari Bhumi, Raipur and Bilaspur Newspapers on 30.06.2021. PP submitted that no written comments were received. The same was confirmed by RO CECB Korba vide letter dated 13.08.2021. The Committee in the previously held meeting asked the PP to issue a public notice through concerned SPCB for information of the stakeholders about the present coal mining operation inviting comments and their redressal.

The PP published a public notice in respect of Singhali Underground Mine in Dainik Bhaskar and Hindustan Times newspaper on 08.08.2024. Committee observed that a letter from RO, CECB was submitted to MS, CECB on 11.09.2024 regarding not receiving any comments on 08.09.2024 in respect of the Singhali UG Mines.

- xvi. In addition to this PP also submitted that a report on need assessment survey for the activities proposed under the CSR and approved Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the capacity of 0.42 MTPA in an area of 862.289 Ha.
- xvii. PP submitted that the source of water used is Ground Water and NoC for the same has been obtained from CGWA vide application no. CGWA/NOC/MIN/ORIG/2021/11741 dated 23.04.2021 for the capacity of 10328.00 m<sup>3</sup> /day which was valid up to 22.04.2023. The Committee asked for the renewal status. PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted that renewal application for obtaining groundwater NOC is in process and the groundwater abstraction charges have been deposited to the CGWA on 25.04.2024, e-mails sent to CGWA on 26.04.2023, 29.07.2023, 12.12.2023, 01.01.2024 and 07.02.2024 for grant of GW NOC renewal. PP further submitted that they have also visited CGWA office, and it is learnt that the application is revived by CGWA on 20.12.2023 and approved by Evaluation officer on 26.12.2023 and is Currently pending with approval officer. The Committee observed that payment has been made and PP is also following up for the same. The Committee also observed that PP did not submit the current water requirement however, as per previous EC water requirement is 160m<sup>3</sup> /day.
- xviii. The Committee deliberated on the CCR dated 19.06.2023 obtained from RO, Raipur and observed that no specific non-compliances were mentioned. However, RO asked the PP to submit certain information viz. details of coal pillars & solid barriers, subsidence movement, NOC from CGWA, generation of sewage & the progress of

construction of STP, details of generation of oil & grease and establishment of environmental laboratory. PP vide letter dated 19.09.2023 provided the information regarding details of coal pillars & solid barriers, subsidence movement and construction of STP. During the meeting PP submitted that Oil and grease generated in the project are collected and auctioned to the authorized recyclers. No effluent is generated from the workshop and environment monitoring is done by CMPDI NETEL India Ltd. through their NABL accredited labs. PP further submitted that no subsidence movement has been observed on surface over and around the working area till date. The Committee observed that mine is presently under development stage but PP shall monitor the subsidence movement, PP shall also explore the possibility of installation of STP and ETP and submit the timelines for the same. The PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted that the proposal for construction of 600 KLD STP at Dhelwadih colony is under process which will be completed within 18 months. ETP along with oil & grease trap of 4 KLD capacity will also be installed within 14 months.

- xix. The Committee asked the PP to get the forest clearance for diversion of 17.5 Ha of forest land as required under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The PP submitted that no forest land patch of 17.5 Ha is involved in the project and forest land diversion of 301.48 Ha is involved in the project, forest clearance for which is already obtained.
- xx. PP reported that the total Capital cost of EMP is 347.41 lakhs and the total recurring cost is Rs. 17.48 Lakhs. PP vide letter dated 08.05.2024 submitted that as per EMP total capital cost provisioned is Rs 347.41 lakhs which has been utilized. In addition of the above during FY2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 PP spent Rs 71.25 Lakh, Rs 84.25 Lakh and Rs 98.39 Lakh respectively for expenditure incurred on Env't Monitoring, Dust suppression, Plantation monitoring, Environment Audit, etc.
- xxi. The Committee observed that the CTO for the mine has expired on 30.04.2024.
- xxii. PP reported that there is no legal issue/violation wr.t i) Environment (Protection) Act, ii) Air(P&CP) Act, Water (P&CP), Act, Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, CRZ Notification, MMDR Act, Factories Act. Further, there is no court case on the project

### **Recommendations of the Committee:**

**16.4.17:** In view of the foregoing and after detailed deliberations, the committee **recommended** the instant proposal for grant of revalidation of EC dated 09.05.2006 as per provisions of S.O. 1530(E) dated 06.04.2018 read with OM dated 16.02.2021. Grant of revalidation of EC is subject to the compliance of the following specific conditions and standard conditions in addition to the conditions granted in earlier EC.

#### **A. Specific Conditions:**

- i. Project proponent has to obtain the consent to operate (CTO) for 0.42 MTPA Coal Mining after grant of revalidation of Environmental clearance.
- ii. PP shall speed up Plantation and Greenbelt development activities so as to achieve the

targets within next 5 years. The greenbelt and plantation plan submitted in the EIA/EMP shall be implemented in a time-bound manner. A survival rate of at least 80% shall be maintained by carrying out gap plantation in case of mortality. The budget earmarked for plantation shall be kept in a separate account. PP should annually submit the audited statement of expenditure along with proof of activities viz. photographs (before and after with geolocation date & time), details of expert agency engaged, details of species planted, number of species planted, survival rate, density of plantation etc. to the RO of MoEF&CC and of PARIVESH Portal as the case may be for the activities carried out during previous year.

- iii. The plantation done by the PP need to be adequately densified and audited by a third party preferably a forestry institution of MoEF&CC to assess their efficacy.
- iv. PP shall monitor the subsidence and take necessary measures/ steps for filling the subsidence area as per subsidence plan.
- v. PP shall provide regular health monitoring services and health services free of cost to people living in 10 km radius.
- vi. PP shall implement the protective measure proposed in EMP in a time- bound manner. The budget earmarked for the same is Rs 347.41 lakhs (Capital) and Rs 17.48 Lakh (recurring) and should be kept in separate accounts and audited annually. The implantation status along with the amount spent with documentary proof shall be submitted to the concerned Regional Office for the activities carried out during the previous year.
- vii. PP shall implement all the mitigation measures committed / envisaged in the EIA/EMP report and subsequent submission shall be implemented. PP should annually submit the audited statement along with proof of activities carried to the Regional Office of MoEF&CC and PARIVESH Portal as the case may be for the activities carried out during previous year.
- viii. PP should establish an Environment Management Cell at its mines in order to make sure that all the compliances related to environment are being complied efficiently. PP should conduct the monthly review meeting with the environment management cell shall be carried out at mine level and quarterly at with environment management committee of the company. The record of the same shall be maintained.
- ix. Protective measures for restoration and rehabilitation of flora and fauna in the study area will be identified in consultation with forest department and execution of works will be done accordingly under the supervision of state forest department by July-2025
- x. PP shall ensure submission of the compliance report to the Regional Office in a timely manner and in case of any non-compliance identified so far/in future in the CCR then the same shall be complied with on priority and action taken report in this regard shall be submitted to concerned RO and get it closed.
- xi. PP shall ensure that all types of plastic waste generated from the mines shall be stored separately in isolated areas and disposed of strictly adhering to the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016. In pursuant to the Ministry's OM dated 18/07/2022, PP shall also create awareness among the people working in the project area as well as in its surrounding area on the ban on Single Use Plastic (SUP) in order to ensure compliance of the Ministry's Notification published by the Ministry on 12/08/2021. A report along with the photographs of the measures taken shall also be included in the

- six monthly compliance reports being submitted by PP.
- xii. NoC from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/ concerned local authority, as the case may be, shall be obtained before drawing the groundwater for the project activities, state pollution control board/pollution control committees shall not issue the consent to operate (CTO) under Air (prevention and control of Pollution) Act and Water (Air (prevention and control of Pollution) Act till the project proponent shall obtain such permission.
  - xiii. PP should make markings on the wall where the coal is stored in order to avoid the height of storage to exceed than what is actually allowed.
  - xiv. New recharge structures will be constructed in consultation with the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board and compliance of the same shall be submitted within next six months.
  - xv. The proponent shall obtain all necessary clearances/approvals that may be required before the start of the project.
  - xvi. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any further condition for environmental protection.
  - xvii. The Environmental Clearance to the aforementioned project is under provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. It does not tantamount to approvals/consent/permissions etc. required to be obtained under any other Act/Rule/regulation.
  - xviii. The Project Proponent is under obligation to obtain approvals /clearances under any other Acts/Regulations or Statutes, as applicable, to the project.
  - xix. The PP is under obligation to implement commitments made in the Environment Management Plan, which forms part of this EC.
  - xx. Validity of EC is as per the para 9 of EIA Notification 2006 read with its subsequent amendment dated 12th April 2022.
  - xxi. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
  - xxii. The coal company/project proponent shall be liable to pay the compensation against the illegal mining, if any, and as raised by the respective State Governments at any point of time, in terms of the orders dated 2nd August, 2017 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.114/2014 in the matter of Common Cause Vs Union of India & others.
  - xxiii. The concerned State Government shall ensure no mining operations to commence till the entire compensation for illegal mining, if any, is paid by the project proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology in strict compliance of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court. This environmental clearance shall not be operational till such time the project proponent complies with the above said judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, as applicable, and other statutory requirements.
  - xxiv. All other conditions stipulated in EC dated 09.05.2006 shall remain the same.
  - xxv. **General Instructions:**
    - a. The project proponent shall prominently advertise it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular

language within seven days indicating that the project has been accorded environment clearance and the details of MoEF&CC website where it is displayed.

- b. The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn must display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
  - c. The project proponent shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approved by the Board of Directors (in case of Company) or competent authority, duly prescribing standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental forest / wildlife norms/conditions.
  - d. Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the project proponent (during construction phase) and authorized entity mandated with compliance of conditions (during operational phase) shall be prepared. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Six monthly progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six-Monthly Compliance Report.
  - e. Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
  - f. The Regional Office of this MoEF&CC shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data/information/monitoring reports.
- xxvi. This issue with an approval of the Competent Authority.

**ANNEXURE-I**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF EAC (COAL) IN 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING HELD ON 08<sup>th</sup> - 09<sup>th</sup>  
OCTOBER, 2024 THROUGH HYBRID MODE**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>09.10.2024</b>
1.	Dr. Sharad Singh Negi (I.F.S. Retd.)	Chairman	Present
3.	Shri Inder Pal Singh Matharu, IFS (Retd.)	Member	Present
3.	Shri Lalit Kapur	Member	Present
4.	Dr. Umesh Jagannathrao Kahalekar	Member	Present
5.	Dr. Santosh Kumar Hampannavar	Member	Absent
6.	Shri Savalge Chandrasekhar	Member	Present
7.	Shri K. B. Biswas	Member	Present
8.	Prof. Shyam Shanker Singh	Member	Present
9.	Dr. Vinod Agrawal	Member	Present
10.	Dr Nazimuddin, Scientist - F	Representative of Central Pollution Control Board	Absent
11.	Shri Mahi Pal Singh, Chief Engineer	Representative of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)	Present
13.	Shri Harmeet Sahaney	Representative of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)	Absent
13.	Prof. R M Bhattacharjee	Representative of IIT/ISM Dhanbad	Absent
14.	Shri Sundar Ramanathan	Member Secretary	Present
1.	Sh. Rajesh Prasad Rastogi	Scientist 'D'	Present

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## APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN EAC

10/17/24, 9:15 AM

(147) - Inbox - Mail (rp.rastogi@gov.in)

### Final Minutes of the 16th EAC (Coal mining Sector) meeting held on 8-9th October 2024

**SH** sharadnegi1957@gmail.com  
Wed, 16 Oct 2024 7:32:16 PM +0530 INBOX  
To "RAJESH PRASAD RASTOGI" <rp.rastogi@gov.in>  
Cc "Sundar Ramanathan" <r.sundar@nic.in>  
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Approved MoM of 16th EAC Coal mining sector as proposed.  
Dr S S Negi  
Vice Chairman, Rural Development and Migration Commission, Uttarakhand  
former Director General Forest and Special Secretary Govt of India  
Address: 178 Subhash Road Dehradun  
Mob 09411173194

On Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 5:51 PM RAJESH PRASAD RASTOGI <rp.rastogi@gov.in> wrote: